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| **Gold Standard Principles – “Do No Harm Assessment” - Environmental Protection** | | | | | | | | | |
| Principle 9 | | The project takes a precautionary approach in regard to environmental challenges and is not complicit in practices contrary to the precautionary principle. This principle can be defined as: “When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.” | | | | | | | |
| Principle 10 | | The project does not involve and is not complicit in significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, including those that are (a) legally protected, (b) officially proposed for protection, (c) identified by authoritative sources for their high conservation value or (d) recognised as protected by traditional local communities | | | | | | | |
| **Project Indicators to Ensure Compliance to Principle** | | | | | | | | | |
| Theme | | | | Indicator | | Reference | | Requirement for Verification | |
| Precautionary Approach | | | | Does the project include any planting, agricultural or similar activities? | |  | |  | |
| Does the project involve invasive species likely to cause harm? | |  | |  | |
| Does the project produce chemicals that are excessively dangerous to the environment? | |  | |  | |
| Does the project deliberately use genetically modified organisms? | |  | |  | |
| Does the project involve large mono-culture plantations? | |  | |  | |
| Does the project produce hazardous waste? | |  | |  | |
| Has the Host country ratified all conventions relevant to this project? | |  | |  | |
| Does the host country have its own credible legislation in place enforcing the principle? | |  | |  | |
| Does the Host country actively enforce the principle of precautionary approach? | |  | |  | |
| Are violations of the precautionary principle common in the country/region? | |  | |  | |
| Conversion or Degradation of Critical Natural Habitats | | | | Is this a Greenfield project or does additional lands need to be used for project purpose? | |  | |  | |
| Are there critical natural habitats located at or close to the project site? | |  | |  | |
| Could project activities create increased stress on this site through activity displacement or invasive species introduction? | |  | |  | |
| Did the project consult protected area sponsors and managers, local communities and other local relevant stakeholders for the protection of critical habitats? | |  | |  | |
| Has the Host countries ratified all conventions relevant to this project? | |  | |  | |
| Doe the Host country have its own credible legislation in place enforcing this principle? | |  | |  | |
| Does the Host country actively enforce the principles of critical natural habitats? | |  | |  | |
| Are violations of the critical natural habitats common in the country/region? | |  | |  | |
| **Gold Standard Principles – Sustainable Assessment - Development Indicators** | | | | | | | | |
|  | Positive and Negative impacts expected from your project in terms of environment | | | | | | | |
| **Project Indicators to Ensure Compliance to Principle** | | | | | | | | |
| Theme | | | Indicator | | Reference | | Requirement for Verification | |
| Air quality | | | Air quality refers to changes compared to the baseline in:   * Pollution of indoor and outdoor air which may have a negative impact on human health or the environment, including particulates, NOx, SOx, lead, carbon monoxide, ozone, POPs, mercury, CFCs, Halons. Also odour is considered to be a form of air pollution.   Pollution with gases covered under the Kyoto Protocol (carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorinated carbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF6).) are not included in this category as this category refers to changes in the environment in addition to reductions of greenhouse gases since GHG reductions are included in all greenhouse gas reduction projects by definition | | Concentrations and Emissions  of :   * Nox * Sox * Lead * CO * Ozone * POPs * Mercury * CFCs * Halons * Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) * NH3 * SO2 * NO2 * PM10 * VOC * Total Suspended Particulate Matter (TSPM) | |  | |
| Water quality  and quantity | | | Water quality and quantity refer to t changes compared to the baseline in:   * Release of pollutants and changes in water balance and availability in ground- and surface water and its impacts on the environment and human health, including biological oxygen demand and chemical oxygen demand, thermal pollution, mercury, SOx, NOx, POPs, lead, coliforms (bacteria from animal waste) | | Levels of :   * Biological oxygen demand * Biochemical oxygen demand * Thermal pollution * mercury * Sox * Nox * POPs * Lead * coliforms (bacteria from animal waste) | |  | |
| Soil condition | | | Soil condition refers to changes compared to the baseline in:   * Pollution of soils, pollution of soils can be caused by lead, SOx, NOx, mercury, cadmium, possibly combined by a negative corresponding impact on human health. * Organic matter content * Erosion level | | Levels of :   * Lead * Sox * Nox * mercury * cadmium | |  | |
| Other  pollutants | | | This indicator refers to changes compared to the baseline in:   * Other pollutants of the environment which are not already mentioned. For instance level of noise/ light, frequency of noise/light and time occurrence (daytime/night-time, weekdays/ weekend) are relevant for consideration. | | Level of noise   * Frequency of noise (per day, perweek, per month) * Time occurrence(day/night, weekdays/weekend) | |  | |
| Biodiversity | | | Contribution to biodiversity refers to changes compared to the baseline in:   * Number of genes (i.e., genetic diversity within a species) species and habitats existing within the project’s impact boundaries. * Alteration or destruction of natural habitat * Depletion level of renewable stocks like water,forests, fisheries | | Number of affected and/or threatened Plants  Number of affected and /or threatened mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes, and other species and habitats | |  | |

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| **Gold Standard Principles – Sustainability Monitoring Plan** | | | | |
| 2.1.3 | All non-neutral indicators must be monitored. | | | |
| **Project Indicators to Ensure Compliance to Principle** | | | | |
| Theme | | Indicator | Reference | Requirement for Verification |
|  | | Sustainability Monitoring Plan: Project Proponents shall submit their Sustainability Monitoring Plans to the Gold Standard Foundation, describing how and with what frequency they monitor the monitored parameters and associated indicators on a quantitative and/or qualitative basis” |  |  |
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| **Gold Standard Principles – Environmental Assessment** | | | | |
|  | Your project has to fulfill host country (local, regional or national) requirements concerning Environmental Impact Assessments. | | | |
| **Project Indicators to Ensure Compliance to Principle** | | | | |
| Theme | | Indicator | Reference | Requirement for Verification |
|  | | For your micro-scale project, a project owner declaration is required that guarantees that the project complies with local environmental regulations. There is no fixed format for this. |  |  |
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