

# Environmental and social eligibility criteria for onshore wind power sub-projects/sub-investments



**European Bank**  
for Reconstruction and Development

The environmental and social (E&S) eligibility criteria in this note have been prepared to assist and support EBRD partner financial intermediaries (FIs) planning to provide financing to sub-borrowers/investees for the development of onshore wind power sub-projects/sub-investments.

This note sets out the specific environmental and social criteria that FI sub-projects/sub-investments involving onshore wind power need to meet to qualify for Green Economy Transition (GET) financing. The criteria, therefore, correspond to the requirements of EBRD Performance Requirement 9 (PR9) for FIs, which states that the “EBRD may require FIs to adopt and implement environmental and social requirements, depending on the nature of the FI, its business activities, and the level of environmental and social risks and impacts associated with its portfolio and sub-projects, as applicable.”<sup>1</sup> Prior to approval for receipt of EBRD proceeds, all onshore wind power sub-projects/sub-investments are subject to review against these criteria by the EBRD’s Environment and Sustainability Department.

In this note, the term “sub-project/sub-investment” refers to the wind power sub-projects/sub-investments being considered for financing, including all associated facilities, as set out in the 2019 EBRD Environmental and Social Policy. These typically include, but are not limited to, access roads, temporary sites and connections to the grid.

The sub-project/sub-investment comprises four temporal elements: 1) planning and siting of the facility, 2) construction, 3) operation and maintenance, and 4) decommissioning. All four elements are discussed here. This note is specific to new or greenfield sub-projects/sub-investments and extensions to or remodelling of existing facilities.

The term “developer/sponsor” refers to the sub-borrower/investee that owns the sub-project/sub-investment and receives indirect EBRD financing.

The eligibility criteria below are organised with reference to EBRD Performance Requirements, as set out in the 2019 EBRD Environmental and Social Policy. The key issues identified are typical of sub-projects/sub-investments and technologies used in constructing an onshore wind power sub-project/sub-investment, but may not be exhaustive. Proposed sub-projects/sub-investments that use atypical construction or operational methods may require additional evaluation.

**Table 1. E&S eligibility criteria that FI sub-projects/sub-investments must meet to qualify for GET finance**

EBRD ESP 2019	Issue	Eligibility criteria	Evidence
PR1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts	Wind-farm developments need to be approved in the local development plan, and local zoning needs to allow for wind-farm development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The local development plan allows for wind-farm development and a strategic study of the area has been undertaken to allow wind-farm development.</li> <li>Public consultation will be/has been conducted in accordance with national requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developer/sponsor has undertaken a planning assessment and the local development plan has been changed (if necessary) to allow for the construction of wind farms.</li> <li>There is evidence of public consultations on the change to the local development plan allowing for wind-farm development.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> See EBRD (2019).

EBRD ESP 2019	Issue	Eligibility criteria	Evidence
PR1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts	<p>The sub-project/sub-investment may fall under the Category A list set out in Appendix 2 of the EBRD 2019 Environmental and Social Policy (ESP).</p> <p>Note that large-scale wind power installations for energy production (wind farms) are designated as Category A under Appendix 2 of the EBRD Environmental and Social Policy of 2019.</p>	<p>The developer/sponsor has assessed and demonstrated that the sub-project/sub-investment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not include the construction of high-voltage overhead electrical power lines</li> <li>• is not planned to have or likely to have a perceptible impact, including cumulative impact, on sensitive locations of international, national or regional importance</li> <li>• will not result in significant adverse social impacts on local communities or other sub-project-/sub-investment-affected parties</li> <li>• will not involve significant involuntary resettlement or economic displacement</li> <li>• will not result in significant cumulative impacts together with impacts from other existing facilities, reasonably foreseeable developments and/or unplanned but predictable activities enabled by the sub-project/sub-investment that may occur later or at a different location.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The developer/sponsor has established and maintained an environmental and social management system (ESMS) appropriate to and commensurate with the level of its environmental and social impacts and issues, in line with good international practice.</li> <li>• If the sub-project/sub-investment falls under Category A, the developer/sponsor will conduct an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) that meets the requirements of EBRD Performance Requirements 1-8 and 10.</li> <li>• Under EBRD PR9 (Appendix A: Referral List), FI financing of any Category A sub-project/sub-investment is subject to referral to the EBRD.</li> </ul>
PR1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts	<p>Many wind farms are developed without due consideration of cumulative impacts resulting from existing developments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each new wind farm must take into account the local conditions and baseline data, including already constructed, mid-construction and permitted wind farms developed by others.</li> <li>• An assessment must be made of the cumulative impact of existing and planned wind farms in the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The developer/sponsor has demonstrated the overall cumulative impact of wind farms in the region and the carrying capacity of wind turbines in terms of environmental, social and infrastructure impacts.</li> </ul>
PR1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts	<p><b>Regulatory compliance:</b> Turbine construction may be (or may have been) allowed to proceed without the required studies and permits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The facility will comply/complies with the requirements of national/ European Union (EU) environment, health and safety, and labour laws and applicable EBRD Performance Requirements 1-8 and 10.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The developer/sponsor has undertaken a full environmental impact assessment (EIA) where required by national authorities, EBRD Category A project requirements or the EU EIA Directive (Directive 2014/52/EU),<sup>2</sup> and that EIA has been disclosed to the public in accordance with national and EU requirements.</li> <li>• The developer/sponsor has undertaken any other studies required by national or local authorities.</li> <li>• The developer/sponsor has obtained the required licences/ consents and permits to build and operate the facility.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> See European Union (2014).

EBRD ESP 2019	Issue	Eligibility criteria	Evidence
PR2: Labour and working conditions	Sub-project/sub-investment workers may not be employed in line with national legal requirements, treated fairly or adequately protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An assessment of labour and working conditions has been conducted, including human resources policies, labour management plans, equal opportunity, terms and conditions of employment, and grievance mechanisms.</li> <li>These aspects should be considered for all sub-project/sub-investment workers, including staff of the developer/sponsor and staff of contractors, sub-contractors, intermediaries and service providers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The assessment of human resource and labour management processes for the sub-project/sub-investment has found no significant gaps.</li> <li>Processes are in place to identify any emerging or ongoing issues and to monitor whether management measures are effective.</li> </ul>
PR2: Labour and working conditions	<p><b>Labour management procedures:</b> The developer/sponsor must establish labour management procedures that are contractually binding on sub-project/sub-investment contractors and sub-contractors, ensuring that all sub-project/sub-investment workers receive written employment documentation and have access to an effective grievance mechanism.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sub-project/sub-investment implements labour management procedures that ensure compliance with national labour and employment laws, social security laws and any collective agreements to which employing actors on the sub-project/sub-investment (developer/sponsor, contractor, sub-contractor) are party.</li> <li>Contractors and sub-contractors are contractually bound to comply with the sub-project/sub-investment's labour management procedures, national labour and employment laws, social security laws and any applicable collective agreements, as well as the requirement for a worker grievance mechanism.</li> <li>Worker grievance procedures are documented and tracked.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human resources and labour management requirements have been identified through an assessment process, human resource and labour management policies. Plans and processes are in place that address all labour management planning components, including those of contractors, subcontractors and intermediaries, with no significant gaps.</li> </ul>
PR2: Labour and working conditions	<p><b>Supply chain:</b> The wind turbine supply chain, which includes component and turbine manufacturing, may be associated with risks such as forced labour, child labour and harm to workers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developer/sponsor requires Tier 1 suppliers (turbine vendors) to indicate sources of key turbine components that are produced/will be produced for the sub-project/sub-investment.</li> <li>The developer/sponsor requires Tier 1 suppliers (turbine vendors) to specify whether key turbine components are fully traceable.</li> <li>The developer/sponsor requires Tier 1 suppliers to implement a code of conduct including a commitment to zero tolerance of forced labour and child labour, with a requirement to cascade to sub-suppliers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developer/sponsor provides all requisite documentation for FI review; the FI provides sub-project/sub-investment supply-chain documentation for EBRD review.</li> <li>The developer/sponsor has adequately detailed supply-chain mapping and an overview of key component supply-chain traceability.</li> <li>The developer/sponsor commits to traceability protocols as they become available over time and adopts a supply-chain management system.</li> <li>The code of conduct is adopted by Tier 1 suppliers, with a requirement to cascade to sub-suppliers.</li> </ul>

EBRD ESP 2019	Issue	Eligibility criteria	Evidence
PR3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and control	The sub-project/sub-investment may, both directly and indirectly, increase local and regional economic activity, which can generate higher levels of pollution to air, water and land and consume finite resources in a manner that may threaten people and the environment at the local, regional and global levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The developer/sponsor will adopt technically and financially feasible and cost-effective measures to minimise its consumption and improve efficiency in its use of energy, water and other resources and material inputs, and recover and re-utilise waste materials.</li> <li>• The developer/sponsor will integrate resource-efficiency measures and the principles of cleaner production into product design and production processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The developer/sponsor has conducted an evaluation of consumables and waste and has developed a strategy to minimise energy usage and to re-use/ recycle waste materials.</li> <li>• The developer/sponsor has anticipated the volumes of waste it will have to manage and has a strategy to manage waste through authorised companies.</li> <li>• The developer/sponsor has anticipated the impacts associated with sub-project/sub-investment construction and has identified required mitigation, including dust abatement, appropriate excavation material disposal and fertile soil conservation, as applicable.</li> </ul>
PR4: Health, safety and security	<p><b>Workforce health and safety:</b> Occupational health and safety hazards specific to onshore wind energy facilities and activities primarily include working at height, working in remote locations and lifting operations. There are also risks related to inadequate worker accommodation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The workforce health and safety assessment includes all sub-project/sub-investment workers, including staff of the developer/sponsor and staff of contractors, sub-contractors, intermediaries, suppliers and service providers.</li> <li>• The sub-project/sub-investment ensures compliance with statutory and collectively agreed occupational health and safety requirements.</li> <li>• The developer/sponsor recognises its primary responsibility to provide safe and healthy working environments for sub-project/sub-investment workers and to inform, instruct, train, supervise and consult sub-project/sub-investment workers on health and safety.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assessment has been undertaken of sub-project/sub-investment workforce health and safety issues, risks and management measures, including risks of inadequate or unsafe worker accommodation, with no significant gaps.</li> <li>• A sub-project/sub-investment-specific occupational safety and health plan is in place. Where appropriate, the plan is integrated into the sub-project/sub-investment ESMS.</li> <li>• Processes are or will be in place to identify any emerging or ongoing sub-project/sub-investment workforce health and safety issues and risks and to monitor whether management measures are effective.</li> <li>• The developer/sponsor has, or will have, a procurement system in place that ensures that contractors abide by the provisions of their health and safety programme and national law.</li> </ul>

EBRD ESP 2019	Issue	Eligibility criteria	Evidence
PR4: Health, safety and security	<p><b>Gender-based violence and harassment (GBVH):</b> Female community members and workers may be at heightened risk GBVH. Risks are heightened at sub-projects/sub-investments situated in remote areas or where there is a significant workforce influx.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developer/sponsor will assess sub-project-/sub-investment-related risks of GBVH to sub-project-/sub-investment-affected persons and communities.</li> <li>Where appropriate, the sub-project/sub-investment has clear GBVH safeguarding processes in place, including the provision of confidential channels for reporting incidents and providing support.</li> <li>Where required, the developer/sponsor has relied on work conducted by qualified and experienced specialists to identify and assess GBVH risks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The assessment of GBVH safeguarding processes for the sub-project/sub-investment has found no significant gaps.</li> <li>Processes are in place to identify any emerging or ongoing GBVH-related issues and to monitor whether safeguarding measures are effective.</li> <li>All site-specific GBVH risk assessments and mitigation strategies have been implemented by recognised GBVH experts.</li> </ul>
PR4: Health, safety and security	<p><b>Community health and safety:</b> Where turbines are sited close to people, there may be a number of nuisance and public safety issues associated with, for example, shadow flicker and blade glint, noise and ice thrown from blades.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turbines will be/have been designed and sited to avoid impacts on local residences, schools, hospitals, businesses and to take into account the safety of those in proximity to turbines.</li> <li>Generally, wind turbines should be more than 700 metres from the nearest residential area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any affected local communities have been consulted on the location of turbines.</li> <li>Plans and procedures have been developed and implemented to protect public health, safety and security, such as a traffic management plan, noise, emergency plans and measures to prevent unauthorised access during construction (gates, fencing and signage).</li> <li>Turbines are sited at sufficient distance from sensitive receptors to avoid any noise or visual impact.</li> <li>If turbines must be located close to sensitive receptors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turbines meet national requirements and international good practice for acoustic design.</li> <li>Turbines have been designed and are orientated to avoid shadow flicker.</li> <li>Turbines have been painted with a non-reflective coating.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

EBRD ESP 2019	Issue	Eligibility criteria	Evidence
<p>PR5: Land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement</p>	<p>The sub-project/sub-investment may result in physical displacement (relocation or loss of shelter) and/or economic displacement (loss of assets or resources, and/or loss of access to assets or resources that leads to loss of income sources or means of livelihood) due to sub-project/sub-investment-related land acquisition and/or restrictions on land use.</p> <p>Under EBRD PR9 (Appendix A: Referral List), FI financing of any activities resulting in involuntary resettlement is subject to referral to the EBRD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The developer/sponsor will identify whether land acquisition and/or restrictions on land use for the sub-project/sub-investment, its components or any associated facilities<sup>3</sup> will result in physical displacement, economic displacement or loss of access to assets or resources.</li> <li>• If the sub-project/sub-investment will result in physical or economic displacement, a resettlement action plan and/or compensation plan is required.</li> </ul> <p>Where applicable, the sub-project/sub-investment uses a “mitigation hierarchy”, as required by the 2019 EBRD Environmental and Social Policy, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid displacement and, where this is not possible, implement additional measures to minimise, mitigate and, as a last resort, compensate for potential residual adverse impacts.</li> <li>• Forced evictions are prohibited, in line with international law.</li> <li>• Unavoidable residual displacement impacts must be mitigated by (i) timely compensation at full replacement cost and (ii) ensuring meaningful consultation.</li> <li>• Livelihoods must be improved or, at a minimum, restored.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assessment of the resettlement implications of the sub-project/sub-investment is undertaken early in the sub-project/sub-investment preparation stage.</li> <li>• An alternatives analysis has been conducted to identify alternative sites and transmission routings.</li> <li>• Where applicable, a resettlement action plan and associated processes are developed in a timely manner for sub-project/sub-investment implementation and operation.</li> <li>• Monitoring of the implementation of the resettlement plans is undertaken to verify that commitments made to resettled people and host communities have been delivered and are effective, and to identify any ongoing or emerging issues.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Facilities and sub-project/sub-investments developed by separate legal entities, the viability and existence of which are determined by or depend exclusively on the sub-project/sub-investment and are essential for the successful operation of the sub-project/sub-investment. These may include, for example, powerlines to connect the sub-project/sub-investment to the grid, where these are not part of the sub-project/sub-investment.

EBRD ESP 2019	Issue	Eligibility criteria	Evidence
PR6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources	<p><b>Landscape and visual impacts:</b> Landscape and visual impacts are among the most far-reaching effects of wind farms and are generally of greatest concern to the public.</p> <p>Appropriate baseline data need to be provided to allow for an assessment of flora and fauna. This assessment should include the use of vantage points to assess flyways and potential impacts on wildlife.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turbine development does not create significant changes in the landscape's fabric, character or quality.</li> <li>• Turbines and any ancillary structures are constructed in such a way as to minimise visual impact.</li> <li>• Turbines do not significantly alter the appearance of the landscape (where the turbine can be seen) or negatively affect people or their use of that landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape itself has not been significantly altered or damaged through clearance, excavation or construction.</li> <li>• Features of the landscape, such as trees or hedgerows, have not been removed in such numbers as to significantly change the nature of the landscape.</li> <li>• Public access to surrounding areas is not hindered by the turbines.</li> <li>• A cut in speeds (6 m/s) is imposed if a risk to bats is identified.</li> <li>• The EBRD/International Finance Corporation/KfW guidance on post construction monitoring is used to monitor for carcasses following construction of the wind farm.<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• The visual impact of turbines has been considered from all relevant viewing angles when considering location.</li> <li>• The number of ancillary structures that have a visual impact has been minimised.</li> <li>• Public consultations have been designed to take into account those people affected by the landscape impacts of the wind farm.</li> </ul>
PR6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources	<p><b>Designated areas:</b> Designated areas (for example, a national park, Important Bird Area, a NATURA 2000 site or Emerald site, both official and shadow lists) are typically listed as such because they contain threatened, rare or sensitive fauna and flora and the construction and operation of turbines in such areas may be detrimental to those species.</p> <p>Under EBRD PR9 (Appendix A: Referral List), FI financing of activities that occur within or have the potential to adversely affect a protected area is subject to referral to the EBRD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turbines do not have a negative impact on designated or potentially designated sensitive areas, particularly with regard to flight paths and potential migration routes for both birds and bats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The developer/sponsor has undertaken research on the proposed location of the turbine(s) and either avoided siting it within a designated location or received the appropriate permissions from the authorities to do so. Turbines have been sited without causing unacceptable disturbance or damage.</li> <li>• If the site is located in a sensitive area, such as a Natura 2000 site, the developer/sponsor must have or will undertake an additional ecological survey and assessment in line with the Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC),<sup>5</sup> the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EC)<sup>6</sup> and the Bern Convention (June 1979).<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Where impacts cannot be avoided, the developer/sponsor has developed a mitigation strategy to limit the effect of the development on national or international protected areas and a full ESIA has been conducted per Category A (see PR1).</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> See EBRD, IFC and KfW (2023). <sup>5</sup> See European Union (2009). <sup>6</sup> See European Union (1992). <sup>7</sup> See European Union (1982).

EBRD ESP 2019	Issue	Eligibility criteria	Evidence
<p>PR6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources</p>	<p><b>Impacts on fauna and flora:</b> Operating wind turbines may result in collisions of birds and bats with rotor blades and/or with towers. Turbines may also alter the habitat around the sub-project/sub-investment site, thus changing the type and number of perching sites or the type and quantity of prey available to certain species. Likewise, the siting of turbines may have an impact on other species, particularly when considering the conservation value of those species, located outside of designated areas.</p> <p>Develop mitigation measures to address biodiversity risks and impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turbines will be/are sited, designed and configured to minimise impacts on migrating and/or nesting and feeding birds and bats.</li> <li>• Turbines will be/are sited, designed and configured to minimise impacts on other fauna and flora, notably any species of conservation value.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A baseline study of appropriate nature has been undertaken, with sufficient ornithological data to cover both migratory seasons.</li> <li>• Site selection will take/has taken into account known migration pathways or areas where birds and bats are highly concentrated.</li> <li>• Site selection will take/has taken account of any other fauna and flora located on site, particularly any species of conservation value.</li> <li>• Turbines will be/have been configured to avoid potential avian mortality.</li> <li>• The wind farm implements a cut in speeds (6 m/s) if a risk to bats is identified.</li> <li>• The developer has incorporated shut-down-on-demand protocols and measures, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI) camera systems, to shut down turbines as necessary.</li> <li>• The site will be/has been designed to avoid creating attractions for feeding or nesting birds, for example, the integration of storm-water management measures to avoid the creation of small ponds that might attract birds.</li> <li>• The developer/sponsor has implemented/will implement a monitoring programme for birds and bats (loss of habitat, mortality, migration and behaviour) for at least three years.</li> </ul>
<p>PR6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources</p>	<p><b>Auxiliary facilities:</b> Auxiliary facilities, such as roadways to access turbines, and equipment for the transmission of electricity can, both during the construction and operational phases, have impacts on fauna, flora and people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access roads, the site(s) and facilities for the distribution of electricity are designed, constructed and operated so as to avoid and, where this is not possible, mitigate adverse environmental impacts.</li> <li>• Potential biodiversity risks of high-voltage overhead power lines that connect the plant to the substation must be assessed. This assessment should inform how the identified risks are mitigated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auxiliary facilities have undergone appropriate impact assessment and any significant environmental or community impacts have been identified.</li> <li>• Any such impacts have been taken into account during siting decisions to preferably avoid or, where this is not possible, mitigate those impacts.</li> <li>• There is evidence of public consultations on the associated infrastructure.</li> </ul>



EBRD ESP 2019	Issue	Eligibility criteria	Evidence
PR6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources	<p><b>Supply chain:</b> The mining of materials needed for wind turbines (such as neodymium for permanent magnets in wind turbines) can have significant biodiversity impacts where these minerals are mined in sensitive areas. The intensification of balsa logging, where balsa is used in blade construction, is also associated with deforestation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The developer/sponsor requires tier 1 suppliers (turbine vendors) to indicate country-level sources of the most relevant raw materials to verify country of origin.</li> <li>• The developer/sponsor requires tier 1 suppliers (turbine vendors) to specify whether turbine components are fully traceable.</li> <li>• The developer/sponsor requires tier 1 suppliers to implement a code of conduct, including a commitment to zero deforestation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The developer/sponsor provides all requisite documentation for FI review; FI provides sub-project/sub-investment supply-chain documentation for EBRD review.</li> <li>• The developer/sponsor has adequately detailed supply-chain mapping and an overview of component supply-chain traceability.</li> <li>• A code of conduct is adopted by tier 1 suppliers, with a requirement to cascade to sub-suppliers.</li> </ul>
PR8: Cultural heritage	<p>Sub-project/sub-investment construction may cause damage or disturbance to irreplaceable sites (areas of archaeological or historical interest to local communities), features or practices of tangible or intangible cultural heritage value.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sub-project/sub-investment must avoid impacts on cultural heritage assets to the greatest extent possible.</li> <li>• The sub-project/sub-investment complies with applicable national laws on cultural heritage, antiquities, planning and building permits, conservation areas, protected areas, and other laws and regulations governing the built heritage.</li> <li>• The developer/sponsor has identified any potential tangible and intangible heritage that may be affected by the proposed development in accordance with national legislation and international treaties and obtained clearance for the sub-project/sub-investment from the relevant authority.</li> <li>• The developer/sponsor has relied on work (such as archaeological surveys, as appropriate) conducted by qualified and experienced specialists to identify and assess heritage that may be affected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sub-project/sub-investment avoids impacting cultural heritage assets wherever possible.</li> <li>• Where impacts cannot be avoided, the developer/sponsor has developed a mitigation strategy, including a chance finds procedure, to limit the effect of the development on heritage.</li> <li>• All site-specific cultural studies and mitigation strategies have been implemented by recognised archaeologists or cultural historians in accordance with international standards.</li> </ul>

EBRD ESP 2019	Issue	Eligibility criteria	Evidence
<p>PR10: Information disclosure and stakeholder engagement</p>	<p>Identification of and engagement with stakeholders is an integral part of a sub-project/sub-investment's preparation, E&amp;S assessment, and management. The scope and depth of the required stakeholder engagement and information disclosure is proportionate to the sub-project/sub-investment's E&amp;S risks and impacts.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement activities should be used to inform the contextual risks associated with the sub-project/sub-investment and the sub-project's/sub-investment's social licence to operate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sub-project/sub-investment has a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help the developer/sponsor build and maintain a constructive relationship with its stakeholders.</li> <li>• The sub-project/sub-investment provides the means for effective and inclusive engagement with sub-project/sub-investment stakeholders throughout the sub-project/sub-investment cycle.</li> <li>• The sub-project/sub-investment ensures that appropriate E&amp;S information is disclosed and meaningful consultation is held with the sub-project/sub-investment's stakeholders and, where appropriate, that feedback provided through the consultation is taken into consideration.</li> <li>• The sub-project/sub-investment ensures that grievances from stakeholders are responded to and managed appropriately.</li> <li>• The sub-project/sub-investment develops a non-technical summary outlining project impacts and monitoring to allow for meaningful stakeholder engagement, communication and provision of information on project assessment and mitigation measures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The developer publishes a non-technical summary for the sub-project/sub-investment and makes it available to the local community.</li> <li>• The sub-project/sub-investment has implemented a stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documented process proportionate to the nature and scale of the risks, impacts and development stage of the sub-project/sub-investment ensuring data protection and confidentiality, non-reprisal, establishing processes for information disclosure, meaningful consultation, feedback on consultation and documentation and access to the sub-project/sub-investment grievance mechanism.</li> <li>• An effective grievance mechanism has been developed and implemented by the developer/sponsor as early as possible in the sub-project/sub-investment cycle, to cover both the construction and operational phases of the sub-project/sub-investment. The mechanism is publicised and disclosed in a format and language that is readily understandable to the affected stakeholders. Monitoring of grievances is undertaken on a periodic basis against clear indicators.</li> <li>• Contractors' roles and responsibilities for receiving grievances, supporting the investigation and resolution of grievances and abiding by the sub-project/sub-investment grievance mechanism are clearly set out in the grievance procedure and stipulated in the contractor's contract.</li> </ul>

## References

EBRD (2019), *Environmental and Social Policy*, London. Available at: <https://www.ebrd.com/news/publications/policies/environmental-and-social-policy-esp.html>.

EBRD, IFC and KfW (2023), *Post-construction Bird and Bat Fatality Monitoring for Onshore Wind Energy Facilities in Emerging Market Countries*, London, Washington, DC and Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Available at: <https://www.ifc.org/en/insights-reports/2023/bird-bat-fatality-monitoring-onshore-wind-energy-facilities>.

European Union (1982), *Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats (Bern Convention)*, Brussels. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A21979A0919%2801%29>.

European Union (1992), *Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora*, Brussels. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A31992L0043>.

European Union (2009), *Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds*, Brussels. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32009L0147>.

European Union (2014), *Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment*, Brussels. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32014L0052>.

June 2024

© European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Five Bank Street

London E14 4BG

United Kingdom

[www.ebrd.com](http://www.ebrd.com)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying and recording, without the written permission of the copyright holder. Such written permission must also be obtained before any part of this publication is stored in a retrieval system of any nature.

#### **Disclaimer**

This document contains references to good practices and should be interpreted bearing in mind the Environmental and Social Policy adopted by the EBRD; it is not a compliance document. It does not alter or amend EBRD policies and does not create any new or additional obligations for any person or entity. In case of any inconsistency or conflict between this document and the Environmental and Social Policy adopted by the EBRD as amended from time to time, such policy shall prevail. Questions of interpretation shall be addressed solely in respect of the Environmental and Social Policy.

The information and opinions within this document are for information purposes only. No representation, warranty or undertaking expressed or implied is made in respect of any information contained herein or the completeness, accuracy, or currency of the content herein. The EBRD does not assume responsibility or liability with respect to the use of or failure to use or reliance on any information, methods, processes, conclusions, or judgments contained herein, and expressly disclaims any responsibility or liability for any loss, cost, or other damages arising from or relating to the use of or reliance on this document. In making this document available, the EBRD is not suggesting or rendering legal or other professional services for any person or entity. Professional advice of qualified and experienced persons should be sought before acting (or refraining from acting) in accordance with the procedures outlined herein.

This document does not constitute or imply a waiver, renunciation or other modification, either express or implied, of any of the privileges, immunities and exemptions granted to the EBRD under the Agreement Establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, international convention or any applicable law. Certain parts of this document may link to external internet sites and other external internet sites may link to this publication. The EBRD does not accept responsibility for any of the content on these external internet sites.