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Guiding questions for Environment Impact Assessment – EIA

The following assessment questions are *mandatory* in relation to projects with environmental and natural resource aspect. The questions should be seen as an assessment and analysis of the risks associated with doing harm to the environment while implementing development projects.

The following assessment questions have to apply in development projects with environmental and natural resource aspects

All sustainable development projects that involved working with the environment and natural resources shall include an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This includes projects working with integrated rural development, water and sanitation, natural resources management, risk reduction, rehabilitation of farming, small scale farming etc. This is to assess whether the environmental impact is limited or not. Both positive and negative environmental aspects shall be taken into consideration. Environmental issues are complex and the links between the environment and development may need to be analyzed. Extensive EIAs must be made for projects that might have *significant* impact on the environment. (The method for this can be provided upon request.) For projects that are expected to have a *limited* or *insignificant* environmental impact, the EIA in the project document can be very brief.

- Is it likely that that project will provide positive contribution to environmentally sustainable development?
- Is there a risk that the project may have negative effect on ecosystem and the environment? Can they be avoided or minimized?
- In looking at the two first points take into consideration direct or indirect effects on people, flora, fauna, land, water, air, climate and landscape, material assets and cultural heritage and the interactions between them.
- Is there a risk that the project can have a negative impact on the Environment, are there other alternatives to reach the project goals?
- How will the environmental impact be monitored during the implementation of the project?
- Has any changes in the climate been observed in the project area over time?
- Does the project contribute to climate adaptation or mitigation? (e.g. Support for renewable energy or strengthening of ecosystems)