

A quick guide to the **EIB's Standard 1**

Environmental and Social Impacts and Risks

This factsheet presents the major requirements that the EIB's Standard 1 has for project promoters (the EIB's counterpart in an operation/project) in developing and implementing projects likely to have significant environmental, climate or social impacts and risks. These requirements include the documents which the promoter needs to prepare and disclose before the EIB finances the project. For details, refer to the [EIB's Environmental and Social Standards](#). Standard 1 describes the core elements of the environmental and social impact assessment, a process in which engagement with the project's stakeholders is an integral part.

Promoters' responsibilities

- Identify, describe and assess the likely significant effects (direct and any indirect, secondary, positive and negative, cumulative and transboundary) associated with the project and its ancillary/associated works/facilities;
- Avoid, prevent and reduce any significant adverse effects;
- Remedy/compensate any residual effects on project-affected people, communities, workers and the environment;
- Integrate human rights impacts and risks into the impact assessment process;
- Maximise the positive effects of the projects and consider the establishment of project benefit-sharing and/or community development programmes;
- Monitor the implementation of prevention, reduction and remedial/compensatory measures and the environmental, climate and social performance of the projects.

General requirements

When the project is located in countries of the EU and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), or in EU candidate and potential candidate countries:

- Comply with national legislation, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, the Strategic Assessment Directive, the Habitats and Birds Directives, the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
- Undertake other assessments, such as those on biodiversity and ecosystem services, climate change, cultural heritage and social impacts, as relevant, if deemed necessary by the EIB.

Projects located in the rest of the world:

- Comply with national legislation and the provisions of Standard 1 based on the core principles and essential procedural elements set forth in EU legislation;
- Subject projects that are likely to have significant environmental, climate and/or social impacts to an environmental and/or social impact assessment (EIA/ESIA) process – this is required for all projects as defined in Annex I of the EIA Directive, and may be required by national legislation or based on the criteria of Standard 1 (specified in Annex 1a), based on information provided to EIB as specified in Annex 1b;
- Include considerations of potential human rights risks in the assessment of social aspects;
- Other assessments or requirements pertaining to specific areas may be required by the EIB.

Documents and information which promoters must deliver to the EIB and are subject to disclosure

Projects located in the EU, EFTA countries, and EU candidate and potential candidate countries:

- Environmental Impact Assessment Report – scope as required by Annex IV to the EIA Directive and the Standard 1;
- Decision(s) of the relevant competent authorities, including the conclusion of the EIA process; these must satisfy the requirements set out in the EIA Directive, including providing relevant information in the event the project is exempted from conducting an EIA;
- For all projects listed in Annex II to the EIA Directive for which an EIA was not required, the promoter must provide the EIB, upon request, with: the information submitted to the relevant competent authorities upon which the decision not to conduct an EIA was taken and the relevant decision that satisfies the requirements set out in the EIA Directive;

- In agreed cases, an update of the EIA report based on the latest studies and/or a statement from the relevant authority confirming that the information included in the report remains accurate and relevant;
- Other assessments, such as those on biodiversity and ecosystem services, climate change, cultural heritage and social impacts, as relevant, if deemed necessary by the EIB.

Projects located in the rest of the world:

- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report – the scope of the ESIA as required by Standard 1; the content of the ESIA as defined in annex 2a;
- Other assessments or requirements pertaining to specific areas may be required by the EIB (for example, a gender impact assessment or human rights impact assessment).

Other documents

- Environmental and social management plans (or the equivalent) – include a set of measures to address the identified impacts and risks, as well as any opportunities for improvement of the project's environmental and social performance; the minimum scope of this plan as defined in Annex 2b of the Standard 1. The promoter shall periodically report on the implementation of this plan.
- Environmental and social management system – outlines the set of management processes and procedures that allows the promoter to ensure compliance with the relevant environmental, climate and social legal framework, international best practices and EIB requirements. This must be communicated externally.
- Community development programme – part of the environmental and social management plan.