



Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF)

Section 1: Project Overview

Identification	<i>Insert Project ID# from Programme Framework Table</i> AF-2021000119 (CTCN 2021000052)
Project Title	<i>Insert title (adding words 'project preparation proposal for' before title)</i> Building up integrated monitoring and early warning forest fires detection system in the Borjomi - Kharagauli National Park by innovative remote sensing tools
Managing Division	UNEP – Economic Division – CTCN
Type/Location	<i>[Global/Normative; Regional; National]</i> National
Region	<i>(Africa/ Europe/ North America/ Asia Pacific/ Latin America Caribbean/ West Asia)</i> Western Asia
List Countries	<i>Enter country name(s)</i> Georgia
Project Description	<p>Provide the project summary and description in 2-3 paragraphs</p> <p>The purpose of this technical assistance is to benchmark, select, design, and test a suitable integrated monitoring and early warning forest fire detection system in Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park. A site-specific fire monitoring policy that allows local populations with high risks of exposure to forest fire hazards to take appropriate actions to avoid or reduce risks and to prepare effective responses will be redacted, and users and administrators of the future system trained to its functionalities.</p> <p>Preservation of forests contributes to the significant reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) removal towards improvement of the resilience of ecosystems to climate change while minimizes the impact of extreme weather phenomena such as flooding. Therefore, it is a very important to develop a system for early detection of wildfires towards protecting the environment contributing to the climate change resiliency.</p> <p>Georgia is a rich forested country (approximately 40% of area). A massive wildfire was raging in Borjomi - Kaharagauli National Park in summer of 2017. It lasted over a month. The biggest wealth of Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park is the forest (75% of the territory) where large areas of the untouched sections of the mixed forests of Caucasus are protected.</p>
Relevant Subprogrammes	/
Estimated duration of project	<i>Provide the estimate in months from project kickoff to completion. Do not include time spent on concept or design.</i> 18 months



Estimated cost of the project	<i>Provide the estimated cost for entire project in USD.</i> 250,000 USD
Name of the UNEP project manager responsible	Rajiv Garg
Funding Source(s)	AFCIA
Executing/Implementing partner(s)	CTCN
SRIF submission version	<i>If it is not the first time, mark the time of your previous submission</i> <i>Concept Review [] During Project development [] PRC []</i> <i>Other _____</i> Version 1
Safeguard-related reports prepared so far <i>(Please attach the documents or provide the hyperlinks)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Feasibility report []</i> • <i>Gender Action Plan []</i> • <i>Stakeholder Engagement Plan []</i> • <i>Safeguard risk assessment or impact assessment []</i> • <i>ES Management Plan or Framework []</i> • <i>Indigenous Peoples Plan []</i> • <i>Cultural Heritage Plan []</i> • <i>Others _____</i>

Section 2: Safeguards Risk Summary

A. Summary of the Safeguards Risk Triggered

Safeguard Standards Triggered by the Project	Impact of Risk ¹ (1-5)	Probability of Risk (1-5)	Significance of Risk (L, M, H) <i>Please refer to the matrix below</i>
SS 1: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	2	2	L
SS 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks	2	2	L
SS 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	1	1	L
SS 4: Community Health, Safety and Security	1	1	L
SS 5: Cultural Heritage	1	1	L
SS 6: Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement	1	1	L
SS 7: Indigenous Peoples	2	2	L
SS 8: Labor and working conditions	1	1	L

B. ESS Risk Level² -

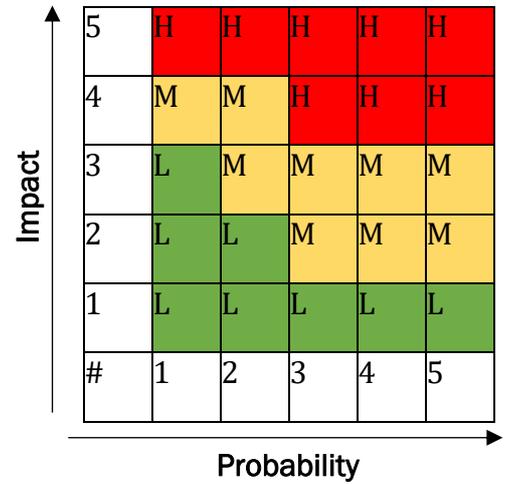
¹ Refer to UNEP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF): Implementation Guidance Note to assign values to the Impact of Risk and the Probability of Risk to determine the overall significance of Risk (Low, Moderate or High).

² **Low risk:** Negative impacts minimal or negligible: no further study or impact management required.



Refer to the UNEP ESSF (Chapter IV) and the UNEP’s ESSF Guidelines.

- Low risk
- Moderate risk
- High risk
- Additional information required



C. Development of SRIF and Screening Decision

Prepared by

Name: _____Rajiv Garg_____ Date: _____02 of February 2022_____

Screening review by

Name: Yunae Yi Date: 8 Feb. 2022

Cleared³

D. Safeguard Review Summary (by the safeguard team)

This is a low-risk project. However, the guiding principles (GP 1-10 in the Section 3 below) should be responded throughout the project implementation. SS 2 and SS 7 would require attention through precautionary approach and close stakeholder consultation.

E. Safeguard Recommendations (by the safeguard team)

- No specific safeguard action required

Moderate risk: Potential negative impacts, but limited in scale, not unprecedented or irreversible and generally limited to programme/project area; impacts amenable to management using standard mitigation measures; limited environmental or social analysis may be required to develop a Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Straightforward application of good practice may be sufficient without additional study.

High risk: Potential for significant negative impacts (e.g., irreversible, unprecedented, cumulative, significant stakeholder concerns); Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) (or Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)) including a full impact assessment may be required, followed by an effective comprehensive safeguard management plan.

³ This is signed only for the full projects latest by the PRC time.



- Take Good Practice approach⁴
- Carry out further assessments (e.g., site visits, experts' inputs, consult affected communities, etc.)
- Carry out impact assessments (by relevant experts) in the risk areas and develop management framework/plan
- Consult Safeguards Advisor early during the full project development phase
- Other _____

Section 3: Safeguard Risk Checklist

Screening checklist	Y/N/ Maybe	Justification for the response (please provide answers to each question)
Guiding Principles (these questions should be considered during the project development phase)		
GP1 Has the project analyzed and stated those who are interested and may be affected positively or negatively around the project activities, approaches, or results?	Y	The project has analyzed and has identified stakeholders who are going to be positively or negatively impacted by the project implementation in consultation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia. The participation of women and youth will be proactively ensured throughout the implementation as per UN/CTCN rules. Local communities and governmental entities have been informed of the technical assistance through the consultation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia.
GP2 Has the project identified and engaged vulnerable, marginalized people, including disabled people, through the informed, inclusive, transparent, and equal manner on potential positive or negative implication of the proposed approach and their roles in the project implementation?		The project has identified the vulnerable groups, including the people living in the area, a total of 175,000 persons out of which 52% are women, and will ensure gender and youth participation during the implementation phase through trainings and stakeholder 's consultation process.

⁴ Good practice approach: For most low-moderate risk projects, good practice approach may be sufficient. In that case, no separate management plan is necessary. Instead, the project document demonstrates safeguard management approach in the project activities, budget, risks management, stakeholder engagement or/and monitoring segments of the project document to avoid or minimize the identified potential risks without preparing a separate safeguard management plan.



		Other than gender and youth, one may find those who may have been left invisible or dis-communicated from the mainstream on fire- or land-related risks. Identifying who may cause or be directly affected by the forest fire will be done during the first phase of the project.
GP3	Have local communities or individuals raised human rights or gender equality concerns regarding the project (e.g., during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No. During the formulation of the proposal no concerns were raised by local communities on human rights. On the contrary, the stakeholders are pushing to select and test an early warning and monitoring system that will protect the population living in the arear from forest fires and preserve the biodiversity.
GP4	Does the proposed project consider gender-balanced representation in the design and implementation?	Yes. Gender balanced representation has been considered in the design and implementation. As per the CTC-N guidelines approved by the Advisory Board under Climate Convention, a fixed percentage of the project costs are towards gender and youth.
GP5	Did the proposed project analyze relevant gender issues and develop a gender responsive project approach?	Yes, gender has been considered in the design of all the activities of the project proposal. The project team consists of one gender expert out of a team of 6 experts.
GP6	Does the project include a project-specific grievance redress mechanism? If yes, state the specific location of such information.	Specific grievance redress mechanism
GP7	Will or did the project disclose project information, including the safeguard documents? If yes, please list all the webpages where the information is (or will be) disclosed.	CTC-N webpage and www.open.unep.org Safeguards documents will be uploaded after approval.
GP8	Were the stakeholders (including affected communities) informed of the projects and grievance redress mechanism? If yes, describe how they were informed.	Yes, the stakeholders were informed about the project and the grievance redress mechanism through the consultation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia. Stakeholders will be engaged during the implementation of the project through stakeholder consultations and capacity building that have been planned at all stages of the implementation.
GP9	Does the project consider potential negative impacts from short-term net gain to the local communities or countries at the risk of generating long-term social or economic burden? ⁵	No, the project is a technology identification and will benchmark, select, and design an early warning and monitoring technology options for forest fires for the Benjormi-Kharagauli National Park that will be deployed in a small specific location of the

⁵For example, a project may consider investing in a commercial shrimp farm by clearing the nearby mangrove forest to improve the livelihood of the coastal community. However, long term economic benefit from the shrimp farm may be significantly lower than the mangroves if we consider full costs factoring safety from storms, soil protection, water quality, biodiversity and so on.



		National Park for testing. It will also define a standard operation procedure for an efficient use of the designed integrated monitoring and early warning forest fires detection system and train administrators and users to the system to ensure a successful transfer of technology and knowledge.
GP10 Does the project consider potential partial economic benefits while excluding marginalized or vulnerable groups, including women in poverty?		The project is expected to have direct impact on the management of the Borjomi Kharagauli National Park Administration, which is a protected area. It is expected that the early warning system will enable to manage future forest fires more efficiently and avoid the destruction of future forest lands, as well as the emissions of unexpected GHG emissions which result from forest fires. Please, refer to section 6, 10, Contribution to the SDGs of the Response Plan .
Safeguard Standard 1: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
1.1 conversion or degradation of habitats (including modified habitat, natural habitat, and critical natural habitat), or losses and threats to biodiversity and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services?		No. There are no conversion or degradation of habitats, neither are losses or threats to biodiversity and/or ecosystems and ecosystems services. At the contrary, the early warning and integrated monitoring systems will enable to manage future forest fires more efficiently and avoid the destruction of future forest lands, as well as the emissions of unexpected GHG emissions.
1.2 adverse impacts specifically to habitats that are legally protected, officially proposed for protection, or recognized as protected by traditional local communities and/or authoritative sources (e.g., National Park, Nature Conservancy, Indigenous Community Conserved Area, (ICCA); etc.)?		The project will be implemented in a protected National Park in Georgia located in Samtskhe-Javakheti where the largest ethnic minorities (Azerbaijanis and Armenians) constitute numerical majorities. It is not expected that the project will have adverse impacts on habitats, protected areas or communities, at the contrary, the project should support a better management and protection of these protected areas and the minorities living in the region. The rating of the safeguards has been scored as level 2.
1.3 conversion or degradation of habitats that are identified by authoritative sources for their high conservation and biodiversity value?		No. There are no conversion or degradation of habitats, neither are losses or threats to biodiversity and/or ecosystems and ecosystems services. At the contrary, the early warning and integrated monitoring systems will enable to manage future forest fires more efficiently and avoid the



		destruction of future forest lands, as well as the emissions of unexpected GHG emissions.
1.4	activities that are not legally permitted or are inconsistent with any officially recognized management plans for the area?	No, the project is endorsed and signed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia and will be consistent with officially recognized management plans for the area.
1.5	risks to endangered species (e.g., reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	No, at the contrary, the early warning and integrated monitoring systems will enable to manage future forest fires more efficiently, preserve endangered species, and avoid the destruction of future forest lands, as well as the emissions of unexpected GHG emissions.
1.6	activities that may result in soil erosion, deterioration and/or land degradation?	No, the project is expected to create an early warning and monitoring system for forest fires. There is no risk of soil erosion, deterioration and/or land degradation. At the contrary, the early warning and integrated monitoring systems will enable to manage future forest fires more efficiently and avoid the destruction of future forest lands, as well as the emissions of unexpected GHG emissions.
1.7	reduced quality or quantity of ground water or water in rivers, ponds, lakes, other wetlands?	No, early warning and monitoring forest fires systems do not affect water.
1.8	reforestation, plantation development and/or forest harvesting?	No, the project is not planning any reforestation, plantation development and/or forest harvesting.
1.9	support for agricultural production, animal/fish production and harvesting	No, the project is not planning to support agricultural production, animal/fish production or harvesting.
1.10	introduction or utilization of any invasive alien species of flora and fauna, whether accidental or intentional?	No.
1.11	handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms?	No.
1.12	collection and utilization of genetic resources?	No.
Safeguard Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
2.1	improving resilience against potential climate change impact beyond the project intervention period?	Yes, the project, if successful, will lead to increase resilience against potential climate change impact beyond the project intervention period. The early warning and monitoring system will lead to a better management of the protected National Park and will protect the biodiversity and the populations living near the area.
2.2	areas that are now or are projected to be subject to natural hazards such as extreme temperatures, earthquakes, extreme precipitation and flooding,	Georgia is a rich forested country (approximately 40% of area). The biggest wealth of Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park



<p>landslides, droughts, severe winds, sea level rise, storm surges, tsunami, or volcanic eruptions in the next 30 years?</p>		<p>is the forest (75% of the territory) where large areas of the untouched sections of the mixed forests of Caucasus are protected.</p> <p>Short and long-term impacts on the specific values of the protected territories, especially natural fires, forest massif diseases caused by pests and climate change need special attention. Administration of the protected territories should maintain balance and, on the one hand, allow to develop the natural processes to identify environmental condition of the protected territories and, on the other hand, focus on those specific values the protection, conservation, and maintenance of which is the responsibility of the Agency of Protected Areas, project proponent of this Technical Assistance.</p>
<p>2.3 outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change (e.g., changes in precipitation, temperature, salinity, extreme events)?</p>		<p>Yes, the project aims at implementing an early warning and monitoring system for forest fires. These technologies register changes of precipitation, temperature, extreme events to better prevent them to have negative impacts on the protected areas.</p>
<p>2.4 local communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks (e.g., considering level of exposure and adaptive capacity)?</p>		<p>By increasing the capacity of the natural reserve administration to understand the phenomenon of forest fires in the area and to develop evacuation measures, there are better chances for sound biodiversity protection, with minimum human intervention made only when forest fires put really at risk both flora, fauna and human beings living in the area.</p> <p>Protection against uncontrolled forest fires secures the economic resources provided by the forests and the economic and social benefits for the residents of the area. A safer area is more suitable for tourism which also contributes to social and economic welfare.</p>
<p>2.5 increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?</p>		<p>No. At the contrary, a good forest management system prevents GHG emissions from forest fires.</p>
<p>2.6 Carbon sequestration and reduction of greenhouse emissions, resource-efficient and low carbon development, other measures for mitigating climate change</p>		<p>This is an adaptation project, but preservation of forests contributes to the significant reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) removal towards improvement of the resilience of ecosystems to climate change while minimizes the impact of extreme weather phenomena such as flooding.</p>
<p>Safeguard Standard 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</p>		
<p><i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i></p>		



3.1	the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?		No.
3.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?		No.
3.3	the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?		No.
3.4	the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? (e.g. DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Montreal Protocol , Minamata Convention , Basel Convention , Rotterdam Convention , Stockholm Convention)		No.
3.5	the application of pesticides or fertilizers that may have a negative effect on the environment (including non-target species) or human health?		No.
3.6	significant consumption of energy, water, or other material inputs?		The early warning system will request energy to work properly. But modern technologies are efficient and should not require significant consumption.
Safeguard Standard 4: Community Health, Safety and Security			
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>			
4.1	the design, construction, operation and/or decommissioning of structural elements such as new buildings or structures (including those accessed by the public)?		No.
4.2	air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, physical hazards, water runoff?		No.
4.3	exposure to water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g., temporary breeding habitats), communicable or noncommunicable diseases?		No.
4.4	adverse impacts on natural resources and/or ecosystem services relevant to the communities' health and safety (e.g., food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?		No negative impacts on the contrary, positive impacts are foreseen.
4.5	transport, storage use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g., fuel, explosives, other chemicals that may cause an emergency event)?		No.
4.6	engagement of security personnel to support project activities (e.g., protection of property or personnel, patrolling of protected areas)?		No.
4.7	an influx of workers to the project area or security personnel (e.g., police, military, other)?		No.
Safeguard Standard 5: Cultural Heritage			
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>			
5.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?		No.
5.2	adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional, or religious values or to intangible forms of cultural heritage (e.g., knowledge, innovations, practices)?		No.



5.3	utilization of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes (e.g., use of objects, practices, traditional knowledge, tourism)?	No.
5.4	alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	No.
5.5	significant land clearing, demolitions, excavations, flooding?	No.
5.6	identification and protection of cultural heritage sites or intangible forms of cultural heritage?	No.
Safeguard Standard 6: Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
6.1	full or partial physical displacement or relocation of people (whether temporary or permanent)?	No.
6.2	economic displacement (e.g., loss of assets or access to assets affecting for example crops, businesses, income generation sources)?	No.
6.2	involuntary restrictions on land/water use that deny a community the use of resources to which they have traditional or recognizable use rights?	No.
6.3	risk of forced evictions?	No.
6.4	changes in land tenure arrangements, including communal and/or customary/traditional land tenure patterns (including temporary/permanent loss of land)?	No.
Safeguard Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
7.1	areas where indigenous peoples are present, or uncontacted or isolated indigenous peoples inhabit or where it is believed these peoples may inhabit?	<p>According to the most recent 2014 census, the largest ethnic minorities are Azerbaijanis 233,000 (6.3 per cent) and Armenians 168,100 (4.5 per cent). Other ethnic groups include Russians 26,500 (0.7 per cent), Ossetians 14,400 (0.4 per cent), Yezidis 12,200 (0.3 per cent), Greeks 5,500 (0.1 per cent), Kists 5,700 (0.2 per cent), Assyrians 2,400 (0.1 per cent), Ukrainians 6,000 (0.2 per cent) as well as small Jewish and Polish communities. Several of these are minorities on both ethnic and religious grounds. Azerbaijanis and Armenians are concentrated in the regions of Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti, where they constitute numerical majorities.</p> <p>The project will be implemented in Samtskhe-Javakheti region; thus, the rating of the safeguards has been scored as level 2.</p>
7.2	activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	The Technical assistance will be implemented at national level. The Safeguard has been rated as risk level 2.
7.3	impacts to the human rights of indigenous peoples or to the lands, territories and resources claimed by them?	No, the project is a pre-feasibility study which will not have impacts on human rights of indigenous peoples or to the lands.



7.4	the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?		No.
7.5	adverse effects on the development priorities, decision making mechanisms, and forms of self-government of indigenous peoples as defined by them?		No.
7.6	risks to the traditional livelihoods, physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?		No.
7.7	impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?		No.
Safeguard Standard 8: Labor and working conditions			
8.1	Will the proposed project involve hiring or contracting project staff?		Yes. The implementer will be a network member selected through the bidding process under UNGM and will be mandated to respect the UN code of conduct rules and will meet all the requisites.
	<i>If the answer to 8.1 is yes, would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
8.2	working conditions that do not meet national labor laws or international commitments (e.g., ILO conventions)?		No.
8.3	the use of forced labor and child labor?		No.
8.4	occupational health and safety risks (including violence and harassment)?		No.
8.5	the increase of local or regional unemployment?		No.
8.6	suppliers of goods and services who may have high risk of significant safety issues related to their own workers?		No.
8.7	unequal working opportunities and conditions for women and men		No.