

E&S Eligibility Criteria for Bioenergy sub-projects/sub-investments

The Environmental and Social (E&S) eligibility criteria herein have been prepared to assist and to support EBRD's partner Financial Intermediaries (FIs) who are considering the provision of financing to sponsors/developers of bioenergy sub-projects/sub-investments.

These criteria set out the specific environmental and social criteria for financial intermediary sub-loans involving Bioenergy power to qualify for green finance attribution. As such, these criteria correspond to the requirement established in EBRD ESR9 for Financial Intermediaries, which states that "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." Prior to approval for inclusion under EBRD proceeds, all bioenergy sub-projects/sub-investments are subject to review by EBRD's Environment and Sustainability Department against these criteria.

In the following, the term "sub-project/sub-investment" refers to the bioenergy sub-project/sub-investment considered for financing, including all of its associated facilities as defined by the EBRD 2024 Environmental and Social Policy (ESP). This includes typically, but is not limited to, access roads, temporary sites, borrow and spoil areas, feedstock storage areas, pipelines and the connection to the grid. The "Sub-project/sub-investment" includes four temporal elements: 1) planning and siting of the facility, 2) construction, 3) operation and maintenance, and 4) decommissioning. All four elements are discussed herein. This is specific to new or "greenfield" Sub-project/sub-investments and extensions to or remodelling of existing facilities. The Sub-project/sub-investment scope also includes the supply chain to the Sub-project/sub-investment, as defined by ESR1 of the EBRD 2024 Environmental and Social Policy (ESP).

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 organized with reference to EBRD Environmental and Social Requirements (ESRs), as defined in the 2024 ESP. The key issues provided below are inclusive of typical sub-projects/sub-investments and technologies used in constructing a bioenergy sub-project/sub-investment but may not be exhaustive. Sub-projects/sub-investments proposed that use atypical construction or operation methods may require additional evaluation.

EBRD ESP 2024	Issue	Eligibility Criteria	Evidence
ESR1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts	<i>Regulatory Compliance:</i> The sub-project/sub-investment, or proposed sub-project/sub-investment, or the associated facilities may not have all the necessary permissions and permits required under national law.	- The sub-project/sub-investment must comply with all requirements of national environment, health and safety, and labour laws. - The sub-project/sub-investment must have obtained all applicable local planning and zoning approvals to allow for the Sub-project/sub-investment development.	- For new developments, if required by law, the developer / sponsor has undertaken an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the EIA has been disclosed to the public in accordance with national requirements. - The developer / sponsor has obtained the required national licenses and permits to build (in case of new developments) or operate (in case of existing facilities) the sub-project/sub-investment. - For new developments the developer / sponsor has obtained the required local planning and zoning board approvals required to build and operate the sub-project/sub-investment. - In case of encroachment or anticipated impact of the sub-project/sub-investment (the plant or its grid connection) on a Natura 2000 site, an Appropriate Assessment must be prepared in line with The Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), The Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EC) and The Bern Convention (June 1979).
ESR1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts	The sub-project/sub-investment (the plant or its grid connection) may fall under the Category A list set out in Annex B of the EBRD ESP (2024)	The developer / sponsor has assessed and demonstrated that the sub-project/sub-investment: Does not include installations for the manufacture on an industrial scale of	The developer / sponsor has established and maintained an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) appropriate and commensurate with the level of its environmental and social

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		substances using chemical conversions processes. • Does not result in the construction of motorways or lines for long-distance railway traffic. • Does not require pipelines, terminals or facilities for the large-scale transport of final products. • Is not directly associated with large-scale deforestation or primary agriculture/forestation intensification, land use change or conversion of priority biodiversity features and/or critical habitats. • Does not include the construction of high voltage overhead electrical power lines. • Is not planned to have or likely to have a perceptible impact on sensitive locations of international, national or regional importance. • Will not result in significant adverse social impacts to local communities or other sub-project/sub-investment affected parties. • Will not involve significant involuntary resettlement or economic displacement. • Will not result in significant cumulative impacts in combination with impacts from other existing facilities, reasonably foreseeable developments and/or unplanned but	impacts and issues in line with Good International Practice (GIP). • If the sub-project/sub-investment falls under Category A, the developer / sponsor will conduct an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment which meets the requirements of the EBRD ESRs 1-8 and 10. • Under EBRD ESR, FI financing of any Category A sub-project/sub-investment is subject to referral to EBRD.

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		predictable activities enabled by sub-project/sub-investments that may occur later or at a different location.	
ESR1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts	<i>Feedstock supply chain management:</i> Supply chains for agricultural residues, energy crops, and woody feedstock may be associated with significant environmental and social risks.	The developer / sponsor will identify risks associated with its supply chain including but not limited to biodiversity, deforestation and labour rights risks associated with feedstock production; emissions from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF); and life cycle Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission performance.	- The developer / sponsor has assessed environmental and social risks associated with the cultivation, harvesting, transport, storage, pre-processing and transportation of all feedstock materials to be processed at the bioenergy installation. - The developer / sponsor has determined the source (local production or international import) of the feedstock and assessed risks associated to the production in the source location and transportation to the Sub-project/sub-investment site. - Consistent with EU recast Renewable Energy Directive 2023/2413, the developer / sponsor can provide evidence of the protection of soil quality and soil carbon for feedstock from agriculture waste and residues; for agriculture biomass, the developer / sponsor can provide evidence that the raw material is not sourced from highly biodiverse forests. For forest biomass, the developer / sponsor can demonstrate that the country of origin has laws in place a) avoiding the risk of unsustainable harvesting and b) accounting of emissions from forest harvesting. If such evidence cannot be provided, the developer / sponsor needs to demonstrate

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			sustainability compliance at the level of the biomass sourcing area. The developer / sponsor has evaluated feasibility of seeking internationally recognized industry sustainability certification for its feedstock supply chain.
ESR2: Labour and working conditions	Sub-project/sub-investment workers may not be employed in line with national legal requirements, treated fairly or adequately protected.	- 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. - These aspects should be considered for all sub-project/sub-investment workers, including staff of the developer and staff of contractors, sub-contractors, intermediaries and service providers.	- The assessment of human resource and labour management processes for the Sub-project/sub-investment has found no significant gaps. - Processes are in place to identify any emerging or ongoing issues, and to monitor if management measures are effective.
ESR2: Labour and working conditions	<i>Labour management procedures:</i> The developer / sponsor must establish labour management procedures which 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.	- 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, contractor, sub-contractor) are a party. - Contractors and sub-contractors are contractually bound to comply with the sub-project/sub-investment's	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.

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		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. Worker grievance procedures are documented and tracked.	
ESR2: Labour and working conditions	<i>Supply chain labour risks:</i> The feedstock supply chain may be associated with risks of forced labour, child labour and harm to workers, in relation to agricultural raw material production, as well as forestry.	The developer / sponsor has a policy and/or Supplier Code of Conduct in place that prohibits the use of forced labour and child labour in its direct suppliers' operations and includes a requirement for direct suppliers to cascade this prohibition to their sub-suppliers.	- Developer / sponsor provides all requisite documentation for FI review; FI provides sub-project/sub-investment supply chain documentation for EBRD review. - Developer / sponsor has evaluated feasibility of seeking internationally recognized industry sustainability certification for its feedstock supply chain.
ESR3: 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 increased 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.	- The developer / sponsor will adopt technically and financially feasible and cost-effective measures for minimising its consumption and improving efficiency in its use of energy, water and other resources and material inputs and recovering and re-utilising waste materials. - The developer / sponsor will identify opportunities and integrate resource efficiency measures and the principles of cleaner production into product design and production processes.	- The developer / sponsor has conducted an assessment of potential air pollutants (including but not limited to particulates (PM2.5), methane and NOx) in line with relevant legislation and best practice guidance, dependent on the scale of the bioenergy facility. - The developer / sponsor has conducted an evaluation of consumables and wastes and has developed a strategy to minimize energy and water usage and to minimize all waste materials and promote the waste hierarchy for remaining waste. - The developer / sponsor has anticipated the volumes of solid and liquid wastes that will have to be managed and has a strategy

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			to manage wastes through authorised companies or on-site treatment.
ESR3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and control	Bioenergy has the potential to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) in comparison to comparable fossil fuel activities.	- The developer / sponsor will consider alternatives and implement technically feasible and cost-effective options to avoid or minimise sub-project/sub-investment-related GHG emissions. - The sub-project/sub-investment is expected to produce less than 25,000 tCO₂-equivalents annually. If not, the developer / sponsor must have completed a GHG assessment.	- The developer / sponsor has conducted an evaluation of emission sources and considered ways to minimize sub-project/sub-investment-related GHGs during the design and operation. - The developer / sponsor has demonstrated GHG emission reduction in comparison to a conventional fossil fuel installation. - A GHG assessment is undertaken if the sub-project/sub-investment is expected to produce more than 25,000 tCO₂-equivalents annually.
ESR3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and control	Water use requirements for some biofuel production facilities are high and reliant on local water supplies.	The developer / sponsor will demonstrate the local conditions and baseline for water availability (quality and quantity).	The developer / sponsor has conducted an assessment of water use requirements and established a management plan.

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ESR3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and control	Sub-project/sub-investment site preparation and construction will disturb the ground surface and increase likelihood of soil erosion and sedimentation, potentially polluting streams and rivers and adversely impacting aquatic life. The sub-project/sub-investment may present a safety hazard – including fire and explosion hazards – and the potential to release pollutants into the environment; storage of biomass may also result in contamination.	- The sub-project/sub-investment will demonstrate that sediments in stormwater will be managed in a manner that avoids or minimizes impacts to streams and rivers. - The sub-project's/sub-investment's potential to release pollutants into the environment must be assessed and mitigation measures put in place, including an automatic monitoring system.	- The sub-project/sub-investment proposes the use of best management practices (BMPs) for soil erosion and runoff (such as sediment settling basins, silt fencing, hay bales, physical barriers, grassed swales). - Where the installation falls under the EU Industrial Emission Directive (IED, revised 2024), emission limit values must be based on the Best Available Techniques (BAT).
ESR4: Health, safety and security	<i>Noise abatement:</i> Construction activities (and to a lesser extent, operations), increase local noise than can adversely impact nearby residential communities.	The sub-project/sub-investment will address, and when required by national requirements or international standards, include noise abatement measures to eliminate or minimize impacts to nearby communities.	- The selection of the sub-project/sub-investment site has maximized distance from residential communities to the greatest extent possible. - An acoustic study has been conducted to evaluate impacts to nearby communities in accordance with national and international standards. - Where unabated noise from construction and operation of the bioenergy plant has been shown to present an unacceptable risk to nearby residents, abatement and management measures have been included to reduce to acceptable levels. - The site area is restricted to avoid unauthorised entrance.
ESR4: Health, safety and security	<i>Odour nuisance:</i> Operation of some technologies such as anaerobic digestion can result in odours from the type of	The Sub-project/sub-investment will address the effects of adverse odours on nearby communities and where	The selection of the sub-project/sub-investment site has maximized distance

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	feedstocks (e.g. manure) and processing activities. Other sub-project/sub-investments may require activities to dry and/or store the feedstock onsite, which may generate odour and dust. Odour nuisance can adversely impact nearby residential communities.	adverse, include measures to eliminate and minimize the effects.	from residential communities to the greatest extent possible. Potential odour issues have been assessed to evaluate impact to nearby communities.
ESR4: Health, safety and security	<i>Traffic and road safety risks:</i> Construction and operations present traffic and road safety risks to workers and potentially the affected community.	The sub-project/sub-investment must evaluate and monitor related risks throughout the sub-project/sub-investment life cycle.	The developer / sponsor has evaluated the effects of sub-project/sub-investment-related traffic and safety, during both construction and operations, to the community.
ESR4: Health, safety and security	<i>Workforce Health and Safety:</i> Occupational health and safety hazards specific to Bioenergy primarily include: exposure to fire hazards, asphyxiation, injury from contact with machinery and moving parts.	- Workforce health and safety assessment includes all sub-project/sub-investment workers, including staff of the developer and staff of contractors, sub-contractors, intermediaries, suppliers and service providers. - The sub-project/sub-investment ensures compliance with statutory and collectively agreed occupational health and safety requirements. - The developer / sponsor recognises their primary responsibility to provide safe and healthy working environments for sub-project/sub-investment workers and informing, instructing, training, supervising and consulting sub-project/sub-investment workers on health and safety.	- 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. - A sub-project/sub-investment-specific OSH plan is in place; where appropriate, the OSH plan is integrated into the sub-project/sub-investment ESMS. - 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 if management measures are effective. - 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.

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ESR4: Health, safety and security	<i>Gender-based violence and harassment:</i> Female community members and workers may be at heightened risk of gender-based violence and harassment (GBVH). Risks are heightened at sub-projects/sub-investments situated in remote areas or where there is a significant workforce influx.	- The developer / sponsor will assess sub-project/sub-investment-related gender-based violence risks of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse to sub-project/sub-investment-affected persons and communities. - 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. - Where required, the developer / sponsor has relied on work conducted by qualified and experienced specialists to identify and assess GBVH risks.	- The assessment of GBVH safeguarding processes for the sub-project/sub-investment has found no significant gaps. - Processes are in place to identify any emerging or ongoing GBVH related issues, and to monitor if safeguarding measures are effective. - All site-specific GBVH risk assessment and mitigation strategies have been implemented by recognized GBVH experts.
ESR5: Land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement	A sub-project/sub-investment (the plant or its grid connection) 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) as a result of sub-project/sub-investment-related land acquisition and/or restrictions on land use.	- The developer / sponsor will identify if land acquisition and/or restrictions on land use for the sub-project/sub-investment, its components or any associated facilities¹ will result in physical displacement, economic displacement or loss of access to assets or resources. - If the sub-project/sub-investment will result in will result in physical or economic displacement a	- An assessment of the resettlement implications of the sub-project/sub-investment is undertaken early in the sub-project/sub-investment preparation stage (covering the plant and its grid connection). - An alternatives analysis has been conducted to identify alternative sites and transmission routings. - Where applicable, a Resettlement Action Plan and associated processes are developed in a timely manner for sub-

¹ Facilities and projects developed by separate legal entities whose viability and existence 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. This may include e.g. powerlines to connect the sub-project/sub-investment to the grid where these are not part of the sub-project/sub-investment.

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		Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and/or compensation plan is required. Where applicable, the sub-project/sub-investment applies a “mitigation hierarchy” as required by the EBRD ESP, as follows: • 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 • Forced evictions are prohibited, in line with international law • Unavoidable residual displacement impacts have to be mitigated by (i) timely compensation at full replacement cost and (ii) ensuring meaningful consultation in • Livelihoods have to be improved or, at a minimum, restored.	project/sub-investment implementation and operation. • Monitoring is undertaken of implementation of the resettlement plans, and to verify that commitments made to resettles and host communities have been delivered and are effective, and to identify any ongoing or emerging issues.
ESR5: Land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement	<i>Local food security:</i> if good practices are not implemented, bioenergy production may lead to negative impacts on the productive capacity of land or on water availability and quality, with negative repercussions on food security.	• The developer / sponsor will demonstrate that the bioenergy sub-project/sub-investment will not have an adverse impact on local and regional food production patterns.	• The developer / sponsor has determined if its operations are in a region of food insecurity and, if so, completed a food security assessment to identify how to maintain and enhance food security.
ESR6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable	<i>Protected species and habitats:</i> The siting and construction of the bioenergy plant could adversely impact protected species or their habitat.	• The sub-project/sub-investment must avoid impacts to protected species and their habitats to the greatest extent possible.	• The developer / sponsor has relied on work conducted by qualified and experienced specialists to identify protected species that may be affected with reference to at least

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management of living natural resources		The developer / sponsor has identified any potential protected species that may be affected by the proposed development in accordance with national legislation and international treaties.	national regulations and IUCN and CITES Lists. - An alternatives analysis has been conducted to identify alternative sites and minimize current and future impacts on protected species. - Where impacts cannot be avoided, the developer / sponsor has developed a mitigation strategy to limit the effect of the development on protected species.
ESR6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources	<i>Protected areas:</i> The siting and construction of the bioenergy plant could adversely impact designated national or international protected areas. Designated areas (e.g. a national park, IBA, a Natura 2000 or Emerald site (both official and shadow lists) and “Ramsar” site) are typically listed as such because they contain threatened, rare, or sensitive fauna and flora.	- The sub-project/sub-investment must avoid impacts to designated national or international protected areas to the greatest extent possible. - The developer / sponsor has identified any designated national or international protected areas that may be affected by the proposed development in accordance with national legislation and international treaties.	- The developer / sponsor has identified national or international protected areas that may be affected by the Sub-project/sub-investment. - If the site is located in or near a sensitive area such as a Natura 2000 area, the developer / sponsor needs to have or will undertake an additional ecological survey and assessment in line with The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC), The Habitats Directive (92/43/EC) and The Bern Convention (June 1979). - An alternatives analysis has been conducted to identify alternative sites and minimize current and future impacts on national or international protected areas. - Where impacts cannot be avoided, the developer / sponsor has developed a mitigation strategy to limit the effect of the development national or international protected areas and a full ESIA has been conducted as per Category A (see PR1)

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ESR6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources	<i>Auxiliary Facilities:</i> Auxiliary facilities such as roadways to access the plant, and equipment for the transmission of electricity can, both during the construction and operational phases, create impacts on fauna and flora and people.	- Access roads, the site(s) and facilities for distribution of electricity are designed, constructed and operated so as to avoid, and where this is not possible mitigate, adverse environmental impacts. - Potential biodiversity risks of OHV power lines that connect the plant to the substation must be assessed. This assessment should inform how identified risks are mitigated.	- Auxiliary facilities have undergone appropriate impact assessment and any significant environmental or community impacts have been identified. - Any such impacts have been taken into account during siting decisions to preferably avoid, or where this is not possible, mitigate those impacts. Grid connections must be undergrounded or rerouted to avoid the impacts to the extent possible, and bird flight diverters must be installed to mitigate residual impacts. - Evidence of public consultations for the associated infrastructure.
ESR6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources	<i>Supply chain:</i> Bioenergy feedstocks can negatively affect biodiversity and carbon stocks through direct land use change or deforestation and unsustainable agriculture/forestry practices.	- The developer / sponsor will minimize adverse effects on the ecosystems and the biodiversity they support through the use of residues and waste materials as a primary source of biomass, where feasible. - The developer / sponsor of biofuel production will use feedstocks produced in a sustainable manner that minimizes impacts per unit of energy produced and does not compete with biological roles that some feedstocks play (e.g. recycling of organic matter into the soil, protection of soil surface and structure, nitrogen retention and release).	- The developer / sponsor has assessed ability to meet EU principles and sustainability criteria and sought to certify its operations to such standards where appropriate. - Consistent with EU recast Renewable Energy Directive 2023/2413, the developer / sponsor can provide evidence of the protection of soil quality and soil carbon for feedstock from agriculture waste and residues; for agriculture biomass, the developer / sponsor can provide evidence that the raw material is not sourced from highly biodiverse forests. For forest biomass, the developer / sponsor can demonstrate that the country of origin has laws in place a) avoiding the risk of unsustainable harvesting and b) accounting

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		The developer / sponsor will meet requirements of relevant standards and legislation, for example EU recast Renewable Energy Directive 2023/2413, EU Regulation on deforestation-free products 2023/1115, EU Regulation on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry 2018/841 (LULUCF), EU Forest Strategy 2030, EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, and the EU recast Energy Efficiency Directive 2023/1791, in relation to CHP plants.	of emissions from forest harvesting. If such evidence cannot be provided, the Sub-project/sub-investment sponsor needs to demonstrate sustainability compliance at the level of the biomass sourcing area (consistent with EU Regulation on deforestation-free products 2023/11150) - The developer / sponsor has a land management plan in place. - The developer / sponsor has evaluated feasibility of seeking internationally recognized industry sustainability certification for its operations and supply chain and gives preference to purchasing living natural resources that are produced in accordance with internationally recognised principles and standards of sustainable management. - The developer / sponsor has established policies, procedures and verification practices which: - identify the origin of the supply and habitat type of the source area; - avoid procurement from suppliers that are contributing to significant conversion or degradation of priority biodiversity features, critical habitats and/or designated protected areas; - provide for an ongoing review of the sponsor's primary suppliers.
ESR6: Biodiversity conservation and	Genetically modified organisms and invasive species	The developer / sponsor will adopt and implement a sustainable	The developer / sponsor has developed a plan to evaluate the sustainability

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sustainable management of living natural resources		resources procurement policy, management procedure and verification system to evaluate primary suppliers. • Bioenergy feedstocks that contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs) may not be used without a risk assessment in line with all substantive standards. • Under no circumstances shall species known to be invasive be introduced into new environments for the production of bioenergy feedstocks.	management practices of primary suppliers and to prioritize procurement of internationally recognized certified feedstocks where feasible. • The developer / sponsor has determined if any feedstocks contain GMOs or have potential to be an invasive species.
ESR8: Cultural heritage	Sub-project/sub-investment construction may cause damage or disturbance to irreplaceable sites (areas of archaeological or historic interest to local communities) features, or practices of tangible or intangible cultural heritage value. Under EBRD PR9 (Appendix A: Referral List), FI financing of any activities which may affect adversely sites of cultural or archaeological significance is subject to referral to EBRD.	• The sub-project/sub-investment must avoid impacts to cultural heritage assets to the greatest extent possible. • 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. • 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.	• The sub-project/sub-investment avoids impacts to cultural heritage assets wherever possible. • Where impacts cannot be avoided, the developer / sponsor has developed a mitigation strategy to limit the effect of the development on heritage. • All site-specific cultural studies and mitigation strategies have been implemented by recognized archaeologists or cultural historians in accordance with international standards.

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		The developer / sponsor has relied on work (e.g. archaeological survey as appropriate) conducted by qualified and experienced specialists to identify and assess heritage that may be affected.	
ESR10: Stakeholder engagement	Identification of and engagement with stakeholders is an integral part of a Sub-project/sub-investment's preparation, environmental and social assessment and management. The scope and depth of the required stakeholder engagement and information disclosure is proportionate to the Sub-project/sub-investment's environmental and social risks and impacts. 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.	- 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 their stakeholders - 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 - The sub-project/sub-investment ensures that appropriate E&S information is disclosed, and meaningful consultation is held with the Sub-project/sub-investment's stakeholders and where appropriate, and that feedback provided through the consultation is taken into consideration - The sub-project/sub-investment ensures that grievances from stakeholders are responded to and managed appropriately.	- The affected community has been identified, notified and consulted prior to the development of the facility - For higher-risk projects involving large-scale land acquisition, or with significant community concerns or complex issues, a stakeholder engagement and community liaison function is established by the developer / sponsor, with dedicated personnel. - The developer / sponsor publishes an NTS for the sub-project/sub-investment and makes it available to the local community - The sub-project/sub-investment has implemented a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) or equivalent documented process proportionate to the nature and scale or 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.

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		The sub-project/sub-investment develops a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) outlining project impacts and monitoring to allow for meaningful stakeholder engagement, communication and provision of information on project assessment and mitigation measures.	- 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. - 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.