

**BLUEING THE BLACK SEA
GEF REGIONAL PROJECT
(P173890)**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL AND
SOCIAL ASSESSMENT**

REVISED DRAFT

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BBSEA	Blueing the Black Sea
BSC	Black Sea Commission
BSEC	Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
BSEC PERMIS	Permanent International Secretariat of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
CMA	Common Maritime Agenda
EA	Environmental Assessment
EC	European Commission
EHS	Environmental Health and Safety
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESDD	Environmental and Social Due Diligence
ESF	World Bank Environmental and Social Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESS	World Bank Environmental and Social Standards
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for Mediterranean
GHG	Green House Gas
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
NBS	Nature-based Solutions
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
OIPs	Other Interested Parties
OP	World Bank Operational Policy
PAP	Project Affected Population/Person
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEF	Stakeholder Engagement Framework
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SRIA	Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Trainings of Trainers
USD	US Dollars
WB	World Bank

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Black Sea is a nearly enclosed and zonally elongated basin that has a limited interaction with the Aegean Sea through the Turkish Straits System. The Black Sea is bordered by Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia and Russia. A number of major rivers flow into Black Sea; such as Danube, Dnieper, Don, Rioni, Kodori and Inguri Chorokhi, Kizilirmak, Yesilirmak, Sakarya, Southern Bug and Dnister draining the watersheds of some non-border countries into the Black Sea. Thus, the Black Sea is highly sensitive to anthropogenic impacts due to the huge catchment area and almost landlocked nature.

The environmental quality of the Black Sea has been declining significantly, with peak nutrient pollution causing eutrophication, plastics and marine litter. The climate change is likely to exacerbate erosion, flooding and environmental quality of the Black Sea. The most significant process causing degradation of the Black Sea has been the massive eutrophication by nitrogen and phosphorus compounds, coming largely from agricultural, domestic and industrial sources. Sewage discharge and oil pollution pose a threat to human health and in some cases hamper the development of sustainable tourism and aquaculture.

Addressing pollution issues will continue to be a major challenge for the sustainable development of the Black Sea in post-COVID era. Prevention and reduction of water pollution is important for human health and for healthier natural habitats. In this context, the World Bank and its partners have engaged into planning a regional approach to respond to the pollution challenge and formulated the Blueing the Black Sea (BBSEA) Regional Project (from now on BBSEA Project or the Project) thorough GEF (Global Environment Facility) funding.

The BBSEA Project is one of the initiatives supporting the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) and its seven signatory countries: Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Ukraine and Turkey. The BBSEA Project has also included pilot national level activities in Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Turkey. The Project (becoming a coherent regional programme aiming both at regional and country-level activities) is coordinated by the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC PERMIS).

The Project will comply with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and GEF requirements. In this context various environmental and social assessment and management tools would be employed for different components of the Project and the sub-projects/activities to be developed under the BBSEA.

Almost all the activities within the scope of the Project will result in positive environmental and social impacts through strengthened governance for improvement of the environmental status of the Black Sea. The policy and capacity development activities will result in indirect positive impacts, such as conservation of aquatic species, improved water use and treated wastewater quality, reduced soil pollution, while the investment component of the project might cause impacts such as waste generation and management, energy use, noise, dust emissions and occupational health and safety (OHS) which could be temporary and reversible, low in magnitude and site specific which can be easily mitigated through good management practices.

The environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the national action plans will be addressed through a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA). The SESA for national action plans will be conducted during implementation in light of World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (ESS1 to ESS10) in order to inform project design and activities. This will integrate ESF requirements into the assessment of the current national policy and legal framework, development of national plans for pollution reduction and circular economy and strengthened framework for Blue Economy across the region. The SESA will be identifying and assessing key environmental issues and opportunities associated with the project development and the mitigation measures that will be integrated into the national action plans and sustainable business standards to be developed.

2. CONTEXT

2.1 Regional Context

The Black Sea region may be described as an expression of multifaceted networks. The wider Black Sea area includes a population of 332 million people. Many of the region’s littoral states (i.e., Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine) and adjacent states (i.e., Armenia, Azerbaijan, Greece, and Moldova) belong to other regions as well (i.e., Southeast Europe, South Caucasus, Central Asia, Mediterranean). The Black Sea is connected to the Aegean and the Mediterranean seas. The Danube River, Europe’s biggest and most important river, the Dnieper and Don, continent’s third and fourth biggest rivers are all flowing to the Black Sea. Despite the inter-connectedness, the wider Black Sea region is structurally heterogeneous.

Historically, entrepreneurial activities and private initiative have been the main unifying factors, while political divisions often undermined this unity. Presently, there are significant differences in the structural, political and socio-economic conditions of the Black Sea states. As a region, the Black Sea has an estimated gross domestic product (GDP) of around 3.6 trillion US Dollars (USD), producing 4.3% of global GDP with important socio-economic contrast.

The Black Sea countries rely on healthy coastal environment for its inhabitants, and its fisheries and tourism industries. The health of the of the sea is the health of its inhabitants, starting from bacteria and its microscopic algae, all the way up to fish, dolphins and humans. According to the General Fisheries Commission for Mediterranean (GFCM), marine capture fisheries in the Black Sea region produce estimated total revenue of 350 million USD annually and provide for more than 20 thousand jobs excluding pre- and post-harvest labor. Tourist arrivals in the Black Sea region grew faster than the world average over the last two decades. This can also be observed from 143 million international tourist arrivals in 2018 and 75 billion USD of international tourism receipts established in the region in the member countries of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

2.2 Sectoral Context

The Black Sea has become one of the most polluted seas, over the past two decades, with eutrophication being one of the pressing issues. The most significant process causing degradation of the Black Sea has been the massive over-fertilization by nitrogen and phosphorus compounds, coming largely from agricultural, domestic and industrial wastewater sources. This phenomenon has changed the entire Black Sea ecosystem and is expected to worsen as agriculture sector faces new challenges related to climate change and invasive pests. The compounds find their way to the sea from 17 countries through the waterways and rivers. The coastal countries contribute roughly 70 percent of the total amount. In the Black Sea, sewage discharge estimated at about 571 million cubic meters annually, mainly does not meet the effluent standards due to the absence or insufficiency of the treatment.

Oil pollution levels are not high in the open sea, but represent a growing risk for coastal areas. Around 50,000 ships sail through the Bosphorus every year, including at least 10,000 oil tankers. Several Black Sea ports in Russia and Georgia are terminals for oil and gas pipelines from the Caspian Sea. Annually about 95,000 tons of unrecoverable oil waste are discharged into the Black Sea as a result of operational discharges of vessels and accidents, as well as through land-based sources. Commercial shipping volumes in the Black Sea are relatively small, representing less than 1% of global traffic, but are growing rapidly.

Toxic substances such as pesticides and heavy metals are other forms of pollution threatening the Black Sea that do not pollute the whole sea but appear in hot spots near certain well-identified sources. Solid waste and plastic pollution has been a growing agenda in the region, where 85% of the waste flowing into the Black Sea is reported to be plastic. Plastic waste is most harmful of all solid waste because of inability to decompose entirely while small decomposed fragment harms the marine ecosystem.

The economic loss from pollution and environmental degradation has not been properly estimated to date. Each country of the region is affected in a different way, depending on the type and size of their economic activities related to the sea, mainly tourism and fishing, and the situation is expected to worsen if the current situation is not addressed. In addition, climate change exacerbates impacts of pollution. With pollution, the Black Sea becomes more prone to water temperatures increase which leads to intensified evapotranspiration and regional meteorological disruptions as the Black Sea's capacity to regulate regional weather patterns is disrupted. Furthermore, pollution from eutrophication and wastewater generates Green House Gas (GHG) emission. Other impacts of climate change in the Black Sea include coastal flooding and sea level rise.

Most Black Sea countries have experienced a severe economic impact due to lost jobs, business closures and disrupted international trade as a result of Covid-19 crisis. In this context, restoring and diversifying countries' economies beyond land-based activities and along their coasts and watershed could be critical to go back to the path of the shared prosperity and delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth globally. The marine space of the Black Sea is of high economic importance for the region.

2.3 Institutional Context

Countries have joined forces to make progress towards the Black Sea sustainability. On 21 May 2019, Ministers and Vice-Ministers from Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, and Ukraine met in Bucharest to endorse the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) for the Black Sea. The CMA represents a follow-up to the commitment of the 2018 Burgas Ministerial Declaration “Towards a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea” and is a result of the process initiated by the European Commission (EC) for the implementation of the Black Sea Synergy. Supporting the CMA, the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea (SRIA), launched on May 8, 2019, supports research and innovation in key sectors including biodiversity, cultural heritage sites and the new local, national and transboundary policy measures.

The implementation of the CMA is supported by BSEC and by the Black Sea Commission (BSC). The BSEC is a multilateral political and economic initiative aimed at fostering interaction and harmony among the Member States. It serves as a forum for cooperation in a wide range of areas for its 13 Member States. The BSEC was launched as a regionally owned initiative, when the Heads of State and Government signed the Summit Declaration and the Bosphorus Statement on 25 June 1992, in Istanbul. The BSC was established with Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine signing in 1992 and shortly thereafter ratified the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution also referred to as "Bucharest Convention". It is the basic framework of agreement and three specific Protocols, which are (i) the control of land-based sources of pollution, (ii) dumping of waste and (iii) joint action in the case of accidents (such as oil spills).

Private sector (especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)) lacks support and incentive to adopt clean practices. Technical and investment readiness of start-ups and SMEs is restricted by a lack of innovation and access to sustainable products and solutions.

In support of the CMA, the World Bank is launching the Blueing the Black Sea Program to catalyze blue economy investments for the Black Sea. The BBSEA Program has an investment component and an analytical component and its initial step is focused on reducing pollution in the Black Sea. Two instruments are considered for the realization of the first steps toward developing the Program: (i) Turning the Tide of Pollution is a regional analytical work financed by the PROBLUE multi-donor trust fund and it is executed by the World Bank. It has been approved and will support national diagnostic on pollution and synthesize the results in a regional report. (ii) This BBSEA Project is financed by a grant of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) under the International Water window. This GEF project is a first and initial building block of the BBSEA Program to develop specific regional stakeholder’s consultation mechanisms and promote best practices and knowledge exchange in and outside of the region. Although the proposed Project would benefit all Black Sea countries through knowledge exchange and standards building, national level activity would take place only in the following four countries: Georgia, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine, in accordance with GEF decision in the current context of the Black Sea.

3. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND COMPONENTS

Addressing pollution issues is a major challenge for the sustainable development of the Black Sea in a post-COVID era. Prevention and reduction of water pollution is important for public health and for healthier natural habitats. The Project would identify innovative finance and business models and practices that reduce the degradation of coastal and marine resources, providing strong evidence for effective blue economy approaches to maritime management sustaining an economy in support of marine ecosystem restoration and protection.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen economic, technical and communication tools to promote regional collaboration and private sector engagement for pollution prevention in the Black Sea. In this context, the PDO Level Indicators are the following:

- Agencies taking action to reduce or prevent pollution in the Black Sea as a result of the project. The agencies can be at regional or national level.
- Sustainable business and investment standards and guidelines for pollution control and prevention in key sectors adopted by regional or national agency/institutions
- Innovations promoted through the Eco-Innovation Challenge
- Potential investment in specified areas identified
- Stakeholder's engagement maintained throughout the project implementation to seek feedbacks on the impacts of project activities

The Project includes three components as summarized below.

3.1 Project Component 1 – Economic Case to Invest in Pollution Prevention and Reduction

Good understanding of the cost of pollution at the national and regional levels are an indispensable basis for further developing the blue economy in the region. This component will address the economic knowledge gap in pollution prevention and reduction through an economic analysis. Then, building on the analytical work prepared under Turning the Tide of Pollution this component will develop investment recommendations to the governments of the BBSEA GEF Project Focus Countries.

Subcomponent 1.1 Cost of Inaction Analysis

This sub-component would provide quantitative analysis of cost of inaction towards the pollution related to water management, waste management, agriculture, aquaculture, tourism and shipping transportation. The sources of pollution diagnostic prepared under Turning the Tide of Pollution will provide qualitative inputs including a fact-finding of the water pollution in the coastal areas of the Black Sea and major river basins that are connected to the Black Sea through secondary data collection and literature reviews. The cost of inaction analysis under this Project will then take the following methodologies; (i) the analysis on market costs of water pollution especially focusing on economic impact on tourism, change in fishery yields, agricultural crop yields in Black Sea basin area, and health care expenditures in each of participating BBSEA GEF Project Focus Countries and aggregated cost at the regional level; and (ii) the non-market health impacts of water pollution such as mortality and rate of gastrointestinal disease etc. are assessed and monetized. The sub-component would provide scientifically evident estimation of cost of inaction on marine pollution to policy makers to inform decision making on what types of policy intervention and investment are appropriate in the BBSEA GEF Project Focus Countries. This activity will include consulting services and consultations. National level analysis will take place in the BBSEA GEF Project Focus Countries and a regional synthesis will be shared with all seven CMA countries.

Subcomponent 1.2 National Investment Recommendations, Knowledge Exchange and Regional Dialogue

The component would include development of national investment recommendations for pollution reduction and management in the four BBSEA GEF Project Focus Countries. Building on the findings from the Institutional, Policy and Legal Analysis prepared under Turning the Tide of Pollution, the Project will establish dialogue with the line ministries and ministries in charge of finance as well as key regional stakeholders. Within the framework of relevant regional and international frameworks, the Project will then identify the potential infrastructure investment recommendations at the pollution hot spots including investment concept, investment roadmap with baseline data, targets and monitoring mechanism. In parallel, the Project will foster knowledge by exchange of best practices amongst the seven CMA countries. Knowledge products and trainings will be posted on the Black Sea Virtual Knowledge Center and disseminated through the IW:LEARN Platform. The Project will promote regional dialogue between the Black Sea Commission (BSC), BSEC, GFCM and enhance BSEC performance (financing of activities and participation). This component includes consultancy services, training and consultations. National Investment recommendations will be carried out in the four BBSEA GEF Project Focus Countries while knowledge exchange and regional dialogue will benefit all seven CMA countries.

3.2 Project Component 2 - Sustainable Standards for Business and Investment and the Green and Innovative Financing

This component would increase the readiness of both the public and private sectors in the four BBSEA GEF Project Focus Countries and provide them an access to financial investment, innovation and technologies for pollution reduction and management. The project would support the adoption of internationally and regionally recognized sustainable standards for investment across sectors and provide capacity building opportunities for

business operators and government officials in the Black Sea countries through workshops and webinars to attain knowledge in boosting the readiness on investment project preparation.

Subcomponent 2.1 Sustainable Business and Investment Standards and Guidelines

The series of national consultations have revealed that agriculture and urban & industrial wastewaters are perceived as the main sources of pollution to the Black Sea. They will be the focus of this sub-component. The sustainable business and investment standards will first be identified in the priority sectors based on international and regional best practices. The Project will also review equivalence between national standards across the CMA countries. Then, the relevant standards will be broadly disseminated through awareness raising campaigns to the stakeholders as well as the capacity building training. Series of training mechanisms will consist of trainings of trainers (ToT) and set-of workshops targeting farmers, industries, municipalities and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the tourism industry. In parallel, the adaptation and implementation of the sustainable business standards and trainings will be conducted to build the capacity and understanding of both potential investment proponents such as municipalities and the commercial banks. These trainings will review bankable project proposals for the pollution reduction and prevention related investment projects based on the sustainable finance standard in the GEF Black Sea countries. This training will develop capacity of potential proponents and bank officers how to ensure suitability, feasibility, bankability and impact assessment of pollution reduction and prevention investment projects as well as the knowledge on the international practices of water pollution related projects and their critical success factors. This sub-component includes consulting services, consultation and trainings. The standards and guidelines will be disseminated across the seven CMA countries and the training will be delivered in the four BBSEA GEF Project Focus Countries.

Subcomponent 2.2 Eco-Innovation Challenge

This subcomponent will finance promotion of innovation that will allow public sector institutions, development partners and potential investors to identify, verify and invest in innovative solutions. The type of Eco-Innovation Challenge could vary per country according to the local context. It could include supporting business accelerators towards promoting new knowledge and ideas among entrepreneurs, eco-business and other participants. Incubators and accelerators will focus their efforts in promoting healthy and sustainable innovations in the agriculture and Blue Economy. Selected eco-businesses could receive ex-post awards for innovations that already took place or grants to support further adaptations and/or testing of the innovative technologies and business models in order to prove feasibility, applicability and effectiveness. Through strategic partnerships at the international, regional and/or national business levels, the challenge will also promote technical collaboration, to build new knowledge and ideas among entrepreneurs, eco-business. Selected eco-businesses could receive, depending on the nature of the type of Eco-Innovation Challenge, ex-post awards for innovations that already took place and/or grants to support further adaptations and/or testing of the innovative technologies and business models in order to prove feasibility, applicability and effectiveness. This subcomponent will finance at least one selected eco-business from each of the four GEF Black Sea countries. This sub-component includes consulting services, non-consulting services, goods, limited work and consultations and will focus on the four BBSEA GEF Project Focus Countries.

Subcomponent 2.3 Investments Preparation

The project would support the preparation of investments through identification and selection of viable solutions and locations. Nutrient pollution from agricultural sector is the most pressing issue at stake in many of the beneficiary countries and financing gaps in green-gray infrastructures to treat the pollution was also confirmed and recognized as investment urgently needed during the series of national consultations. The support would target investments for treatment of nutrient pollution and urban wastewater, water depollution, water recycling and reuse. The project will select one potential investment project with the most pressing urgency for the purpose of blueing the Black Sea support preparing a more concrete project proposal. The selection criteria of the project proposal should be based on; regional and national impact of investment on pollution reduction, readiness of the government on infrastructure investment, effectiveness in reducing water pollution in the Black Sea, sustainability of operation and maintenance of the investment, replicability and scalability of the investment, and social impact on community enhancement, job creation and gender equality. The decision making on investment project selection should be done through national and regional consultations with key stakeholders. The preparation envisages including development of various project preparation steps such as pre-feasibility studies, economic and financial analysis, and environmental and social impact assessment. This sub-component would focus on at least one of the four BBSEA GEF Project Focus Countries.

3.3 Project Component 3 - Project Management

This component would aim to ensure the project efficiency and efficacy through the establishment of a satisfactory monitoring and evaluation (M&E) management system as well as the maintenance of the project's participation and consultation mechanisms. This component would support the project executing entity in charge of the technical implementation of the project activities, financial management and procurement, overall monitoring of project results, production of progress reports, and ESF compliance, including the establishment of a culturally appropriate grievance redress mechanism.

4. OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT (SESA) AND APPROACH

The objective of these Terms of Reference (ToR) is to ensure implementation of a comprehensive and participatory Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) process/study that can integrate environmental and social considerations into mainly the following component of the Project:

- Development of National Investment Recommendations, Knowledge Exchange and Regional Dialogue (*Subcomponent 1.2*)

This component would include development of national investment recommendations for pollution reduction and management in the four BBSEA GEF Project Focus Countries (Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Turkey). The SESA studies (expected to be 4 studies in 4 pilot countries) to be conducted in accordance this ToR will be in compliance with relevant national environmental legislation, and environmental and social safeguard policies/environmental and social standards and relevant guidelines of the World Bank. In addition, all these 4 BBSEA GEF Project Focus Countries have Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations. Thus, in case the national plans to be developed under Subcomponent 2.1 falls under the categories required going through national SEA process, national SEA procedure will also be followed and completed.

4.1 Objectives of Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment

SESA is a systematic and participatory process, undertaken to analyze environmental and social impacts of proposed plans, programmes and other strategic actions, and to integrate findings into decision-making. In order to achieve integration of the SESA findings in decision-making (i.e. approval of plan or programme); inputs provided by SESA should be optimally considered in the plan or programme during its preparation. SESA process is required to be performed simultaneously with the planning process.

The Project aims adoption of regional pollution policy framework and recommendation for national pollution management planning in the 4 BBSEA GEF Project Focus Countries. This includes development of national investment recommendation plans. The plan will support identifying the potential infrastructure investment plans at the pollution hot spots with investment concept and investment roadmap with baseline data, targets and monitoring mechanism. In this context, the objectives of SESAs would be identifying, describing and assessing the likely significant impacts of these investment recommendations/plans, constraints (environmental, social, natural resource and climate change related) bearing on the performance of these plans, and opportunities for the plans to enhancing the state of the environment in the Black Sea Region, building climate resilience and promoting the blue economy.

Each SESA will aim at assessing the national investment recommendations/plans, which are planned under the BBSEA Project. The SESA will offer a platform for consultation with a broad range of national and regional stakeholders, including potentially affected communities, to integrate social and environmental concerns into the preparation of the proposed action plans. The SESA outcomes should reflect strategic relevance of the

proposed actions and provide relevant information to assess and appropriately address environmental and social challenges and opportunities. This information should help to ensure that environmental (on physical and biological/living environment) and social (on socio-economy and communities) concerns are appropriately integrated in the final design of the project components and implementation processes as well as in the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the results. The SESA should identify alternatives to the proposed activities where the project components could adversely affect the environment or local communities, and discuss recommendations to address key environmental and social risks and impacts, and institutional and governance weaknesses.

The SESAs to be prepared for relevant BBSEA Project Components will be in compliance with the environmental and social legislation of Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Turkey and regional agreements and the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The findings of SESAs will guide further identification and prioritization of the project investments.

4.2 Approach for Implementing the SESA Process

Based on the characteristics and scope of the BBSEA Project, SESAs will be carried out as a process, rather than a one-time impact assessment. This is due to;

- the complex and regional nature of the BBSEA Project, where the sub-project/activities would be conducted in different countries and they are not yet well identified, and SESA activities might need to be adapted to different sub-projects/plans,
- SESA development shall go in parallel with the planning process of the strategic actions/projects, and
- SESA will create a platform of stakeholder engagement to allow continued engagement and consultation with broad stakeholders.

The stepwise approach for a SESA study would include the following:

1. Conduction a Scoping Study for the BBSEA action that requires a SESA and delivering a Scoping Report. The Scoping results will include, scope of data collection, key aspects to be considered, impact assessment methodologies, stakeholder engagement means, contents for the SESA Study, etc.
2. Presenting the draft Scoping Report to the National Competent Authority of the country that the plan is being developed (if required) and the World Bank for review.
3. Stakeholder Consultations (i.e., public consultation, scoping meeting, etc.) for the draft Scoping Report.
4. Finalizing the Scoping Report.
5. Conducting the SESA Study based on the findings and results of the Scoping Study and delivering a SESA Report. The SESA study would cover identification of key environmental and social issues and priorities, assessment of environmental and social impacts, development of mitigation measures for adverse impacts, evaluation

of alternatives and proposing monitoring activities, as well as stakeholder engagement.

6. Stakeholder Consultations (i.e., public consultation, workshops, etc.) during SESA studies.
7. Presenting the draft SESA Report to the National Competent Authority of the country that the plan is being developed (if required) and the World Bank for review.
8. Stakeholder Consultations (i.e., public consultation, scoping meeting, etc.) for the draft SESA Report.
9. Finalizing the SESA Report.

5. POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ON SESA

5.1 World Bank Standards and Guidelines

The World Bank recognizes strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA) as a key means of integrating environmental and social considerations into policies, plans and programs and as a tool for sustainable development. SESA focus on impact analysis at one end and on institutional assessment at the other end incorporating environmental considerations across different levels of strategic decision-making: plan, program, and policy.

Environmental Social Framework (ESF) of the World Bank defines SESA as a systematic examination of environmental and social risks and impacts, and issues, associated with a policy, plan or program, typically at the national level but also in smaller areas. The examination of environmental and social risks and impacts will include consideration of the environmental and social risks and impacts incorporated in ESS1 through 10.

The World Bank has ten environmental and social standards (ESS) that set out the requirements relating to the identification and assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts associated with projects supported by the World Bank. Application of these standards, by focusing on the identification and management of environmental and social risks and impacts, will support reduction of poverty and increasing prosperity in a sustainable manner for development projects. These standards are listed below.

- ESS1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts
- ESS2: Labor and Working Conditions
- ESS3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management
- ESS4: Community Health and Safety
- ESS5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement
- ESS6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources
- ESS7: Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities
- ESS8: Cultural Heritage
- ESS9: Financial Intermediaries

- ESS10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

For the BBSEA Project ESS5, ESS7, ESS8 and ESS9 are not relevant. In this context, the Project will not finance activities that will require land acquisition, restriction to land use and involuntary resettlement and that have impacts on cultural heritage. The relevant ESSs to be considered in the SESA studies are summarized below.

ESS1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Almost all the activities within the scope of the project will result in positive environmental and social impacts through strengthened governance for improvement of the environmental status of the Black Sea. The policy and capacity development activities will result in indirect positive impacts, such as conservation of aquatic species, improved water use and treated wastewater quality, reduced soil pollution, while the investment component of the project might cause impacts such as waste generation and management, energy use, noise, dust emissions and occupational health and safety (OHS) which could be temporary and reversible, low in magnitude and site specific which can be easily mitigated through good management practices. The risks and impacts associated with the project components will be addressed through a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

A Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) of national action plans will be conducted during implementation in light of ESS1 to ESS10 in order to inform project design and activities. This will integrate ESF requirements into the assessment of the current national policy and legal framework, development of national plans for pollution reduction and circular economy and strengthened framework for Blue Economy across the region. The SESA will be identifying and assessing key environmental issues and opportunities associated with the project development and the mitigation measures that will be integrated into the national action plans and sustainable business standards to be developed. The SESA will analyze the national frameworks for environmental and natural resources assessment and management, pollution reduction, the context of the identified sectors and contribution to the Black Sea Basin environmental problems, formulate alternatives and mitigation strategies, and highlight opportunities for sustainable use of natural resources, and therefore enhance the decision-making process. The SESA will be developed, publicly disclosed and consulted with relevant stakeholders throughout project implementation.

The SESA of national action plans will include a social assessment which will analyze social risks and impacts in the Black Sea basin and opportunities resulting from investments in the basin, including the identification and assessment of stakeholders, assessment of the national legal and institutional framework for addressing social risks, contextual risks in beneficiary countries, socio-economic profile of communities in the Black Sea basin project participating countries, mapping of land use, sources of livelihoods and prevalent economic activities. This assessment will inform project supported activities and investments. At this stage it is expected that vulnerable groups would include households whose livelihoods mainly depend on sea-related activities such as fishing; women, youth, poor households, and persons stemming from conflict affected regions in some participating countries. The SESA will identify any other vulnerable groups and the need to differentiated approach to certain groups.

ESS3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The activities that are involved in the project are related to reducing pollution in the Black Sea Basin through enhanced governance, assessment of the regional and national frameworks, development of national plans for pollution reduction and circular economy and support to regional dialogue with strengthened cooperation among the authorities. The SESA will be addressing the water quality and corresponding environmental problems, the pollution sources and means to mitigate those and will inform the overall project design accordingly. The assessments will consider General and industry-specific EHS Guidelines of the World Bank Group where necessary.

ESS4: Community Health and Safety

Pollution and environmental degradation in Black Sea can negatively affect the health and safety of local communities in coastal areas. The SESA process will consider community health and safety risks and impacts and propose solutions to mitigate such impacts through national plans.

ESS6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

The project will have important environmental benefits due to the nature of the activities proposed. Black Sea Region is rich in biodiversity and includes many important protected areas in all riparian countries. The SESA will provide for an assessment of the current biodiversity status in the Black Sea Basin area and identify sensitive/protected areas and habitats which would fall under the region of project implementation. The SESA will consider protection of the habitats as well as availability of provisioning ecosystem services to local communities and enhance sustainable management of natural resources.

ESS10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Project activities will take place in Turkey, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova. While the BSEC will have overall responsibility for project implementation, implementation activities in each country will be coordinated with national agencies.

The initial assessment indicated that the direct stakeholders include the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment in Moldova, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Turkey and the Ministry of Energy and Environment Protection in Ukraine, local municipalities in the Black Sea basin in beneficiary countries, local business associations in agri and aquaculture, tourism and shipping, local NGOs to be involved in the grant financed activities. Additional stakeholder groups will be identified during project preparation, and special attention will be dedicated to the identification of vulnerable groups among stakeholders.

The SEP prepared for the BBSEA Project provided a preliminary list of the identified stakeholders of the national plans to be prepared and a template table for stakeholder analysis at regional and country level. In addition, a general stakeholder engagement

program including; strategy for information disclosure and consultations, and incorporation of the views of vulnerable groups is provided in the SEP. In the SESA studies, the approach and methodology specified in this SEP would be followed.

5.2 National Legislation and Processes for SESA

The BBSEA Project is one of the initiatives supporting the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) and its seven signatory countries: Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Ukraine and Turkey. Although the proposed Project would benefit all Black Sea countries through knowledge exchange and standards building, national level activity would take place only in Georgia, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine, in accordance with GEF decision in the current context.

SESA is a tool with increasing application all over the world and in this regard all of the four countries mentioned above have legislation on implementation of this tool in national level. The relevant legislation in each of these countries mainly follows the Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU SEA Directive) so the laws and bylaws/regulations refer to, or named as, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Environmental Assessment Code of Georgia (No. 890-IIS of 2017)

The Environmental Assessment Code was put into force on 7 December 2017 and regulates the implementation of environmental impact assessment (EIA) process, procedures and studies in Georgia. The Code consists of eight sections:

1. General Provisions
2. Environmental Decision
3. Strategic Environmental Assessment
4. Public Participation in Decision-Making Processes Provided for by this Code
5. Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure
6. Expert Commission
7. Control and Responsibilities in the Field of Environmental Assessment
8. Transitional and Final Provisions

The main purposes of the Code include regulating the matters related to strategic documents and public or private activities which may have significant effects on the environment, human life and/or health and applying the standards of best international practice in the implementation of environmental assessment (EIA, SEA) procedures.

Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Moldova (No. 11 of 2017)

The Law on SEA was put into force on 2 March 2017. The scope of this Law is to establish a legal basis for strategic environmental assessment to ensure high level of environmental protection, to prevent or reduce adverse environmental impacts, including health-related consequences of certain plans and programs.

The subject of strategic environmental assessment are the draft plans and programs developed at the national and local levels that can have a significant impact on the

environment of the Republic of Moldova or neighboring countries. Strategic environmental assessment is conducted with respect to plans and programs that are developed for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, management of water resources, electronic communications, tourism, land use, planning of urban and rural areas (documentation on urban development and development of the territory, including plans and programs for development of the territory at the national, regional and district levels and general town planning plans). The initiator of strategic environmental assessment, by agreement with the competent authority, ensures public information and public participation in strategic environmental assessment of plans or programs.

This Law consists of six sections:

1. General Provisions
2. Stages of Strategic Environmental Assessment
3. Transboundary Consultations
4. Validation of Plans or Programs
5. Liability and Dispute Settlement
6. Final and Transitional Provisions

Regulation on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Turkey (No. 30032 of 2017)

The Regulation on SEA was put into force on 8 April 2017. This Regulation aims at regulating the technical and procedural issues regarding the implementation of SEA for integrating the environmental factors in the planning and approval process of the plans/programs that are expected to have significant environmental impacts. The overall objective of the Regulation is protecting the environment and achieving development in line with sustainable development principles.

The Regulation covers the plans and programs in the sectors of waste management, fisheries, energy, coastal management, spatial planning, forestry, industry, water management, agriculture, telecommunication, tourism and transportation and regulates the preparation, approval, and monitoring of SEAs and capacity building/training activities related to SEA.

The Regulation consists of four sections:

1. Purpose, Scope, Basis, Conformity with EU *Acquis* and Definitions
2. General Provisions
3. Strategic Environmental Assessment Implementation Provisions
4. Final and Transitional Provisions

Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Ukraine (No. 2354-VIII of 2018)

The Law on SEA was adopted on 20 March 2018 and enacted on 2 October 2018. This Law regulates the implementation of strategic environmental assessment, including assessment of impact on public health, implementation of state planning documentation and comprises government planning documents related to agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy sector,

industry, transport, waste management, water resources management, environmental protection, telecommunications, tourism, urban planning or land management (schemes).

This Law consists of six sections:

1. General Provisions
2. Plenary Powers of the Subjects of Strategic Environmental Assessment
3. Procedure for Implementation of SEA
4. Transboundary Consultations
5. Approval of Governmental Planning Document and Monitoring Implementation
6. Final and Transitional Provisions

The purpose of the strategic environmental assessment shall be to promote sustainable development through ensuring environmental protection, safety and protection of human life and health, integration of environmental requirements in the process of development and approval of state planning documentation.

6. SCOPE OF WORK

SESA will be carried out as a process, rather than a one-time impact assessment, developed in parallel to development of the subject national investment recommendations/plans and creating a platform of stakeholder engagement to allow continued engagement with broad stakeholders. SESA will be conducted in two main phases; scoping study and SESA (assessment) study.

The scoping study will define the key issues that need to be addressed in the SESA study, considering the specific context in which the national investment plan is being developed and is likely to be implemented. Detailed activities and work plan for the SESA study will be established on the basis of the conclusions of the scoping study. Activities/tasks to be conducted in the scoping and assessment phases are described below.

Throughout the SESA process, stakeholders will be engaged at critical milestones of the SESA process such as; when the scoping report is drafted and key environmental and social issues are identified, when the mitigation measures for significant impacts are developed and SESA report is drafted. The stakeholders will be engaged at different levels as appropriate, such as local, national, and regional levels. Inputs received and comments provided during such consultation meetings will be incorporated in SESA and SESA itself will provide inputs for the related plans. The implementation of SESA will be managed so that the knowledge of international best practices is transferred to the stakeholders.

6.1 Scoping Study

The objective of scoping is to assess the range and degree of environmental and social risks/impacts and sensitivities as well as to provide an overview of the subject investment plan. The scoping will be carried out with substantial stakeholder inputs. The tasks under scoping study are described in the following sections.

6.1.1 Description of the Investment Plan and Review of the Policy, Institutional and Legal Framework

The strategic investment plan subject to the SESA will be described together with the potential alternatives. In this context, the relevant policies, institutional and legal framework (focusing on those related to environment and climate change and social issues) will be reviewed and summarized.

The policy-making and/or planning process for the sector will be described, including alternative options that may be under discussion. Where a sector strategic document already exists, its main features will be described. In addition, any available plans, programs, studies and documents (such as master plans, strategy documents, environmental and social studies and assessments) related to the proposed investment plan will be reviewed. In this context, relevant national and local institutions will be liaised with.

6.1.2 Description of the Scope for the Baseline Information Collection

The extent and scope of the baseline information to be collected relevant to the scope of the SESA and the context of the investment plan of concern will be described. Both the information/data to be collected and the method of collection and potential information sources will be defined.

The information to be collected will include, but not limited to, status of biodiversity, existence and location of protected areas, environmentally sensitive areas, natural and critical habitats, valuable flora and fauna species; plans and trends in natural resources management, and developments that are likely to have environmental or social impacts; demographic, ethnographic and socioeconomic data on local population, including data on female participation in economic activities; participation of seasonal and migrant workers in agriculture and such sectors; child labor issues, prevalence of gender-based violence; identification of social groups who may be excluded from project benefits; existing associations and modes of community engagements and stakeholder consultations, and the policy, legal, regulatory and institutional framework for related sectors and for vulnerable groups of the country. This will include a scope on the geographical units that will need to be targeted.

6.1.3 Identification of Key Aspects (Types of Impacts and Alternatives) to be addressed in the SESA

Key environmental and social aspects and impacts to be considered and assessed in the scope of SESA and alternatives to be evaluated will be identified based on the review of policy, institutional and legal framework and the consultation with the key stakeholders. The alternatives in the context of the proposed plan will be evaluated in broad terms against the SESA objectives. A high level assessment of potential risks and impacts will be conducted to highlight, where appropriate, any cumulative, secondary and synergistic, short, medium, and long-term impacts, and whether they are permanent or temporary. These impacts would be further studied/assessed in detail during the SESA study and relevant mitigation measures will be developed.

The key aspects/impacts that would be addressed in the SESA study will be identified in light of; the potential significant impacts on the environment, society and the natural resources, key opportunities for the proposed plan to contribute to environmental sustainability and climate resilience and blue economy in the Black Sea region.

6.1.4 Description of the Key Stakeholders and Stakeholder Engagement/Consultation

The key stakeholders for the proposed plan/program will be identified and their interests, concerns and incentives will be analyzed. The intent of the stakeholder analysis is to identify the main stakeholder groups in the sector, including key institutions and agencies, non-governmental organizations, local/potentially affected communities and vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The other aim of this step is to formulate a stakeholder engagement work plan, including consultations that will ensure that their interests, concerns and advice are taken into account in the SESA. Due to the large geographical areas that may be covered by the plans/programs, stakeholder engagement could focus on key stakeholders, and targeting directly affected and vulnerable groups in addition to key stakeholders.

A workshop with key stakeholders will be organized in the scoping phase to validate the key aspects/impacts identified. The key issues/impacts to be addressed during the SESA studies will be finalized taking into account the results from this workshop.

In addition, as a part of the scoping studies at least a scoping meeting on the scope and level of details of the SESA Report (on the draft Scoping Report) will be conducted including all relevant stakeholders. These stakeholders shall include both institutional stakeholders (covering the non-governmental organizations as well) and the related public/locals or their representatives.

6.1.5 Scoping Report

The draft scoping report will be prepared in line with the suggested content provided in Appendix 1. The draft scoping report will be submitted to the relevant national agencies, BSEC and the World Bank for review. Then, it will be presented to the stakeholders in the scoping meeting.

Final scoping report will be prepared based on the feedback obtained in the scoping meeting and the review of relevant agencies and submitted to the relevant national authority and the World Bank. This report would be the terms of reference for the SESA studies and would also include the following:

- The institutional arrangements and timing agreed with the national competent authority, other key counterparts, and the World Bank to carry out the SESA
- The SESA work plan describing the main activities for data collection and analysis, including the schedule and methodology for conducting the work, and plans for stakeholder engagement as well as the table of contents for the SESA report (including annexes)
- The expected deliverables and reporting schedule

6.2 SESA Study

The SESA study will be based on the results of the scoping phase (following approval of the scoping study report) and include a description of the proposed plan and its relation with national and regional environmental protection goals, identification of key environmental social issues and baseline studies, assessment of environmental and social impacts and mitigation measures, evaluation of alternatives and stakeholder engagement/consultation. The tasks under SESA study are described in the following sections.

6.2.1 Identification of Key Environmental and Social Issues and Establishment of Baseline Conditions

Based on the result of the approved scoping report, key environmental and social issues, both positive and negative, as well as risks including climate risks, will be identified in order to inform the selection of environmental and social priorities. In order to identify key environmental and social issues and risks, appropriate criteria should first be developed to prioritize environmental and social issues. To the extent possible, criteria should be developed that will allow quantification of risks and issues and objective comparison and categorization of alternatives and trade-offs.

A description and appraisal must be made of the current state of the environment, focusing on those key environmental components identified in the scoping study and necessary to better understand the key issues identified. The trends for, and pressures on, the various environmental and social components must be identified.

The environmental and social issues mentioned below are the general preliminary list of key issues that should be included in the SESA study and baseline data collection. In this context, existing data, desktop studies and field studies, where necessary, will be conducted to collect the necessary data for describing the baseline conditions, which would form the basis for assessment and management of impacts.

The key environmental issues of concern that should be covered in describing the baseline conditions will include, but not limited to, the following:

- Base map of the area to be affected by the investment plan (depending on the nature of the proposed plan).
- Topographical and geological attributes.
- Natural resources to be utilized (and their present state) and affected.
- Biodiversity characteristics, including biodiversity hotspots, sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands, etc.) and protected areas and species of conservation and/or commercial interest.
- Existing infrastructure (e.g., highways, railways, ports, pipelines, irrigation systems, energy plants, etc.).
- Climate characteristics and areas vulnerable to climate change or prone to disasters (e.g., flood, drought, etc.)
- Environmental quality (e.g., water, soil, air, etc.)

The key social issues of concern that should be covered in describing the baseline conditions will include, but not limited to, the following:

- Social and economic characteristics and conditions in the area to be affected by the Plan including the following factors; settlement and demographic characteristics, social infrastructure (health, education, etc.) prevalent economic activities and sources of livelihood, labor issues (gender, child labor, seasonal and migrant workers), vulnerable groups.
- Demographic indicators covering number of inhabitants, gender and age structure, and presence of ethnic minorities and refugees in the population.
- Vulnerable groups and poverty
- Economic activities, land use and use of natural resources (such as existence of extractive industries, renewable energy production, mass agriculture, fisheries, pipelines, etc.)
- Land use (such as agriculture, pasture, forests, industrial zones, etc.)
- Sources of livelihood
- Labor force structure (gender, child labor, seasonal and migrant workers, informal land users)

The baseline conditions will be evaluated to define critical areas or potential environmental stress and specific social issues of concern. The specific environmental and social issues will be examined by using consultations with local and key stakeholders to determine their significance following the consent of the national competent authority and the World Bank.

6.2.2 Assessment of Environmental and Social Impacts and Development of Mitigation Measures

The proposed activities under the plan/program will be assessed with regard to environmental and social impacts and priorities and inputs/suggestions will be provided with regard to modification of those activities if necessary.

SESA will assess potential environmental and social impacts of the project activities and propose mitigation measures to be incorporated within the scope of the proposed plan.

Assessment will include the impacts of the Project on sectors, livelihood, socioeconomic and environmental issues and risks, human security, employment, vulnerable groups, natural and scarce resources, community health and safety etc. for both directly and indirectly affected areas. Thus, it is important and required to define the Project affected area and the Project implementation area.

The methodology for assessment of impacts will be selected in accordance with the nature and extent of the proposed strategic investment plan and defined in the SESA report. The impact assessment methodology should follow the below approach:

- The impact assessment will cover both negative and positive environmental and socio-economic impacts in the area of influence.

- Methodology and field studies should be designed by determining the most functional methods in country and region conditions, after a detailed review of available documents, primary and secondary data, and resources.
- Both quantitative and qualitative methods should be used in the assessment of impacts.
- Impact assessment will continue using different tools while implementation of the plan/program through projects/sub-projects so relevant indicators and assessment tools should be defined in the SESA report.
- Monitoring measures/plan will be established for the mitigation measures developed and for following the changes in the environmental quality and conditions in the course of plan implementation.

6.2.3 Evaluation of Alternatives

The SESA should identify alternatives to the proposed activities where the project components could adversely affect the environment or local communities, and discuss recommendations to address key environmental and social impacts and/or modifications to the plan activities. In this context, alternatives covered in the plan, including no action situation, will be analysed in terms of their potential environmental and social impacts.

The analysis of alternatives would look at feasibility of mitigating the environmental and social impacts for the proposed actions. In addition, the costs of alternative mitigation measures and their suitability under local conditions, and the need for institutional development/training for their implementation should be considered in the evaluation of alternatives.

6.2.4 Stakeholder Engagement and Public Consultation

Stakeholder engagement will be a key component of the SESA study as well and will be built on the scoping phase findings and results. In this context, consultation with stakeholders will be carried out both during the SESA studies for developing the SESA report and after preparation of the draft SESA.

The list of stakeholders to be consulted with will be determined based on the stakeholder identification carried out under the scoping phase. The following stakeholder groups/sectors should be considered among those as appropriate; fisheries, agriculture, transport, industry groups, interested NGOs, representatives of national and local government agencies, research and academia, national institutions and organization's related to environmental protection, land, water and forestry resources, and representatives of local communities including vulnerable groups.

Stakeholder engagement should be carried out in a free, prior and informed manner using local languages and in cultural sensitive manner to ensure their meaningful participation in consultation meetings and to establish broad community support to the SESA process. The means of consultations will be decided together with the national competent authority. These would include public meetings, workshops, focus group meetings and specific group meetings (specific to issues and/or locations). In case COVID-19 conditions prevail, at least

some of these meetings could be done online as far as participation of all relevant stakeholders are ensured.

The draft SESA report will be submitted to the national competent authority and the World Bank. After their consent, the draft SESA report (in national language) will be disclosed at suitable locations. Informed consultations will be conducted, at least two weeks after the SESA report is made available to public at respective locations, with local stakeholders. To the extent possible, local stakeholders will be consulted in their local language and in a culturally appropriate and gender inclusive manner. Inputs from local consultations will be reflected in the final draft SESA report.

6.2.5 SESA Report

The SESA report will be developed based on the SESA studies and will be prepared in line with the suggested content provided in Appendix 2. In this context, the report would include, at a minimum, the following:

- A description of the options in the Plan of concern, its main social and environmental considerations, and various risks involved in its implementation.
- An outline of the policy, regulatory and institutional framework.
- A description of the potential impacts, both positive and negative, deriving from the implementation of the Plan activities, and the geographic/spatial distribution of these impacts, including the assessment of alternatives.
- An analysis of the particular institutional capacity needs and outline of recommended capacity building actions.
- Requirements for technical assistance to public and private sector institutions, communities, and service providers.
- Stakeholder engagement and grievance redress mechanisms.

The draft SESA report will be submitted to the relevant national agencies, BSEC and the World Bank for review. Upon the consent of these agencies the draft report will be disclosed to public and consulted with the stakeholders.

The final SESA report will include the inputs/feedbacks from both the consultation activities and the relevant national authorities, BSEC and the World Bank. The SESA report will be prepared in English and in national language.

7. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CONSULTANT AND SESA TEAM COMPOSITION

The SESA study and process will be undertaken by a Consulting Company and/or a Consortium (Consultant) to be established for the project. The Consultant shall have the following qualifications:

- Experience in international environmental and social safeguards practices
- Experience and knowledge of strategic environmental and social assessment
- Knowledge and working experience on the World Bank's ESF, and World Bank Group's Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines
- Experience in projects of similar nature
- A sufficient staff capacity (in number and qualification) to carry out the tasks for preparation of a SESA and specified in this ToR

It is proposed that the team be comprised of both international and local expertise, and experience in the country and sector concerned will be an asset, as well as knowledge of World Bank's ESF and EHS guidelines.

The Project Team of the Consultant for this assignment are expected to have the following expertise at a minimum:

- **SESA Expert/Team Leader** (at least 10 years of relevant professional experience, have proven experience in the preparation of SEAs/SESAs, environmental and social assessment, have experience as team leader in 3 assignments and familiar with the World Bank environmental and social safeguard policies/standards)
- **Environmental Specialist** (at least 5 years of experience in environmental and social assessment and familiar with the national rules and regulations and World Bank environmental and social safeguard policies/standards)
- **Social/Stakeholder Engagement Specialist** (at least 5 years of experience in social assessment and stakeholder engagement and familiar with the national/regional conditions and World Bank social safeguard policies/standards)
- **Biodiversity/Natural Resources Specialist** (at least 5 years of experience in biodiversity assessment or natural resources management and familiar with the World Bank environmental and social safeguard policies/standards)
- **GIS/Mapping Specialist** (at least 5 years of experience in mapping and GIS techniques)

Other relevant expertise, as appropriate for the specific plan/program of concern, will be provided by the Consultant upon request of the competent authority, BSEC and the World Bank as appropriate.

All members of the team will have working proficiency English and at least the social/stakeholder engagement specialist will have working proficiency in national language.

8. DELIVERABLES AND WORK PLAN/SCHEDULE

The Consultant will conduct a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) study and prepare the following key deliverables:

- Draft Scoping Report for SESA
- Final Scoping Report
- Draft SESA Report
- Final SESA Report

All reports will be prepared in English and in national language (of the country that the SESA is prepared for the national investment plan). The reports will be reviewed by the national competent authorities, BSEC and the World Bank. Necessary revisions will be made by the Consultant for the approval of the reports. In addition, stakeholder consultations will be made on the draft reports and feedbacks/inputs from those consultations will be reflected in the final reports as appropriate.

The consultant is responsible for making all the improvement studies, making arrangements to improve the reports and studies, and presenting the sharing of all outputs to the Contracting Authority, and stakeholders that are given approval by the employer, if needed.

The work plan for the SESA study has to follow the work plan for the plan that the SESA would be prepared for. This is because of the fact that for assessment of impacts development of the subject plan should be reach a certain stage. In this regard, the overall duration for the SESA study will be in parallel to the duration for the development of the plan.

Depending on the overall duration of the SESA study, progress reports, interim reports and minutes of meetings for the stakeholder consultation activities will be required in addition to the key deliverables. In addition, meetings will be held between the Consultant and the contracting authority, BSEC and the World Bank as necessary.

In general, following schedule can be followed for the SESA study:

- Draft Scoping Report for SESA 2 months after the commencement of work
- Final Scoping Report 2 weeks after the completion of stakeholder consultation/scoping meeting
- Draft SESA Report 6 months after approval of the Scoping Report
- Final SESA Report 2 weeks after the completion of stakeholder consultation

The Consultant will provide a detailed work plan for all the tasks to be conducted for the assignment defined in this ToR in her/his proposal.

APPENDIX 1

MODEL OUTLINE FOR THE SESA SCOPING REPORT

Executive Summary

1. Introduction
2. SESA and Scoping Process
3. Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework
4. Description of the Strategic Plan
5. Key Stakeholders and Stakeholder Analysis
6. Description of Key Environmental and Social Aspects to be addressed in the SESA Study
7. Description of the Scope of Environmental and Social Baseline to be prepared in the SESA Study
8. Impact Identification and Evaluation Methodologies to be used in the SESA Study
9. Time Frames for the SESA Study

References

Appendices

- a. Stakeholders' engagement methodology
- b. List of stakeholders engaged or consulted
- c. List of documents consulted

APPENDIX 2

MODEL OUTLINE FOR THE SESA REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION
 - 1.1. Background
 - 1.2. Objectives of the Assessment
 - 1.3. Approach
 - 1.4. Structure of the Report
 - 1.5. Process for participatory dialogue and analysis

2. POLICY, LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
 - 2.1 National Policy, Legal and Regulatory Framework
 - 2.2 Institutional Roles and Responsibilities
 - 2.3 Public participation and Consultation Mechanisms
 - 2.4 World Bank ESF

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN
 - 3.1 Objectives
 - 3.2 Scope
 - 3.3 Alternatives
 - 3.4 Relation with Related Policies and other Plans

4. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS
 - 4.1 Data Collection Methodology
 - 4.2 Physical Environment
 - 4.3 Biological Environment
 - 4.4 Social Environment
 - 4.5 Anticipated Features of Future Environmental and Social Characteristics in “No Plan” Case

5. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
 - 5.1 Assessment Methodology
 - 5.2 Key Environmental and Social Issues
 - 5.3 Physical Environment
 - 5.4 Biological Environment
 - 5.5 Social Environment

6. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES
 - 6.1 Alternatives to Proposed Activities
 - 6.2 Alternatives for Impact Mitigation Measures and Need for Institutional Development/Training
 - 6.3 No Action Alternative

7. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

8. MONITORING ACTIVITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

9. FINDINGS AND RECOMENDATIONS

9.1 Summary of Key Findings

9.2 Recommendations for Actions to be included in the Plan

9.3 Blue Economy and Regional Challenges

9.4 Critical Success Factors

REFERENCES

ANNEXES

- Stakeholder Consultation Summaries and Minutes
- Matrix for Environmental and Socioeconomic Issues and Recommendations
- Technical Information Details