



# Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF)

## Section 1: Project Overview

<b>Identification</b>	<i>Insert Project ID# from Programme Framework Table</i> AF-2021000043 (CTCN 2021000046)
<b>Project Title</b>	<i>Insert title (adding words 'project preparation proposal for' before title)</i> Technical assistance for a customized weather and climate information system for climate-resilient agriculture in Nepal
<b>Managing Division</b>	UNEP – Economic Division – CTCN
<b>Type/Location</b>	<i>[Global/Normative; Regional; National]</i> National
<b>Region</b>	<i>(Africa/ Europe/ North America/ Asia Pacific/ Latin America Caribbean/ West Asia)</i> Asia Pacific
<b>List Countries</b>	<i>Enter country name(s)</i> Nepal
<b>Project Description</b>	<i>Provide the project summary and description in 2-3 paragraphs</i> <p>The objective of the technical assistance is to develop a customized weather and climate information system for climate-resilient agriculture in Nepal, including the development of an application programming interface (API) for the automatic dissemination of location-specific customised 3-days weather forecast to farmers in a user-friendly language through appropriate dissemination mechanisms that will be tested in selected communities in Nepal. The project will also pilot the weather information system in selected communities and build farmers' capacity to use the available weather and climate information.</p> <p>Nepal's climate change vulnerability is mainly due to its weak technical and financial capacity to respond to climate variability and change. Climate change-induced hazards and risks threaten in particular the county's agriculture sector, which is highly dependent on water resources and other climate-sensitive resources (MoPE, 2017a) and which employs over two-thirds of the labor force, contributing roughly to one-third of the country's GDP.</p> <p>Adopting a participatory approach, this technical assistance project attempts to customize the weather and climate information products, issued by the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), to the needs of the local farmers.</p>
<b>Relevant Subprogrammes</b>	



<b>Estimated duration of project</b>	<i>Provide the estimate in months from project kickoff to completion. Do not include time spent on concept or design.</i> 12 months
<b>Estimated cost of the project</b>	<i>Provide the estimated cost for entire project in USD.</i> 209,000 USD
<b>Name of the UNEP project manager responsible</b>	Clara Landeiro
<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	AFCIA
<b>Executing/Implementing partner(s)</b>	CTCN
<b>SRIF submission version</b>	<i>If it is not the first time, mark the time of your previous submission</i> <i>Concept Review [ ] During Project development [ ] PRC [ ]</i> <i>Other _____</i> Version 1
<b>Safeguard-related reports prepared so far</b>  <i>(Please attach the documents or provide the hyperlinks)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Feasibility report [ ]</i></li> <li>• <i>Gender Action Plan [ ]</i></li> <li>• <i>Stakeholder Engagement Plan [ ]</i></li> <li>• <i>Safeguard risk assessment or impact assessment [ ]</i></li> <li>• <i>ES Management Plan or Framework [ ]</i></li> <li>• <i>Indigenous Peoples Plan [ ]</i></li> <li>• <i>Cultural Heritage Plan [ ]</i></li> <li>• <i>Others _____</i></li> </ul>

## Section 2: Safeguards Risk Summary

### A. Summary of the Safeguards Risk Triggered

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

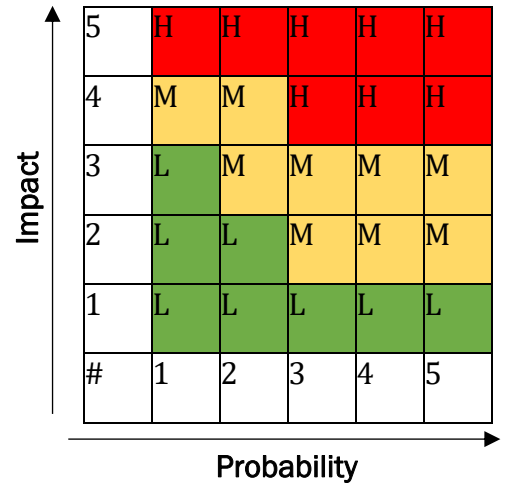
<sup>1</sup> Refer to UNEP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF): Implementation Guidance Note to assign values to the Impact of Risk and the Probability of Risk to determine the overall significance of Risk (Low, Moderate or High).



### B. ESS Risk Level<sup>2</sup> -

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

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



### C. Development of SRIF and Screening Decision

#### Prepared by

Name: Clara Landeiro Date: 21 of February 2022

#### Screening review by

Name: Alexandra Mutungi Date: 02 March 2022

Cleared<sup>3</sup>

Signature

### D. Safeguard Review Summary (by the safeguard team)

This is a low-risk project with minimal adverse impact estimated. However, the UNEP ESSF guiding principles on resilience and sustainability, human rights, gender equality and women empowerment, accountability and leave no one behind are still applicable for low-risk projects. Ensure to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from Indigenous Peoples should the project involve them.

### E. Safeguard Recommendations (by the safeguard team)

<sup>2</sup> **Low risk:** Negative impacts minimal or negligible: no further study or impact management required.  
**Moderate risk:** Potential negative impacts, but limited in scale, not unprecedented or irreversible and generally limited to programme/project area; impacts amenable to management using standard mitigation measures; limited environmental or social analysis may be required to develop a Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Straightforward application of good practice may be sufficient without additional study.  
**High risk:** Potential for significant negative impacts (e.g. irreversible, unprecedented, cumulative, significant stakeholder concerns); Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) (or Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)) including a full impact assessment may be required, followed by an effective comprehensive safeguard management plan.

<sup>3</sup> This is signed only for the full projects latest by the PRC time.



- No specific safeguard action required
- Take Good Practice approach<sup>4</sup>
- Carry out further assessments (e.g., site visits, experts' inputs, consult affected communities, etc.)
- Carry out impact assessments (by relevant experts) in the risk areas and develop management framework/plan
- Consult Safeguards Advisor early during the full project development phase
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 3: Safeguard Risk Checklist

Screening checklist	Y/N/ Maybe	Justification for the response (please provide answers to each question)
<b>Guiding Principles</b> (these questions should be considered during the project development phase)		
GP1 Has the project analyzed and stated those who are interested and may be affected positively or negatively around the project activities, approaches or results?	Y	The project has analyzed and has identified stakeholders who are going to be positively or negatively impacted by the project implementation in consultation with the Ministry of Forests and Environment of Nepal, the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, the Nepal Agriculture Research Council and Small Earth Nepal. The participation of women and youth will be proactively ensured throughout the implementation as per UN/CTCN rules. Local communities where the system will be tested will be informed/engaged through the local government representatives and Small Earth Nepal (the proponent NGO).
GP2 Has the project identified and engaged vulnerable, marginalized people, including disabled people, through the informed, inclusive, transparent and equal manner on potential positive or negative implication of	Y	The project has identified the vulnerable groups, including smallholder farmers, and will ensure gender and youth participation during the implementation phase through stakeholder 's consultation process as well

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



	the proposed approach and their roles in the project implementation?		as through the identification of participants for piloting the system.
GP3	Have local communities or individuals raised human rights or gender equality concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	N	During the formulation of the proposal no concerns were raised on human rights or gender equality. On the contrary, stakeholders have underlined the importance of providing customized, user-friendly climate information (including weather forecasts) to farmer communities in Nepal, in particular smallholder farmers.
GP4	Does the proposed project consider gender-balanced representation in the design and implementation?	Y	Gender balanced representation has been considered in the design and implementation. As per the CTC-N guidelines approved by the Advisory Board under Climate Convention, a fixed percentage of the project costs are towards gender and youth.
GP5	Did the proposed project analyze relevant gender issues and develop a gender responsive project approach?	Y	Gender has been considered in the design of all the activities of the project proposal. The project team consists of one gender expert out of a team of 7 experts.
GP6	Does the project include a project-specific grievance redress mechanism? If yes, state the specific location of such information.	Y	Specific grievance redress mechanism.
GP7	Will or did the project disclose project information, including the safeguard documents? If yes, please list all the webpages where the information is (or will be) disclosed.	Y	<a href="#">CTC-N webpage</a> and <a href="http://www.open.unep.org">www.open.unep.org</a> (Safeguards documents will be uploaded after approval.)
GP8	Were the stakeholders (including affected communities) informed of the projects and grievance redress mechanism? If yes, describe how they were informed.	Y	Stakeholders are informed about the project and the grievance redress mechanism through the Ministry of Forests and Environment of Nepal and Small Earth Nepal. The <a href="#">Response Plan</a> of the project provides the name of the focal point along with its contact details. The Response plan is public and can easily be accessed from the CTCN webpage. (Please refer to the link provided in GP7). Stakeholders will be engaged during the implementation of the project through stakeholder consultations and awareness raising and capacity building activities that have been planned at all stages of the implementation.
GP9	Does the project consider potential negative impacts from short-term net gain to the local communities or countries at the risk of generating long-term social or economic burden? <sup>5</sup>	N	The project targets the development of an application programming interface to provide timely, location-specific weather forecast information to farmers/rural communities to assist them in reducing climate risk of their agriculture activities.

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



		<p>Thus, the project is expected to lead to increased food security and to have continued positive impact on vulnerable groups, women, and children. Please, refer to section 6, 10, Contribution to the SDGs of the <a href="#">Response Plan</a>.</p> <p>There are no negative impacts foreseen, on the contrary, stakeholders have underlined the importance of providing customized, user-friendly climate information to farmers, specially the most vulnerable.</p>
GP10 Does the project consider potential partial economic benefits while excluding marginalized or vulnerable groups, including women in poverty?	N	<p>The project is expected to have direct impact on food security, as well as increase the income of rural communities by providing timely access for farmers to relevant meteorologic information, reducing climate risk of agriculture production. Thus, it is expected to generate a continued positive impact on vulnerable groups, women, and children. Please, refer to section 6, 10, Contribution to the SDGs of the <a href="#">Response Plan</a>.</p>
<b>Safeguard Standard 1: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
1.1 conversion or degradation of habitats (including modified habitat, natural habitat and critical natural habitat), or losses and threats to biodiversity and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services?	N	There are no conversion or degradation of habitats, nor losses or threats to biodiversity and/or ecosystems and ecosystems services.
1.2 adverse impacts specifically to habitats that are legally protected, officially proposed for protection, or recognized as protected by traditional local communities and/or authoritative sources (e.g. National Park, Nature Conservancy, Indigenous Community Conserved Area, (ICCA); etc.)?	N	The tool to be developed by the project is expected to be used to improve decision making regarding current agriculture land. Thus, the project is not expected to lead to adverse impacts on local habitats and their traditional local communities; on the contrary, it should enable more sustainable agriculture practices and improved land management.
1.3 conversion or degradation of habitats that are identified by authoritative sources for their high conservation and biodiversity value?	N	The project is not implemented in an area identified by authoritative sources for their high conservation and biodiversity value.
1.4 activities that are not legally permitted or are inconsistent with any officially recognized management plans for the area?	N	The project will not be in an area where activities are not legally permitted.
1.5 risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	N	The project is expected to increase climate resilience of farmers in existing agriculture areas and is not expected to lead to encroachment or reduction of habitats.
1.6 activities that may result in soil erosion, deterioration and/or land degradation?	N	On the contrary, the project is expected to contribute to better land management practices.
1.7 reduced quality or quantity of ground water or water in rivers, ponds, lakes, other wetlands?	N	The tool to be developed by the project is expected to be used to improve decision making regarding land management and agricultural practices. Thus, the project has



		the potential to contribute to a better management of water resources in Nepal.	
1.8	reforestation, plantation development and/or forest harvesting?	N	The project is not planning any reforestation, plantation development and/or forest harvesting activities.
1.9	support for agricultural production, animal/fish production and harvesting	Y	The project is expected to improve agricultural production by reducing climate risk of this economic activity through increased farmers' access to customized weather forecast information.
1.10	introduction or utilization of any invasive alien species of flora and fauna, whether accidental or intentional?	N	None.
1.11	handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms?	N	None.
1.12	collection and utilization of genetic resources?	N	None.
<b>Safeguard Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks</b>			
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>			
2.1	improving resilience against potential climate change impact beyond the project intervention period?	Y	The project, if found feasible, will lead to increase resilience against potential climate change impact beyond the project intervention period. It could also be scaled up to other areas of Nepal beyond the selected pilot/test areas.
2.2	areas that are now or are projected to be subject to natural hazards such as extreme temperatures, earthquakes, extreme precipitation and flooding, landslides, droughts, severe winds, sea level rise, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions in the next 30 years?	Y	The project is designed to help address projected climate impacts to rural farmer communities of Nepal. Climate change-induced risks threaten Nepal's water dependent, climate sensitive agriculture sector, which alone employs over 2/3 of the country's labor force and plays a key role in the livelihoods of 80% of the population. Expected temperature increase, erratic rainfall, shorter winters and more frequent and longer droughts, will negatively affect the agriculture sector and the livelihoods of rural communities in Nepal, with simulations pointing to significant losses in agriculture productivity by 2080.
2.3	outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change (e.g. changes in precipitation, temperature, salinity, extreme events)?	N	None.
2.4	local communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks (e.g. considering level of exposure and adaptive capacity)?	Y	The project aims to help local rural communities address challenges posed by climate variability and change (as referred to in 2.2).
2.5	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	N	None.
2.6	Carbon sequestration and reduction of greenhouse emissions, resource-efficient and low carbon development, other measures for mitigating climate change	N	This is an adaptation project, and no significant GHG emission reduction is expected. However, it may contribute to mitigation by improving farmers' agriculture land management decisions (e.g.



		savings in powered irrigation during longer drought periods).
<b>Safeguard Standard 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
3.1	the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	N None.
3.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	N None.
3.3	the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	N None.
3.4	the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? (e.g. DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the <a href="#">Montreal Protocol</a> , <a href="#">Minamata Convention</a> , <a href="#">Basel Convention</a> , <a href="#">Rotterdam Convention</a> , <a href="#">Stockholm Convention</a> )	N None.
3.5	the application of pesticides or fertilizers that may have a negative effect on the environment (including non-target species) or human health?	N None.
3.6	significant consumption of energy, water, or other material inputs?	N None.
<b>Safeguard Standard 4: Community Health, Safety and Security</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
4.1	the design, construction, operation and/or decommissioning of structural elements such as new buildings or structures (including those accessed by the public)?	N None.
4.2	air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, physical hazards, water runoff?	N None.
4.3	exposure to water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable or noncommunicable diseases?	N None.
4.4	adverse impacts on natural resources and/or ecosystem services relevant to the communities' health and safety (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	N None. On the contrary, positive impacts are expected.
4.5	transport, storage use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. fuel, explosives, other chemicals that may cause an emergency event)?	N None.
4.6	engagement of security personnel to support project activities (e.g. protection of property or personnel, patrolling of protected areas)?	N None.
4.7	an influx of workers to the project area or security personnel (e.g. police, military, other)?	N None.
<b>Safeguard Standard 5: Cultural Heritage</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
5.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	N None.





5.2	adverse impacts to sites, structures or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or to intangible forms of cultural heritage (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)?	N	None.
5.3	utilization of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes (e.g. use of objects, practices, traditional knowledge, tourism)?	N	None.
5.4	alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	N	None.
5.5	significant land clearing, demolitions, excavations, flooding?	N	None.
5.6	identification and protection of cultural heritage sites or intangible forms of cultural heritage?	N	None.
<b>Safeguard Standard 6: Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement</b>			
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>			
6.1	full or partial physical displacement or relocation of people (whether temporary or permanent)?	N	None.
6.2	economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to assets affecting for example crops, businesses, income generation sources)?	N	None.
6.2	involuntary restrictions on land/water use that deny a community the use of resources to which they have traditional or recognizable use rights?	N	None.
6.3	risk of forced evictions?	N	None.
6.4	changes in land tenure arrangements, including communal and/or customary/traditional land tenure patterns (including temporary/permanent loss of land)?	N	None.
<b>Safeguard Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples</b>			
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>			
7.1	areas where indigenous peoples are present or uncontacted or isolated indigenous peoples inhabit or where it is believed these peoples may inhabit?	Maybe	Nepal has legally recognized 59 indigenous nationalities, referred to as Adivasi Janajati, and overall indigenous peoples (IPs) comprise 35.8 percent of the total population of the country (Alternative Report of the Indigenous Peoples of Nepal, submitted to the 95th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. OHCHR, March 2018).  The rating of the safeguards has been scored as level 2 as it is unknown at this stage if the project will be implemented in areas involving indigenous peoples.
7.2	activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	Maybe	The technical assistance includes the piloting of the communication system in few sites to be selected after the start of the project implementation. The Safeguard has been rated as risk level 2.
7.3	impacts to the human rights of indigenous peoples or to the lands, territories and resources claimed by them?	N	None.



7.4	the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	N	The project will focus on existing agricultural land/farms.
7.5	adverse effects on the development priorities, decision making mechanisms, and forms of self-government of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	N	None. The project targets improved decision making to improve resilience of farmers.
7.6	risks to the traditional livelihoods, physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	N	The project will focus on existing agricultural land/farms.
7.7	impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	N	None.
<b>Safeguard Standard 8: Labor and working conditions</b>			
8.1	Will the proposed project involve hiring or contracting project staff?	Y	The implementer will be a CTCN network member selected through the bidding process under UNGM and will be mandated to respect the UN code of conduct rules and will meet all the requisites.
	<i>If the answer to 8.1 is yes, would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
8.2	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws or international commitments (e.g. ILO conventions)?	N	None.
8.3	the use of forced labor and child labor?	N	None.
8.4	occupational health and safety risks (including violence and harassment)?	N	None.
8.5	the increase of local or regional unemployment?	N	None.
8.6	suppliers of goods and services who may have high risk of significant safety issues related to their own workers?	N	None.
8.7	unequal working opportunities and conditions for women and men	N	None.