



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# SAFEGUARDS FOR PEOPLE & THE PLANET



## Facts and figures

- ✦ In 2022, FAO's new safeguards policy, the Framework for Environmental and Social Management (FESM) was endorsed by the Director-General.
- ✦ The FESM applies to all projects and programmes implemented by FAO, meaning they all go through environmental and social risk screening.
- ✦ FAO has around 900 new projects per year.
- ✦ From June 2022 to June 2023, the ESM-Unit has provided trainings on environmental and social risk management to over 800 people.



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*For more information,  
scan the QR Code*

## What are environmental and social safeguards?

Safeguards are policies that seek to prevent and mitigate unintended harm to people and the environment.

FAO's safeguards policy goes beyond a 'do no harm' approach and includes key elements of a human rights-based approach for addressing environmental and social risks and impacts in programming.

When identifying and designing a project, safeguards help assess environmental and social risks and the potential impacts (positive or negative) associated with operations.

## Environmental and social management system



Corporate support



Project implementation support



Due diligence & compliance



Grievance Redress Mechanism



Climate and disaster risk screening



Independent Accountability Mechanism



Capacity building and training



Knowledge Management

## Upholding the highest standards and industry practices

The FESM is a major step towards strengthening FAO's approach to environmental and social risk management and ensuring adherence to best industry standards such as the UN Environmental Management Group Model Approach. It also complies with the requirements of FAO's multilateral and bilateral donors.

The FESM covers nine environmental and social standards, encompassing a wide range of sustainability issues. These standards establish the mandatory requirements for identifying, assessing, and managing environmental and social risks and impacts associated with FAO-supported programmes and projects. They also aim to increase positive impacts of operations and activities.

## Doing no harm and leaving no one behind

Meaningful **stakeholder engagement** is essential for combatting inequality and ensuring equity and non-discrimination in all areas of FAO programming. It ensures that stakeholders have ample opportunities to actively participate in the activities of programmes and projects, and have access to effective channels to voice their concerns about them. This engagement must be based on the timely public **disclosure** of all relevant information in accessible form.

FAO applies project-level **grievance redress mechanisms**. It also hosts an independent accountability mechanism (led by the Office of the Inspector General) as a supplemental means to address any complaints and concerns of stakeholders involved in or affected by FAO programmes and projects.

### Environmental and social standards



1 Biodiversity conservation, and sustainable management of natural resources



2 Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management



3 Climate change and disaster risk reduction



4 Decent work



5 Community health, safety and security



6 Gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence



7 Land tenure, displacement and resettlement



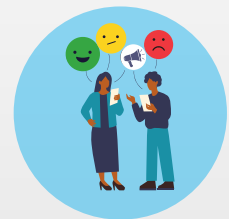
8 Indigenous Peoples



9 Cultural heritage

### Operational pillars

1 Risk screening, assessment and management



2 Stakeholder Engagement, Disclosure and Grievance Redress Mechanism

