

Guidelines to Appraise a Simplified Environmental Assessment

This guide intends to support Sida programme officers during the integration of environment and climate change in contributions. More specifically, it is guidance for the step “**3. Sida’s Appraisal of the Environmental Assessment**” of the document “Introduction to Environment and Climate Change Integration in Contributions”.

It is the responsibility of the Sida program officer to appraise the quality and the extent to which the partner has managed to address environment and climate change aspects. In a review of a simplified assessment it should be assessed if the provided information shows that the partner has analysed and adapted the contribution in order to:

1. Enhance opportunities for a positive impact from the contribution on the environment/climate;
2. Avoid or reduce and manage risks and negative impacts from the contribution on the environment/climate;
3. Make the contribution resilient to existing and projected climate change and environmental degradation.

As guidance the following questions can be used:

Has the partner identified **opportunities** in the project/programme that can contribute to an environmentally sustainable development?

- Are potential positive contributions from the project/programme on the environment/climate documented in the proposal?
- How have these positive aspects been prioritized?
- What measures have been identified to enhance them?
- Has the partner identified targets and indicators that can help monitor the path towards achieving them?

Has the partner considered **potential negative impacts** from the project/programme on the environment/climate?

- How have risks to the environment/climate been documented in the program/project proposal?
- How have these risks been prioritized?
- What measures have been identified to manage and mitigate these risks?
- Has the partner identified targets and indicators that can help monitor the management of these risks?

Has the partner considered **risks from climate change and environmental degradation** to the sustainability of the contribution?

- Are risks from climate change and environmental degradation on the sustainability of the contribution documented in the program/project proposal?

- How have these risks been prioritized?
- Has the partner identified how to manage these risks?
- Has the partner identified targets and indicators that can help monitoring the path towards achieving them?

Check if the partner has included the environmental and climate risks and opportunities in management plans, and in the monitoring and evaluation framework of the program/project documentation.

Assess if the partner organization has reasonable capacity to manage the identified opportunities and risks:

- What staff capacity does the partner organisation have to manage environmental opportunities and risks?
- What opportunities are there to improve this capacity?
- What environmental guidelines, policies, audits or wider systems such as an environmental management system (EMS) are in place?
- What opportunities are there to improve these tools?

The appraisal shall be documented in Trac as part of the overall appraisal. Sida should communicate its views to the partner, and if there are recommendations, request that the partner acts on them.

Related documents in the Green Tool Box

This is the fourth of the following four, closely related, documents on environment and climate change integration in contributions in the Green Tool Box:

- "Introduction to Environment and Climate Change Integration in Contributions"
- "Guidelines for Screening prior to an Environmental Assessment"
- "Guidelines for a Simplified Environmental Assessment"
- **"Guidelines to Appraise a Simplified Environmental Assessment"**