



# Blue Dot Network Certification Framework

List of criteria and essential requirements

## Introduction

Established to help tackle the USD 2.5-3.5 trillion investment gap by strengthening the role of private sector investment in developing quality infrastructure, the Blue Dot Network is designed to provide an internationally-recognised certification framework to assist countries in pursuing investments that maximise the positive economic, social, environmental and development impact of infrastructure. The Blue Dot Network certification is the first global framework to operationalise the [G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment](#). A Blue Dot Network certification indicates that a project is aligned with a number of commonly-applied international standards covering environmental, social, economic and governance dimensions, and that it has identified and addressed key risks in these areas

The certification is intended as a general framework, which can be applied across all major infrastructure sectors, and by projects at different stages of the life cycle. Applicants for certification are most likely to be project developers, owners or contracting authorities. A certification will provide a trusted signal to investors and other stakeholders that will assist them in identifying investable projects that merit consideration. It will also contribute to harmonising ESG criteria for infrastructure projects, aligning expectations across the different actors in the infrastructure ecosystem, and increasing the quality and availability of project data.

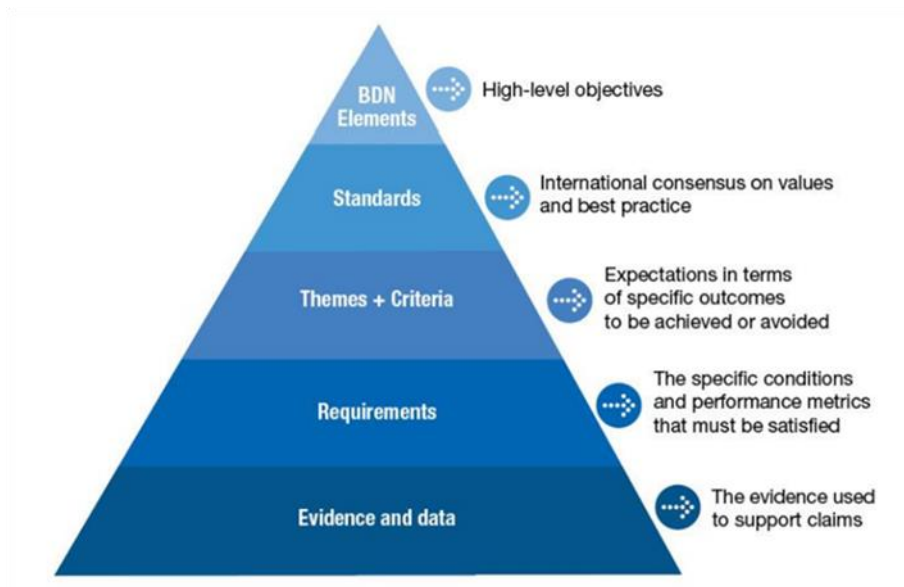
The framework was developed over a three-year period by the OECD with extensive input from the private sector, civil society, trade unions and BDN member governments through a variety of mechanisms including surveys, online consultations, bilateral consultations, and written consultations.<sup>1</sup> In 2022-2023, the OECD tested and refined the framework with eight pilot projects.

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<sup>1</sup> Engagement with private sector and civil society takes place through the Blue Dot Network Executive Consultation Group composed of over 200 senior leaders from the private sector and civil society, and includes representatives from across the infrastructure value chain (i.e. investors, asset managers, banks, project developers, operators, contractors, engineers, etc).

# Architecture of the certification framework

Figure 1. Architecture of the Blue Dot Network certification framework



## Blue Dot Network elements

At the core of the Blue Dot Network framework are the 10 BDN elements. The elements operationalise relevant international standards, including the G20 Quality Infrastructure Investment Principles, reflecting a broad international consensus on areas that a quality project should take into consideration. The Blue Dot Network consolidates and synthesises over 80 international standards and frameworks that are relevant for quality infrastructure investment into a unified framework. Each element incorporates a range of themes (Table 1).

**Table 1. Blue Dot Network elements and themes**

<b>BDN element</b>	<b>Themes covered by the BDN element</b>
<b>1. Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)</li> <li>Alignment with national and local development strategies</li> <li>Job creation</li> <li>Access to infrastructure services</li> </ul>
<b>2. Promote market-driven and private sector-led investment, supported by judicious use of public funds.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private sector participation</li> <li>Sustainable funding</li> <li>Competitive environment</li> <li>Risk allocation and mitigation</li> <li>Catalytic finance</li> </ul>
<b>3. Support sound public financial management, debt transparency, and project-level and country-level debt sustainability.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disclosure of liabilities</li> <li>Public financial sustainability</li> </ul>
<b>4. Build projects that are resilient to climate change, disasters, and other risks, and aligned with the pathways towards 2050 net-zero emissions needed to keep global temperature change of 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>Climate risk</li> <li>Climate disclosure</li> <li>Disaster risk assessment</li> <li>Resilient plans and designs</li> <li>Emergency preparedness and response</li> </ul>
<b>5. Ensure value-for-money over an asset's full life-cycle cost.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project appraisal and selection based on life cycle assessment</li> <li>Choice of delivery model (public-private partnerships vs. traditional procurement)</li> <li>Competitive procurement based on life cycle costs</li> <li>Effective project management, monitoring and oversight</li> <li>Efficient maintenance</li> <li>Technology and innovation</li> </ul>
<b>6. Build local capacity, with a focus on local skills transfer and local capital markets.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity development</li> <li>Skills transfer</li> <li>Local capital markets</li> </ul>
<b>7. Promote protections against corruption, while encouraging transparent procurement and consultation processes.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anti-corruption</li> <li>Transparent procurement</li> </ul>
<b>8. Uphold international best practices of environmental and social safeguards, including respect for labour and human rights.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management of environmental and social risks</li> <li>Meaningful stakeholder engagement with affected communities</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Pollution</li> <li>Resource efficiency</li> <li>Waste and hazardous materials</li> <li>Human rights</li> <li>Labour and working conditions</li> <li>Community health and well-being</li> <li>Indigenous peoples</li> <li>Involuntary resettlement and land use restrictions</li> <li>Cultural heritage</li> </ul>

<b>9. Promote the non-discriminatory use of infrastructure services.</b>	Non-discriminatory contracts Inclusive regulatory frameworks Sustainable and affordable pricing
<b>10. Advance inclusion for women, people with disabilities, and underrepresented and marginalised groups.</b>	Addressing needs of women and marginalised groups Employment opportunities Safety and well-being for women and vulnerable users

## Criteria

Each Blue Dot Network element and theme contain a number of criteria, which represent the specific expectations that projects should meet to gain certification. They include both actions and outcomes that the project needs to actively pursue (e.g. measures to protect the safety of its workers) and avoid (e.g. the emission of greenhouse gases). These criteria are derived from widely-recognised and agreed international standards. For example, *BDN element 8, Uphold international best practices of environmental and social safeguards, including respect for labour and human rights*, which represents a significant proportion of all the criteria, is largely derived from the IFC Performance Standards and other MDB safeguards.

## Requirements

Each criterion has one or more requirements. Requirements set out the specific performance metrics for determining whether a criterion has been met.

Requirements fall into three performance levels that reflect different levels of ambition (Table 2). Depending on the project’s sector, location, ownership structure, delivery model, risk profile or stage in the life-cycle, only a portion of the requirements will be “applicable” to each project.<sup>2</sup> For a project to be certified, it must satisfy all *applicable* Essential requirements. A Blue Dot certified project therefore represents a robust project that has been developed in a manner consistent with key international standards.

Superior and Best-in-class requirements contribute towards achieving two or three Blue Dots, but they do not substitute for Essential requirements.

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<sup>2</sup> Projects are expected to fulfil only those requirements that are applicable to the nature and context of the project. For instance, a fully-privatised project will not be required to fulfil Essential requirements that relate to public procurement. Similarly, a project that does not include Indigenous Peoples among its affected communities will not be concerned with requirements relating to the presence of Indigenous groups. In such cases, those requirements are considered as “Not applicable”. Screening questions and guidance will assist applicants and verifiers to determine which requirements are applicable to the project.

**Table 2. Performance levels of certification requirements**

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1. **Essential:** requirements that reflect key international standards for quality infrastructure investment, and which are required for the single-dot level of certification. Projects that meet the essential requirements provide reassurance to stakeholders that they are robust and aligned with key international standards.

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  2. **Superior:** requirements that reflect the expectations conveyed by more ambitious or new standards that have received strong international endorsement. Superior projects exceed the essential requirements in a number of areas, and offer additional comfort to stakeholders that projects will deliver their expected outcomes.

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  3. **Best-in-class:** requirements that reflect innovative practices or outcomes that generate a strong positive impact.
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## Project performance

Overall project performance will be reflected in the number of Blue Dots obtained. A certified project that fulfils (or is committed to fulfilling) the Essential requirements that are applicable to the project will be awarded a minimum of one Blue Dot. Projects outperforming in certain areas will be awarded two or three Blue Dots.

Superior and Best-in-class requirements contribute towards achieving two or three Blue Dots, but they do not substitute for Essential requirements. Projects will receive points for each Superior (1 point) and Best-in-class (3 points) requirement they satisfy. The total number of points obtained by the project will determine whether they receive one, two or three Blue Dots.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The specific thresholds for determining whether a project receives two or three Blue Dots are being tested and refined with the pilot projects.

## List of essential requirements<sup>4</sup>

### BDN element 1. Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development

Theme	Criteria	Essential requirements
SDG alignment	1.1. Project contributes directly to one or more SDGs	<p><b>Demonstration, based on a recognised methodology, that, as part of its core activity, the project will contribute to improving the performance of one or more SDG targets or indicators compared to the pre-project baseline.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Varies according to the indicators used</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project planning or preparation →</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> A list of SDG indicators and targets can be found here: <a href="https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/">https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/</a></p> <p>Examples of methodologies for assessing SDG impact: Gold Standard SDG Impact Tool: <a href="https://www.goldstandard.org/project-developers/standard-documents">https://www.goldstandard.org/project-developers/standard-documents</a></p> <p>SDG Compass: <a href="https://sdgcompass.org/">https://sdgcompass.org/</a></p>
Consultation	1.3. Project definition, planning and design was informed by consultation with public, private, and civil society stakeholders in order to maximise the positive impact of infrastructure investment	<p><b>Broad consultations took place early in the project definition, planning and design stages that involved different levels of government (including local officials), users, civil society stakeholders, and relevant private sector actors (e.g. potential financiers).</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule and record of stakeholder engagement activities (e.g. minutes of meeting, survey results, reports, etc).</li> <li>• Records of discussions with recognized stakeholder representatives, respected key informants, and legitimate representatives of sub-groups (e.g., women, minorities).</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Project interested in exceeding the Essential requirements required for certification and obtaining two or three Blue dots may contact the BDN Secretariat for a list of Superior and Best-in-class requirements.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of materials shared with stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p>Stage: Project planning →</p>
<p>Job creation      1.4. The project generates quality long-term employment</p>	<p><b>The project creates or supports direct employment during the construction and operation phases</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Data on numbers of jobs created or supported during construction and operation</p> <p>Stage: Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Estimates are acceptable during project planning and preparation phases. During construction and operation phases, actual data of jobs generated should be provided. Where necessary and depending upon the nature of the project, data should distinguish between jobs created and jobs supported.</p> <p>For guidance on reporting jobs data, refer to the <a href="#">Harmonized Indicators for Private Sector Operations (HIPSO)   Jobs:</a>  <a href="#">TA-08 — Direct Jobs Supported (Operations and Maintenance)</a>  <a href="#">TA-09 — Construction Jobs (Temporary Construction)</a>  <a href="#">TA-10 — Direct Jobs Created by the Investment (Operations and Maintenance)</a></p>



BDN element 2. Promote market-driven and private sector led investment, supported by judicious use of public funds

Theme	Criteria	<i>Essential requirements</i>
Risk allocation and mitigation	2.5. Risks allocated transparently between public and private partners	<p><b>Projects risks have been identified and assessed, and a recommended allocation has been established prior to procurement decision</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of Project Risk Map</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project preparation, Procurement</p>

**BDN element 3. Support sound public financial management, debt transparency, and project-level and country-level debt sustainability**

Theme	Criteria	Essential requirements
Disclosure of liabilities	3.1. Project assets, costs and liabilities are recorded in public sector accounts and disclosed	<p><b>All costs and liabilities, including contingent liabilities (e.g. sovereign guarantees), associated with the project are included in budget documentation</b></p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Presentation of data in budget documentation can be on an aggregate basis.</p> <p>This requirement applies to projects that are owned and/or granted by the state, and where the costs are borne by the state or where the state is ultimately liable for those costs.</p> <p>For projects delivered by state-owned enterprises (SOEs), all costs (e.g. grants, subsidies), loans and contingent liabilities (e.g. guarantees) from the state to the SOEs should be disclosed in budget documentation or the SOE accounts.</p>

**BDN element 4. Build projects that are resilient to climate change, disasters, and other risks, and aligned with the pathways towards 2050 net-zero emissions needed to keep global temperature change of 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach**

Theme	Criteria	Essential requirements
GHG emissions	<p>4.1. Project is consistent with a country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> This criteria is substitutable with others in this theme (criteria 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4). <u>Projects therefore only need to demonstrate alignment with one of these four criteria.</u> The choice of criteria should take into account the circumstances of the host country, sector and project.</p> <p>This criteria should only be applied for projects in least-developed countries that do not have a net-zero strategy but have a credible NDC.</p> <p>Climate Watch, developed by the World Resources Institute (WRI) provides indicators on the scope and targets of NDCs and tracks countries' NDC enhancements. They also compile and summarise countries' long-term strategies. <a href="https://www.climatewatchdata.org/">https://www.climatewatchdata.org/</a></p>	<p><b>The Project is reflected in a sufficiently detailed national/sectoral investment plan or long-term strategy that is fully aligned with a country's NDC</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copies of the NDC-aligned national investment plan that feature the project</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
GHG emissions	<p>4.2. Project is aligned with a net-zero pathway for 2050 or earlier</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> This criteria is substitutable with others in this theme (criteria 4.1, 4.3 and 4.4). <u>Projects therefore only need to demonstrate alignment with one of these four criteria.</u> The choice of criteria should take into account the circumstances of the host country, sector and project.</p>	<p><b>The Project is reflected in a sufficiently detailed national/sectoral investment plan that is fully aligned with a country's net-zero by 2050 pathway or strategy</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copies of the net-zero-aligned national investment plan that feature the project</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> This essential requirement is substitutable with others in this criteria.</p> <hr/> <p><b>The Project is consistent with a credible sector net-zero by 2050 or earlier pathway (e.g. the IEA net-zero by 2050 roadmap)</b></p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> This essential requirement is substitutable with others in this criteria.</p>

		<p><b>The sponsor company has established a net-zero by 2050 or earlier target that has been validated/verified by a credible third-party (e.g. Science-based Targets Initiative (SBTi))</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Disclosure of net-zero target based on a recognised standard (e.g. Net Zero Standard, ICMA Climate Transition Finance Handbook)</p> <p>Evidence of validation/verification of net-zero target by a credible third-party</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> This essential requirement is substitutable with others in this criteria.</p> <p>Project CAPEX should be consolidated on sponsor company's balance sheet</p>
GHG emissions	<p>4.3. Greenhouse emissions from the project are net zero</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> This criteria is substitutable with others in this theme (criteria 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4). <u>Projects therefore only need to demonstrate alignment with one of these four criteria.</u> The choice of criteria should take into account the circumstances of the host country, sector and project.</p>	<p><b>The project can demonstrate it leads to a meaningful reduction in emissions compared to a pre-project baseline or an industry average.</b></p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Applies to sectors such as wastewater treatment that generate scope 1 emissions and where no net zero alternative exists. Reduction in emissions intensity could be considered for cases of new infrastructure or capacity expansions that mechanically result in an increase in absolute emissions.</p> <p>For calculating emissions baselines in the wastewater treatment sector, projects may consider <a href="#">the UNFCCC DDM Guidance III.Y.</a></p>
GHG emissions	<p>4.4. Emissions below a certain level</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> This criteria is substitutable with others in this theme (criteria 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3). <u>Projects therefore only need to demonstrate alignment with one of these four criteria.</u> The choice of criteria should take into account the circumstances of the host country, sector and project. Specific requirements for this criteria may vary depending on the sector/sub-sector. These requirements may evolve over time with changes to international standards and regulations.</p>	<p><b>Total emissions from project are less than 25,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions (Scope 1 and 2) annually.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Calculation of estimated emissions applying a recognised methodology (e.g. GHG Protocol)</p> <p>Reporting of actual emissions</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> 25,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e represents the threshold used in the IFC PS for designating projects required to disclose GHGs. .</p> <p>Projects in their operational phase should be reporting actual measured emissions.</p> <p>If a sector or sub-sector has a specific requirement, the sector or sub-sector requirement will apply.</p>

		<p><b>Direct emissions from power plant do not exceed 100 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Calculation of estimated emissions applying a recognised methodology (e.g. GHG Protocol)</p> <p>Reporting of actual emissions</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Applies to electricity generation. 100 gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh represents the threshold used for energy production projects by the Climate Bonds Standard and the EU Sustainable Taxonomy. Projects in their operational phase should be reporting actual measured emissions.</p>
Climate risk	<p>4.6. Assessment of climate risks and vulnerabilities</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Required for projects facing material climate risks as determined in an ESIA or other appropriate assessment.</p> <p>The Physical Climate Risk Assessment Methodology (PCRAM) provides guidance on performing climate risks assessments for infrastructure projects.</p>	<p><b>The project has identified and assessed risks resulting from climate change over its expected lifetime.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of climate risk assessment and methodology (could form part of ESIA)</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project planning or preparation →</p>
Climate disclosure	<p>4.7. Disclosure of greenhouse emissions caused by the Project</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Required for projects that are expected to exceed or currently produce more than 25,000 tonnes (Scope 1 and 2) of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent annually which represents the threshold used in the IFC Performance Standards for disclosing GHG emissions.</p>	<p><b>The Project discloses greenhouse gas emissions for Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions according to a recognised methodology (e.g; GHG Protocol)</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of ESIA</p> <p>Copy of publication disclosing GHG emissions (e.g. Sustainability report)</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Projects in their operational phase should be disclosing actual measured emissions.</p>
Resilient plans and designs	<p>4.11. Service continuity and recovery plan</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Required for critical infrastructure. Critical infrastructure are systems, assets, facilities and networks that provide essential services for the functioning of the economy and the security, safety and well-being of the population.</p>	<p><b>A service continuity and recovery plan to minimise disruptions resulting from hazards caused by natural or human-made disasters has been developed.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of service continuity and recovery plan</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Operations</p>

Resilient plans and designs	<p>4.12. Resilient project planning, siting and design</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> The requirement relating to project siting should not apply to brownfield projects or projects where the owner/operator has no scope to influence the siting. However, project owners/operators may be able to influence the planning or design with a view to strengthening resilience. Even though it is highly recommended, projects that have been operational for more than 10 years are not required to meet this requirement.</p>	<p><b>The project site has been chosen to reduce exposure to hazards and the design incorporates measures to avoid or mitigate climate and disasters risks identified in the risk assessments</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Documentation providing rationale for project siting decision with reference to climate risk assessment and disaster risk and vulnerability assessment (e.g. ESIA)</p> <p>Documentation outlining design features that address climate and disaster risks (e.g. project technical specifications)</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project planning; Project preparation</p>
Emergency preparedness and response	<p>4.16. Emergency preparedness and response plan</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies to projects that involve specifically identified physical elements, aspects and facilities that may be the source of major accidents.</p>	<p><b>An Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan has been developed, with involvement of workers and their organisations, and the local community as appropriate, that specifies actions and measures in response to major accidents and hazards, and serves to avoid and mitigate harm to people and the environment</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>

## BDN element 5. Ensure value-for-money over its full life-cycle

Theme	Criteria	Essential requirements
Project appraisal and selection based on life cycle assessment	5.1. Project appraisal and selection based on a robust methodology that takes into consideration all relevant economic, environmental and social costs and benefits over the life cycle	<p><b>A comprehensive analysis of the project's costs and benefits has been performed that includes all relevant economic, environmental and social costs and benefits accruing over the life of the project.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Project appraisal incl. CBA</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project preparation</p>
Competitive procurement based on life cycle costs	<p>5.5. Procurement method designed to attract multiple qualified bidders</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Does not apply to infrastructure developed in privatised markets. In such cases, refer to the theme on "Competitive environment" in BDN 2. Recourse to non-competitive procurement processes can only be justified on the basis of the following exceptional circumstances: Minor work cannot be separated without disadvantage from larger work already awarded. If a non-competitive process is used it should nevertheless be transparent (e.g. open book).</p>	<p><b>Procurement applies a competitive tendering process (e.g. open, selective, competitive dialogue)</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of request for relevant procurement regulations</li> <li>• Copy of procurement documentation (e.g. calls for expression of interest, request for proposal (RFP), etc)</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Procurement</p>

## BDN element 6. Build local capacity, with a focus on local skills transfer and local capital markets

Theme	Criteria	Essential requirements
Skills transfer	6.1. Local workers employed at all stages of the project	<p><b>The project has made a concerted effort to employ local workers at each stage of the project life cycle</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Documentary evidence that a local recruitment process has been undertaken (e.g. job advertisements, records of recruitment interviews, contracts with staffing agencies, job applications, discussions with government and labour representatives, etc)</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Construction and Operation</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Local workers are workers that are recruited from within the country where the project is located.</p> <p>Projects in their operational phase may have difficulty in obtaining employment data/evidence for the construction phase. In such cases, a statement and explanation is satisfactory.</p>
Skills transfer	6.2. Training programmes for local workers	<p><b>Training programmes are provided to the project workforce</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentary evidence of training programmes (e.g. training material, description of training programmes, number of workers trained, etc)</li> <li>• Average number of hours of training provided per year for both managers and workers</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Construction and Operation</p>
Skills transfer	6.3. Use of local suppliers for equipment, materials and services	<p><b>A concerted effort has been made to involve local contractors and suppliers in providing equipment and services</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i>            Clauses in requests for proposals            Clauses in contracts with main contractors/suppliers            Copy of contracts with local suppliers</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Procurement →</p>



## BDN element 7. Prevent corruption while promoting transparent procurement and consultation processes

Theme	Criteria	Essential requirements
Anti-corruption	7.1. Anti-corruption policy and procedures with management involvement	<p><b>Clear, accessible and well-publicised policies and procedures on bribery, bribe solicitation, extortion, fraud and conflicts of interest that apply to the project. Anti-corruption policies and procedures include pre-approval requirements for the provision of gifts, hospitality, entertainment, charitable donations, and political contributions. The policies and procedures also specify appropriate disciplinary procedures to address, among other things, violations, at all levels of the company, of laws against foreign bribery, and of the company's own policies.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of anti-corruption policies and procedures</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Sponsor company or corporate (in the context of corporate investments) policies and procedures may be considered in lieu of project-level policies if the former apply to the project.</p> <p><b>A senior manager in the project/company structure has been appointed to monitor the implementation of anti-corruption programme</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Notice of appointment of senior manager</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
Anti-corruption	7.3. Maintenance of fair and accurate books, records, and accounts	<p><b>The sponsor and project companies' books, records, and accounts, have been subject an annual external financial audit, which has not identified any irregularities.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of external audit reports</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
Anti-corruption <sup>4</sup>	7.6. Adoption of functional whistleblowing mechanisms that protect identity of reporting persons  <i>Guidance:</i> <a href="#">Resource Guide on Good Practices in the Protection of Reporting Persons (unodc.org)</a>	<p><b>Mechanisms for personnel, officials or members of the public to report concerns of bribery, fraud, misuse or diversion of funds, cartels, or breaches of the law, anti-corruption policies, procedures or codes of conduct in relation to the project are in place. Mechanisms include safe and anonymous reporting, investigation, and resolution.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Documentation on whistleblowing mechanism from company policies, contracts, etc.</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>

Transparent procurement	<p>7.8. Procurement information made publicly available</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Does not apply to infrastructure developed in privatised markets.</p>	<p><b>Information on the procurement process and the project is made public through an online portal.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Online procurement portal</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Procurement</p>
Transparent procurement	<p>7.9. Procurement process ensures fair and equal treatment of all bidders</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Does not apply to infrastructure developed in privatised markets.</p>	<p><b>The tender process uses sealed bids, and confidentiality is ensured throughout the bid evaluation and award process.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of relevant procurement regulations and procedures</li> <li>• Copy of RFP</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Procurement</p>
Transparent procurement	<p>7.10. Prohibitions against corruption in procurement</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Does not apply to infrastructure developed in privatised markets.</p>	<p><b>Procurement and contract documents include provisions on fraud, corruption and other prohibited practices</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of RFP and contract</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Procurement</p>
Transparent procurement	<p>7.12. Award criteria for contract publicly disclosed</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Does not apply to infrastructure developed in privatised markets.</p>	<p><b>Bidding documents explicitly state the award criteria</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of request for proposal</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Procurement</p> <hr/> <p><b>The outcome of the bid evaluation is made public and it explains the decision in relation to the award criteria</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of public statement/report on outcome of bid evaluation and award decision</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Procurement</p>

## BDN element 8a. Uphold international best practices of environmental safeguards

Theme	Criteria	Essential requirements
Management of environmental and social risks	8.1. Policy on responsible business conduct	<p><b>The project organisation has established and communicated a policy and principles on the management of social and environmental risks and has assigned responsibility for their implementation and oversight.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of the project company's environmental and social policies</li> <li>• Copies of contracts requiring contractors to apply policies</li> <li>• Titles and names of staff with oversight responsibility</li> <li>• Contractual requirements related to appointment of staff with responsibility for implementing policies</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Policies and principles should be extended to contractors through contracts.</p> <p>Sponsor company or corporate (in the context of corporate investments) policies and procedures may be considered in lieu of project-level policies if the latter apply to the project.</p>
Management of environmental and social risks	8.2. Identification, assessment and assessment of significant risks and impacts	<p><b>A process is being implemented for identifying, assessing and prioritising environmental and social impacts and risks, including cumulative impacts, if relevant, that takes into account baseline conditions and seasonal variations.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)</li> <li>• Online access to ESIA</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For greenfield developments or large expansions with specifically identified physical elements, aspects, and facilities that are likely to generate potential significant environmental or social impacts, the project owner, developer or contracting authority should conduct a comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessment with input from subject-matter experts, including an examination of alternatives, where appropriate.</li> <li>• The environmental and social risk assessment process, should be informed by stakeholder perspectives, and the analysis and results should be made available to stakeholders.</li> <li>• Relevant stakeholders are persons or groups, or their legitimate representatives, who have rights or interests related to the project or could be affected by adverse impacts associated with the project or enterprise's operations, products or services. These include but are not limited to, affected communities, relevant local and national authorities, relevant workers' organisations, including local, national, and</li> </ul>

		global trade union bodies in the relevant sector, that represent workers at other operations of the Sponsor, or represent workers who will be affected by the project.
Management of environmental and social risks	8.3. Environmental and social management plan based on mitigation hierarchy	<p><b>An Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or equivalent developed by competent professionals with input from stakeholders which proposes measures to address the identified risks and impacts and follows the mitigation hierarchy has been adopted.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project preparation →</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> This may take the form of separate plans for different risk/impact areas.</p>
Management of environmental and social risks	8.4. Regular monitoring and reporting of priority risks and implementation of plan and measures	<p><b>A monitoring and reporting plan has been developed for both the construction and operation phases, which assigns clear responsibilities.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of the monitoring and reporting plan (which could form part of the ESMP)</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Construction and Operation</p>
Biodiversity	8.5. Risk and impacts to biodiversity and ecosystem services are identified, prioritised and assessed	<p><b>The potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services at land/seascape levels are identified, assessed and prioritised, and, where relevant, lower impact alternatives are considered.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of ESIA</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project preparation</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Risks and impacts to biodiversity can be considered as part of an EIA, ESIA or a focused biodiversity assessment.</p>
Biodiversity	8.6. Risk and impacts to biodiversity and ecosystem services are addressed following the mitigation hierarchy, with an emphasis on avoidance (with the use of use of biodiversity offsets strictly limited to address unavoidable residual impacts after all other steps in the mitigation hierarchy have been considered and no alternatives are available).	<p><b>The Environmental and Social Management Plan (or a dedicated Biodiversity Management Plan), specifies measures, developed or approved by a recognised expert, for addressing biodiversity impacts and risks following the mitigation hierarchy.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the ESIA</li> <li>• Copy of the Environmental and Social Management Plan or Biodiversity Management Plan</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project preparation →</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies to projects where risks and impacts to biodiversity exist. The IUCN Policy on Biodiversity Offsets serves as guidance for the use of offsets.</p>

		<p><b>The ESMP or Biodiversity Management Plan includes evaluation of avoidance, minimisation and restoration measures prior to recommending the use of offsets.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the ESIA</li> <li>• Copy of the Environmental and Social Management Plan or Biodiversity Management Plan</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project preparation →</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Only applies to projects that involve the use of biodiversity offsets.</p>
Biodiversity	<p>8.7. Impacts on biodiversity are monitored and reported throughout the project lifecycle</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies to projects where risks and impacts to biodiversity exist.</p>	<p><b>A biodiversity monitoring plan has been developed with input from recognised experts along with regular reporting requirements.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the biodiversity monitoring plan</li> <li>• KPIs on biodiversity</li> <li>• Copy of biodiversity monitoring reports</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
Biodiversity	<p>8.8. Project impacts on biodiversity result in no net loss or a net gain to biodiversity (net gain for critical habitats)</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies to projects where risks and impacts to biodiversity exist.</p>	<p><b>Project (1) does not have an adverse impact on critical habitat or achieves net gains in biodiversity values in any impacted areas of critical habitat AND (2) results in no net loss of natural habitat (hectares of natural habitat impacted/restored)</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <p>Copy of the Environmental and Social Management Plan or Biodiversity Management Plan</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i></p> <p>Critical habitats are areas with high biodiversity value, including (i) habitat of significant importance to Critically Endangered and/or Endangered species; (ii) habitat of significant importance to endemic and/or restricted-range species; (iii) habitat supporting globally significant concentrations of migratory species and/or congregatory species; (iv) highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems; and/or (v) areas associated with key evolutionary processes.</p> <p>Natural habitats are areas composed of viable assemblages of plant and/or animal species of largely native origin, and/or where human activity has not essentially modified an area's primary ecological functions and species composition.</p>

Biodiversity	<p>8.9. Design of biodiversity offset achieves measurable biodiversity outcomes</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies if project uses biodiversity offsets.</p>	<p><b>The design of a biodiversity offset adheres to the “like-for-like or better” principle, involves external experts and is aligned with best available information and current practices, including assurances of long-term funding to sustain the offset</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Documentation on biodiversity offsets used by the project</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> The IUCN Policy on Biodiversity Offsets provides key elements for the design of biodiversity offsets.</p>
Pollution	<p>8.10. Project avoids, and when avoidance isn't possible, minimises adverse impacts on air, soil and water quality as well as disturbances from noise, vibrations and odors.</p>	<p><b>Air, soil or water pollution as well as sources of noise, vibration and odors do not exceed levels specified by local legislation or the World Bank Group EHS Guidelines, whichever is more stringent.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the ESIA and ESMP</li> <li>• Measured pollution, noise and vibration levels</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Sponsor company or corporate (in the context of corporate investments) EH&amp;S systems may be considered if they apply to the project.</p>
Resource efficiency	<p>8.11. The project minimises the consumption of water, prioritises water recycling, and avoids reducing the availability of water for communities, other users and the environment.</p>	<p><b>The project incorporates measures to reduce water consumption and recycle water and does not adversely affect access to water for third-parties.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the ESIA and ESMP containing the relevant data and analysis showing water usage, sources, extraction and replenishment.</li> <li>• Documentation containing specifications/design features for water reduction/recycling measures</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
Resource efficiency	<p>8.12. The project optimises the use of recycled materials and privileges materials sourced responsibly.</p>	<p><b>Suppliers of primary products produced in regions where there is a risk of significant conversion of natural and/or critical habitats are evaluated, and supply is shifted to sustainable sources over time.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Results of supplier due diligence</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>

Notes: Applies to projects using primary goods (e.g. natural fibres or minerals) sourced from regions containing natural or critical habitat.

Waste hazardous materials	and	8.14. The project avoids and minimises the generation of waste, and where waste cannot be recovered or reused, it is treated, destroyed or disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.	<p><b>Existence of a waste management plan that identifies, classifies and prioritises sources of waste, and sets out methods for addressing the waste streams according to a waste management hierarchy that considers prevention, reduction, reuse, recovery, recycling, removal and finally disposal of wastes.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the ESIA and ESMP</li> <li>• Copy of the Waste Management Plan</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Sponsor company or corporate (in the context of corporate investments) waste management plan or procedures may be considered if they apply to the project.</p>
Waste hazardous materials	and	8.15. Hazardous materials are avoided and minimised and treated and disposed of in a manner consistent with good international industry practice (GIIP).	<p><b>Any hazardous waste generated is disposed of in a manner consistent with GIIP (such as the World Bank Group EHS Guidelines), using licensed disposal sites, and a chain of custody documentation to the final destination is obtained.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the Waste Management Plan</li> <li>• Copy of the chain of custody documentation</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Sponsor company or corporate (in the context of corporate investments) hazardous waste management plan or procedures may be considered if they apply to the project.</p>

## BDN element 8b. Uphold international best practices of social safeguards, including respect for labour and human rights

Theme	Criteria	Essential requirements
Meaningful stakeholder engagement with affected communities	8.17. Identification and analysis of stakeholders	<p><b>A comprehensive mapping of both affected and interested stakeholders that assesses their interests and vulnerabilities with regard to adverse project impacts and risks over the project life cycle has been performed.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> ESIA or other project documentation which includes analysis of stakeholders</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Relevant stakeholders are persons or groups, or their legitimate representatives, who have rights or interests related to the project or could be affected by adverse impacts associated with the project or enterprise's operations, products or services. These include but are not limited to, affected communities, relevant local and national authorities, relevant workers' organisations, including local, national, and global trade union bodies in the relevant sector, that represent workers at other operations of the Sponsor, or represent workers who will be affected by the project.</p>
Meaningful stakeholder engagement with affected communities	8.18. Adoption of a stakeholder engagement plan	<p><b>A stakeholder engagement plan has been developed that starts early in the project cycle and includes, if applicable, differentiated measures to allow the effective participation of those identified as disadvantaged or vulnerable.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of the stakeholder engagement plan</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
Meaningful stakeholder engagement with affected communities	8.19. Communication with stakeholders	<p><b>Full information about the project is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely manner including risks to and potential impacts (including environmental impacts) on communities and ecosystems and relevant mitigation measures, planned stakeholder engagement, and the availability of grievance mechanisms.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule and record of stakeholder engagement activities (e.g. minutes of meeting, survey results, reports, etc).</li> <li>• Records of discussions with recognized stakeholder representatives, respected key informants, and legitimate representatives of sub-groups (e.g. women, minorities).</li> <li>• Copies of materials shared with stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>



<p>Meaningful stakeholder engagement with affected communities</p>	<p>8.20. Inclusive consultation processes including mechanisms for processing communications with stakeholders</p>	<p><b>An ongoing two-way engagement process is being conducted that prioritises affected communities, is accessible to vulnerable and marginalised groups, is safe, free from manipulation and intimidation, and includes appropriate feedback mechanisms from the project to stakeholders.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule and record of stakeholder engagement activities (e.g. minutes of meeting, survey results, reports, etc).</li> <li>• Records of discussions with recognized stakeholder representatives, respected key informants, and legitimate representatives of sub-groups (e.g. women, minorities).</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <hr/> <p><b>An Informed Consultation and Participation process has/is being conducted that ensures that the project decision-making process incorporates the views of affected communities on matters that affect them directly.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule and record of stakeholder engagement activities (e.g. minutes of meeting, survey results, reports, etc).</li> <li>• Records of discussions with recognized stakeholder representatives, respected key informants, and legitimate representatives of sub-groups (e.g. women, minorities).</li> <li>• Documentation (e.g. Action Plans) of measures taken to avoid or minimize risks to and adverse impacts on Affected Communities in response to stakeholders' feedback received during consultation (e.g. ESMP)</li> <li>• Copies of periodic reports to affected communities on risks and impacts, and measures taken to address them.</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> For projects with potentially significant adverse impacts on affected communities</p>
<p>Meaningful stakeholder engagement with affected communities</p>	<p>8.21. Effective grievance mechanisms for affected communities</p>	<p><b>A grievance mechanism that is easily accessible for affected communities and responsive to their grievances and concerns while protecting those submitting grievances from retribution has been established and is operational.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project organizational structure, responsibilities, and procedures for managing grievances.</li> <li>• Copy of materials shared with affected communities on grievance mechanism.</li> <li>• Record of grievances received about the project and the project's responses and remedies.</li> <li>• Record of discussions with recognized stakeholder representatives in response to the grievances.</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>

Human rights	8.22. Human rights policy	<p><b>A policy commitment (which may be stand-alone or included in a broader RBC policy) to meet the responsibility to respect human rights sets out the expectations of personnel, contractors and suppliers has been established and widely communicated.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the human rights policy commitment</li> <li>• Documentary evidence of the policy being communicated</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Sponsor company or corporate (in the context of corporate investments) policies may be considered if they apply to the project.</p>
Human rights	8.25. Alleged human rights violations are investigated promptly, and remediated	<p><b>Claims of human rights violations have been investigated promptly, and, when justified, corrective and/or remedial actions have been taken.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> In case of claims of violations, documentation of investigations and evidence of corrective and/or remedial actions taken.</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Applies to projects where a case of a serious human rights violation has been brought to the attention of local or national authorities, or to a non-judicial grievance mechanism (e.g. National Contact Point).</p>
Labour and working conditions	8.27. Establish clear employment policies and procedures	<p><b>Employment policies and procedures have been established that clearly state the rights of workers in a manner consistent with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copies of employment policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Sponsor company or corporate (in the context of corporate investments) policies and procedures may be considered if they apply to the project.</p> <p>As specified by IFC PS 2, where the client is a party to a collective bargaining agreement with a workers' organization, such agreement will be respected. Where such agreements do not exist, or do not address working conditions and terms of employment [5], the client will provide reasonable working conditions and terms of employment [6].</p> <p>Reasonable working conditions and terms of employment could be assessed by reference to (i) conditions established for work of the same character in the trade or industry concerned in the area/region where the work is carried out; (ii) collective agreement or other recognized negotiation between other organizations of employers and workers' representatives in the trade or industry concerned; (iii) arbitration award; or (iv) conditions established by national law.</p>

Labour and working conditions	8.28. Provide workers with information on their rights that is clear and understandable	<p><b>Project workers are provided with information on their legal rights and benefits when they begin employment, and this information is easily accessible to workers that seek it.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of employment policies and procedures</li> <li>• Copies of sample contracts and other material provided to employees that state their rights and benefits</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
Labour and working conditions	8.29. Respect the rights of workers involved in project to organise and engage in collective bargaining	<p><b>The rights of workers to associate and to elect representatives are expressed in the employment policies and procedures, at the time of hiring, and employment contracts. In countries that restrict workers' organisations, project organisations shall allow workers to choose their own representatives for dialogue and negotiation. Where the law is silent, the project company shall respect freedom of association and engage in collective bargaining</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of employment policies and procedures</li> <li>• Sample of anonymised worker contracts</li> <li>• Evidence of the existence of worker organisations (e.g. official trade unions, elections of worker representatives, etc.)</li> <li>• Documentation of meetings with worker representatives</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> This requirement applies to all project workers. The project company should ensure that contractors implement this requirement through incorporating its provisions into bidding and contracts, verifying that contractors have policies and procedures in place to operate in a manner consistent with its provisions, and monitoring contractors on freedom of association and collective bargaining.</p> <p>Respect for freedom of association and collective bargaining includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As specified by the IFC Performance Standard Guidance Note 38 and the MNE Guidelines Chapter V, providing reasonable access and facilities for representatives of workers' organizations and for workers to meet on Project premises and carry out other organizing activities in a manner that does not disrupt productivity.</li> <li>• As specified IFC Performance Standard 2 GN 37 not discouraging workers from forming or joining a workers' organization or discriminate or retaliate against workers who attempt to form or join workers' organizations. Refusing to hire workers who have been members or leaders of workers' organizations at other firms (for reasons unrelated to qualifications or job performance) would constitute discrimination. Other forms of discrimination or retaliation would include demoting or re-assigning workers, as well as outsourcing or shifting work among facilities, in response to union activities.</li> <li>• As specified in IFC Performance Standard 2 and the MNE Guidelines: The Project Sponsor and contractors will engage in good faith negotiations and provide information, including a true and fair view of the entity, to workers and their organisations to enable meaningful negotiations.</li> </ul>

Labour and working conditions

8.30. Promote health and safety of workers through training and procedures that are in line with international OHS standards

*Guidance:* The ILO Code of Good Practice on Safety and Health in Construction and ISO 45001 constitutes a reference international standard.

**Occupational health and safety (OHS) policies and procedures have been established, responsibility for overseeing OSH has been assigned to an adequate number of staff, training is provided to workers.**

*Recommended supporting evidence/data:*

- Copies of OSH policies, procedures and training materials
- Names and titles of staff with OSH responsibility
- Number of workers receiving training
- List of OSH incidents, and, if possible, with root cause analysis and corrective actions

*Stage:* Entire life cycle

*Notes:* Sponsor company or corporate (in the context of corporate investments) policies and procedures may be considered if they apply to the project.

In addressing workplace hazards, OHS procedures should adopt a hierarchy of controls, and prioritise the most effective controls, beginning with elimination of the hazard. For an explanation of the hierarchy of controls approach, please see: [https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/hsprograms/hazard/hierarchy\\_controls.html](https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/hsprograms/hazard/hierarchy_controls.html)

**The project company has a policy that allows any worker (parent company and/or contractor) have the right and incentives to stop working and demand the stop of any surrounding activity in case they identify safety risks with a protection mechanism that prevents any sort of penalisation to the requesting.**

*Stage:* Entire life cycle

*Recommended supporting evidence/data:*

- Copies of relevant policy

**Cooperative arrangements are established to ensure consultation and involvement of workers and their representatives in the implementation of OHS policies and procedures.**

*Stage:* Entire life cycle

*Recommended supporting evidence/data:*

- Copies of OHS committee information including membership, minutes, and plans.
- Procedures and policies on worker OHS representatives, including any special protections or procedures
- Notice of appointment of health and safety representatives

*Notes:* Such cooperative mechanisms may include: joint labour-management OHS committees established with workers and their organisations; the appointment and training of frontline worker health and safety representatives (selected by other workers) for all work areas/departments.

Labour and working conditions	8.31. Ensure that the project and its main contractors and suppliers do not employ child labour or forced labour	<p><b>The Project, including its contractors and primary suppliers, has policies and procedures in place to prohibit forced labour and the employment of children below the age of 15 or the legal working age of the country, whichever is higher.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of employment policy or statement which covers child labour and forced labour</li> <li>• Record of ages of all workers employed by the project</li> <li>• Copies of contracts with contractors that forbid the use of child labour or forced labour.</li> <li>• Copy of recruitment policies and procedures, including measures to avoid coercion, particularly related to migrant and labour agencies or brokers.</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Primary suppliers are those suppliers who, on an ongoing basis, provide goods or materials essential for the core business processes of the project.</p> <p>Sponsor company or corporate (in the context of corporate investments) policies and procedures may be considered if they apply to the project.</p>
Labour and working conditions	8.32. Ensure that workers employed by the project are subject to fair wages, working conditions and benefits	<p><b>The project follows, as a minimum, national laws in terms of compensation, working hours, and overtime, is consistent with ILO standards on working time, and provides reasonable working conditions and terms including pay and benefits determined with reference to comparable benchmarks and the basic needs of workers and their families.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of employment policy</li> <li>• Sample of anonymised worker contracts</li> <li>• Payroll data including hours worked.</li> <li>• Analysis of comparable benchmarks for terms and conditions including pay and benefits, and basic needs for a working family.</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> In jurisdictions where legal frameworks do not reflect the prevailing market conditions for the industry, sector, or geography of the client's business, pay and benefits should be determined with reference to comparable benchmarks including: i) conditions established for work of the same character in the trade or industry concerned in the area/region where the work is carried out; (ii) collective agreement or other recognized negotiation between other organizations of employers and workers' representatives in the trade or industry concerned; and (iii) arbitration award.</p>

Labour and working conditions	8.33. Effective grievance mechanism for workers	<p><b>A grievance mechanism that is easily accessible for workers, including in an anonymised manner and with protection against retaliation, and is responsive to their grievances and concerns has been established and is operational, and utilises or does not impinge upon collectively bargained grievance procedures if ones exist.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project's organizational structure and responsibilities, and procedures for managing worker grievances.</li> <li>• Copy of materials shared with workers on grievance mechanism.</li> <li>• Record of grievances received, and the project's responses and remedies.</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
Community health and well-being	8.35. As part of due diligence process, adverse impacts and risks to community health and well-being, included those to ecosystem services, are identified, prioritised and assessed.	<p><b>Adverse impacts and risks to community health and well-being, including to ecosystem services, are identified, prioritised and assessed.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of ESIA</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
Community health and well-being	8.36. Measures to avoid and mitigate adverse impacts to communities are adopted in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy	<p><b>The Environmental and Social Management Plan (or equivalent plan), specifies measures, developed or approved by a recognised expert, for addressing adverse impacts and risks to community health and well-being following the mitigation hierarchy.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of the ESMP</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
Community health and well-being	<p>8.37. Measures are put in place to avoid risks to communities as a result of the employment of security personnel</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies to projects that require the use of security personnel</p> <p>Consider as guidance the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (<a href="https://www.voluntaryprinciples.org">https://www.voluntaryprinciples.org</a>)</p>	<p><b>Adverse impacts on workers and the surrounding communities, such as the potential for increased communal tensions, due to the presence of security personnel or the risk of theft and circulation of firearms used by security personnel, are identified and assessed.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of the ESIA</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project preparation</p> <p><b>Security personnel are provided with clear instructions on the objectives of their work and permissible actions.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of instructions provided to security personnel</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>

Community health and well-being	8.38. Impacts and risks to communities are monitored throughout the project life cycle	<p><b>A community health and safety monitoring plan has been developed with input from recognised experts and from local communities along with regular reporting requirements.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the community health and safety monitoring plan</li> <li>• Copy of community health and safety monitoring reports</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
Indigenous Peoples	8.40. As part of due diligence process, adverse impacts and risks specific to Indigenous Peoples are identified and assessed.	<p><b>The ESIA identifies, prioritises and assesses adverse impacts and risks to Indigenous Peoples, and has been developed with their input.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of ESIA</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project planning; Project preparation</p>
Indigenous Peoples	<p>8.41. A dedicated and ongoing informed consultation and engagement process is conducted with Indigenous Peoples affected by the project with a view to obtaining their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies when adverse impacts to indigenous communities have been identified.</p>	<p><b>A culturally-appropriate Informed Consultation and Participation process is conducted with the affected indigenous communities, and obtains their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) when required by circumstances.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of engagement plan with indigenous communities</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Circumstances requiring FPIC are set out in IFC Performance Standard 7 and include (1) Indigenous Peoples lands and natural resources are being impacted; (2) there is a possibility of Indigenous Peoples being relocated from their lands and territories; and/or (3) their cultural heritage may be used</p>
Indigenous Peoples	<p>8.42. Measures to avoid and mitigate adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples are adopted based on the mitigation hierarchy after obtaining their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies when adverse impacts to indigenous communities have been identified.</p>	<p><b>A plan outlining the actions to avoid, minimize and/or compensate for adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples in a culturally appropriate manner has been developed and is fully consistent with the substance of a negotiated agreement with the indigenous communities.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) or a community development plan</li> <li>• Copy of negotiated agreement based on FPIC</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>

<p>Involuntary Resettlement and Land Use Restrictions</p>	<p>8.44. As part of the due diligence process, persons whose land and/or livelihoods will be affected by the project and are thus eligible for compensation and/or assistance are identified.</p>	<p><b>The due diligence process draws on appropriate socioeconomic baseline data to identify persons whose livelihoods will be affected and/or who will be physically or economically displaced by the project, and to determine who will be eligible for compensation and assistance.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of ESIA; Copy of census results and analysis for identifying physically or economically displaced people</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project planning; Project preparation</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> In practice, those who suffer negative social and economic impacts as a result of the acquisition of land for a project and/or restrictions on land use, may include those having legally recognized rights or claims to the land; those with customary claims to land; and those with no legally recognized claims, as well as seasonal natural resource users such as herders, fishing families, hunters and gatherers who may have interdependent economic relations with communities located within the project area (IFC PS 8 GN 5). Impacts on ecosystems can also affect livelihoods when these depend on provisioning services such as crops, livestock, capture fisheries, aquaculture, wild foods, timber and wood fiber products, other fibers, biomass fuel, fresh water, genetic resources and natural medicines (IFC PS 5 GN 61).</p>
<p>Involuntary Resettlement and Land Use Restrictions</p>	<p>8.45. The project demonstrates that resettlement is unavoidable and that all options have been considered</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies to projects involving physical and/or economic displacement.</p>	<p><b>The ESIA considers, analyses and compares a range of alternatives for the project before determining that resettlement is unavoidable.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of ESIA</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project planning; Project preparation</p>
<p>Involuntary Resettlement and Land Use Restrictions</p>	<p>8.46. Plans for resettlement, compensation and livelihood restoration are developed in consultation with affected communities, and avoid forced eviction.</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies to projects involving physical and/or economic displacement.</p>	<p><b>An ongoing and iterative consultation process is conducted throughout the process of resettlement planning, implementation and monitoring, and documented in a Resettlement Action Plan and/or Livelihood Restoration Plan that avoids forced eviction.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of Resettlement and/or Livelihood Restoration Plan</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Measures taken should be proportionate to the scale of resettlement.</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>



<p>Involuntary Resettlement and Land Use Restrictions</p>	<p>8.47. The project provides compensation and adopts measures that, as a minimum, restore the livelihoods and living standards of physically or economically displaced persons to levels prevailing before the project or pre-displacement, whichever is higher.</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies to projects involving physical and/or economic displacement.</p>	<p><b>A Resettlement Action Plan and/or Livelihood Restoration Plan provides compensation at full replacement cost for land and other assets lost and is designed to mitigate the negative impacts of displacement and/or loss of livelihood; identify development opportunities; develop a resettlement budget and schedule; and establish the entitlements of all categories of affected persons (including host communities).</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of Resettlement and/or Livelihood Restoration Plan</li> <li>• Documentation of transactions that are part of the compensation measures</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Resettlement strategies and compensation should be grounded in the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land for equivalent land is preferred (in terms of productive potential, location, security of tenure, title, etc.)</li> <li>• Livelihoods are improved or, at the very least, maintained.</li> </ul> <p>Key steps need to be taken <i>before</i> resettlement, including payment of any financial compensation.</p>
<p>Involuntary Resettlement and Land Use Restrictions</p>	<p>8.48. The implementation of resettlement plans, compensation and measures to restore livelihoods is monitored and evaluated.</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies to projects involving physical and/or economic displacement.</p>	<p><b>The Resettlement Action Plan and/or Livelihood Restoration Plan outlines monitoring and evaluation activities to track the implementation of the plan.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of Resettlement and/or Livelihood Restoration Plan</li> <li>• Reports on implementation of mitigation and compensation measures</li> </ul> <p><i>Notes:</i> Measures taken should be proportionate to the scale of resettlement or displacement.</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><b>A Resettlement Completion Audit has been performed by competent independent professionals once mitigation measures have been substantially completed.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of Resettlement Completion Audit</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Applies where resettlement is deemed to pose the risk of significant adverse social impacts, i.e., generally in projects which have been categorized “A” (according to the IFC categorization) solely or partially on the basis of anticipated resettlement impacts.</p>
<p>Cultural heritage</p>	<p>8.49. As part of the due diligence process, risks to cultural heritage are identified and assessed.</p>	<p><b>Adverse impacts and risks to cultural heritage, including intangible cultural heritage, are identified and assessed.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of ESIA</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project planning; Project preparation</p>

		<p><b>Competent professionals are retained to assist in the identification and protection of cultural heritage using international recognised practices.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracts with organisation/individuals hired to identify and assess cultural heritage</li> <li>• CVs of experts recruited to identify and assess cultural heritage</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project planning; Project preparation</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> Applies where the risk identification process determines that there is a chance of impacts to cultural heritage</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>8.50. In areas where cultural heritage is likely to exist, the project has procedures in place to deal with chance finds.</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> For projects located in areas where cultural heritage is expected to be found based on the results of an environmental and social risks and impacts identification process</p>	<p><b>A chance find procedure has been established (and is observed) that outlines the actions to be taken if previously unknown cultural heritage is encountered.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of the Chance Find Procedure.</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Project planning; Project preparation</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>8.51. Consult with Affected Communities within the host country who use, or have used within living memory, the cultural heritage for long-standing cultural purposes.</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> For projects that may affect cultural heritage based on the results of the assessment of environmental and social impacts and risks.</p>	<p><b>The stakeholder engagement process has involved consultation with historical or traditional users or owners of tangible cultural heritage.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the stakeholder engagement plan</li> <li>• Records of discussions with recognized stakeholder representatives.</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>8.52. Ongoing access to cultural heritage located within project site is preserved for Affected Communities.</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies when the project site contains cultural heritage or prevents access to previously accessible cultural heritage sites being used by, or that have been used by, Affected Communities within living memory for long-standing cultural purposes.</p>	<p><b>The project enables ongoing access to cultural heritage located on the construction or operating site, based on consultations and agreement with the affected community.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of agreement with affected community detailing access to cultural heritage</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>

Cultural heritage	<p>8.53. Measures are taken to protect critical cultural heritage on the project site to ensure that it isn't removed, significantly altered, or damaged.</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> Applies when the project site contains cultural heritage.</p>	<p><b>Cultural heritage on the project site is protected following the mitigation hierarchy, prioritising non-removal from the site.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Documentation of measures taken to protect cultural heritage.</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
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## BDN element 9. Promote the non-discriminatory use of infrastructure services

Theme	Criteria	Essential requirements
Non-discriminatory contracts	<p>9.1. Contracts do not privilege certain end-users or suppliers</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> This criteria applies to essential public network infrastructure such as electricity transmission and distribution, broadband networks, water supply, ports, etc.</p>	<p><b>Contract does not allow operators to arbitrarily or on the basis of unfair discrimination restrict access to infrastructure to certain end-users or suppliers</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of contract</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Procurement →</p>
Inclusive regulatory frameworks	<p>9.2. Regulatory framework that ensures non-discriminatory access, while taking into account social considerations</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> This criteria applies to operators and owners of essential regulated network infrastructure (e.g. electricity transmission and distribution, broadband networks, water supply, ports, etc.), and may need to be adapted to different types of infrastructure assets. The criteria does not rule out the provision of targeted concessional pricing or preferential access for financially vulnerable people and holders of native title.</p>	<p><b>The regulatory framework ensures equal access to network infrastructure and does not allow discrimination between different end-users or operators on the basis of price for equivalent access and service conditions</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of relevant regulations</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>

## BDN element 10. Advance inclusion for women, people with disability, and underrepresented and marginalised groups

Theme	Criteria	<i>Essential requirements</i>
Employment opportunities	10.8. Non-discriminatory employment policies and procedures	<p><b>Employment policies and procedures, including in relation to recruitment, prohibit all forms of discrimination, and promote equal opportunity.</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of employment/recruitment policies and procedures</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>
Safety and well-being for women and vulnerable users	<p>10.10. Zero tolerance policy with regard to sexual and any other type of harassment, discrimination, violence and/or abuse</p> <p><i>Guidance:</i> For good practices refer to <a href="https://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/gender/equality/violence-harassment-work-practical-guide-employers-ilo.org">Violence and harassment at work: a practical guide for employers (ilo.org)</a></p>	<p><b>The employment policy clearly states that any abuse, whether of sexual or other nature, will not be tolerated</b></p> <p><i>Recommended supporting evidence/data:</i> Copy of employment policy</p> <p><i>Stage:</i> Entire life cycle</p>