

SECU0021 - Key recommendations and management response

Recommendation 131.1. The CO should commission a separate, supplementary biodiversity study by a dedicated biodiversity expert (not the author of the current EIA). This study should be used to determine appropriate environmental management measures, particularly relating to desired ecological flow minimums, to ensure that the ongoing operation of the project proceeds in a manner where impacts to biodiversity are avoided and minimized.

Management response actions:

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible Unit (s)	Status	Comments
a) The CO will commission a biodiversity study in line with SECU's recommendations.	December 2024	CO	Initiated	
b) The CO will share the biodiversity study with the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and will make recommendations on establishing a regular monitoring programme for the Sateska riverbed and the diversion structure after the project is completed, including using the biodiversity study as a baseline for monitoring.	May 2025			

Recommendation 131.2. The present inadequate compliance with the elements of Standard 1 should be partially addressed with the urgent development of a strong agreement with the operating entity of the diversion works, contracted by the project owner. UNDP has been at the center of these negotiations and should ensure that robust monitoring of the environmental and social effects of the current project is put in place.

Management response actions:				
Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible Unit (s)	Status	Comments
The CO will engage a legal expert to support the working group established by the Government in finalizing the Agreements between the entities that will be included in the operations and maintenance of the diversion structure on Sateska River.	December 2024 – February 2025	CO	Initiated	Nominations for the members of the working group have been received from all relevant entities that will be included in the operations and maintenance of the diversion structure on Sateska River (Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Municipality of Debarca and Struga, and ESM – Power Plants of North Macedonia)
Recommendation 134. The Country Office revisit the requirements in the SES for the screening, assessment and management of social and environmental risks and impacts to ensure compliance in any future follow-on projects. Particular care will need to be taken by the CO in making decisions with regard to relying upon country-based EIA processes to meet the SES requirements.				
Management response actions:				
Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible Unit (s)	Status	Comments
Analyze the requirements in the SES for the screening, assessment and management of social and environmental risks and impacts vs. the national EIA processes to identify the points of divergences.	First quarter of 2025	CO with support of SES Technical Advisor for Europe and Central Asia	Not initiated	Based on the findings and recommendations of the comparative analyses, the CO will draft standard TOR

				for conducting EIA studies supported by UNDP. The TOR will reflect both the requirements of the respective national legislature and additional requirements of UNDP SES
Further strengthen the human capacity within the office by organizing the first training on SES for all staff	First quarter of 2025	CO with support of SES Technical Advisor for Europe and Central Asia	Not initiated	