



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NEMC)

NEMC ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICY, 2026

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FOREWORD

The National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) was established under the Environmental Management Act, Cap.191 (R.E.2023) with the mandate to oversee and coordinated environmental management and protection in Tanzania. In carrying out this mandate, the Council plays a critical role in ensuring that development activities are implemented in a manner that safeguards the environment while promoting social well-being. In recent years, the increasing pace of development, coupled with emerging environmental challenges such as climate change and its impacts has highlighted the importance of strengthening environmental and social managements in development initiatives.

In response to those challenges, NEMC has developed this Environmental and Social Policy to provide a compressive framework for identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring environmental and social risks and impacts associated with programs, projects and other activities undertaken or supervised by the Council in order to ensure environmental and social sustainability.

This policy seeks to enhance accountability, transparency and stakeholder's participation in environmental decision-making processes. It is also promoting the integration of gender equality, social inclusion and protection of vulnerable groups in environmental management and development activities to ensure equitable access to project benefits and minimize adverse impacts.

Through the implementation of these policy, NEMC will continue to strengthen compliance with national environmental laws, regulations and guidelines while promoting sustainable development that balances environmental protection and social-economic growth.

This policy forms an integral part of NEMC's Environmental and Social Management System and reflects international good practice in environmental and social safeguards. This Policy constitutes a comprehensive revision of the previous NEMC Environmental and Social Policy, developed to reflect evolving national regulatory frameworks, lessons learned from implementation, and alignment with international best practices.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has prepared an Environmental and Social Policy to ensure that potential adverse environmental and social impacts associated with projects, programs and other undertaking of the Council and its stakeholders are effectively identified, assessed and managed. The policy provides a framework for integrating environmental and social considerations into the Council's regulatory functions, environmental management activities, programs and projects. The Policy builds on previous institutional frameworks and incorporates improvements to strengthen environmental and social risk management in line with international good practice.

This policy is implemented in accordance with the Environmental Management Act, Cap.191 (R.E.2023), the Environmental Impact Assessment and Audit Regulations, 2005 (as amended in 2018) and other relevant national legislation and policies related to environmental management, land management, climate change and social development. The policy supports sustainable development by ensuring that environmental and social risks associated with development activities are properly identified, assessed, managed and monitored.

The purpose of this policy is to establish safeguard measures that enable NEMC and its stakeholders to identify and manage environmental and social risks associated with their undertakings and to implement appropriate measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate such risks. These measures will be integrated into existing environmental risk assessment and management procedures. Initial screening for environmental and social risks shall be conducted during the preparation of project proposals. All risk findings and impact assessments shall be evidence-based.

In addition, the policy promotes inclusive stakeholders' engagement during project development and implementation, ensuring that consultations consider the needs and perspectives of vulnerable groups and incorporate gender considerations.

2.0 SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all environmental management activities, regulatory functions, programs and projects implemented, supervised or supported by NEMC. It provides guidance for integrating environmental and social consideration in environmental assessment processes, compliance monitoring, project oversight and other environmental management responsibilities undertaken by Council. In carrying out its mandates of promoting environmental management and achieving a climate –resilient development pathways, NEMC will effectively and equitably manage associated environmental and social risks and impacts for the purpose of improving the outcomes of NEMC's undertakings.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICY STATEMENT

General Environmental and Social Commitment

NEMC is committed to promoting environmentally sustainable and socially responsible development. The Council shall ensure that environmental and social risks associated with development activities are identified, avoided, minimized or mitigated through appropriate environmental assessment, monitoring and reported during and at the end of implementation. The Council promotes transparency, accountability, stakeholders' participation and gender equality in environmental management processes. This Policy reflects NEMC's commitment to applying international best practices in environmental and social risk management.

Environmental and Social Principles

All projects implemented or supervised by the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) shall be designed and carried out in accordance with the following environmental and social principles. Depending on the nature, scope and scale of the project, the relevant and application of some principles may vary.

Compliance with the Law

All projects shall comply with applicable national laws and regulations of the United Republic of Tanzania including the environmental Management Act and its regulations as well as relevant international environmental and social commitments to which the country is a party.

Access and Equity

Projects shall promote fair, equitable and inclusive access to development benefits in a manner that is culturally appropriate and socially inclusive. Projects activities shall avoid creating barriers to access to essential services and resources such as health services, clean water and sanitation, energy, education, housing, safe and decent working conditions and secure land and resources rights.

Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups

Projects shall avoid, minimize and mitigate any disproportionate adverse impacts on marginalized and vulnerable groups including children, women and girls, the elderly, indigenous people, tribal groups, displaced people, refugees, people living with disabilities, and people living with HIV/AIDS. In screening any proposed project, the implementing entities shall assess and consider particular impacts on marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Human Rights

Projects shall respect and where applicable, promote internationally recognized human right. Project activities shall be implemented in a manner that upholds dignity, equality and non-discrimination for all individuals and communities potentially affected by the project interventions.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Projects shall be designed and implemented in such a way that both women and men have equal opportunities to participate, receive comparable social and economic benefits and do not suffer disproportionate adverse effects during the development process.

Core Labor Rights

Projects shall comply with core labour standards as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO). This includes the promotion of fair labour practices, non-discrimination in employment, elimination of forced and child labour and respect for worker's right to safe and decent working conditions.

Indigenous Peoples

Projects shall respect the right, dignity and cultural identified of indigenous people and traditional communities. Project activities shall be implemented in a manner consistent with applicable international instruments relating to indigenous peoples including the United Nations declarations on the Right of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) where relevant. Appropriate consultation and participation mechanisms shall be ensured where project activities may affect indigenous communities.

Involuntary Resettlement

Projects shall be designed and implemented in a way that avoids or minimizes the need for involuntary resettlement. When limited involuntary resettlement is unavoidable, due process shall be observed so that displaced persons shall be informed of their rights, consulted on their options and offered technically, economically and socially feasible resettlement alternatives or fair and adequate compensation.

Protection of Natural Habitats

Support will not be provided to projects that will involve unjustified conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, including those that are (a) legally protected; (b) officially proposed for protection; (c) recognized by authoritative sources for their high conservation value, including as critical habitat; or (d) recognized as protected by traditional or indigenous local communities.

Conservation of Biological Diversity

NEMC regards climate change as a serious challenge that affects the state of the environment and well-being of people in the country. Therefore, projects must be designed and implemented in a way that avoids any significant or unjustified reduction or loss of biological diversity or the introduction of known invasive species.

Climate Change

Projects shall be designed and implemented in a manner that avoids significant or unjustified increase in greenhouse gas emissions or other drivers of climate change. Where feasible, projects shall promote climate resilience, climate adaptation and environmentally sustainable practices.

Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency

Projects shall be designed and implemented in a way that meets applicable international standards for maximizing energy efficiency and minimizing material resource use, the production of wastes, and the release of pollutants.

Public Health

Projects shall be designed and implemented in a way that avoids potentially significant negative impacts on public health.

Physical and Cultural Heritage

Projects shall be designed and implemented in a way that avoids the alteration, damage, or removal of any physical cultural resources, cultural sites, and sites with unique natural values recognized as such at the community, national or international level. Projects should also not permanently interfere with existing access and use of such physical and cultural resources.

Lands and Soil Conservation

Projects shall be designed and implemented in a way that promotes soil conservation and avoids degradation or conversion of productive lands or land that provides valuable ecosystem services.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ESMS)

4.1.1 Screening of Environmental and Social Risks

The Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) provides a systematic and structured approach for screening, assessing, managing, monitoring and reporting environmental and social risks throughout the project lifecycle.

All proposed undertakings shall first undergo a systematic, evidence-based screening to identify potential direct, indirect, cumulative and trans-boundary environmental and social risks using the principles in Section 3.2. Screening shall be supported by desk review, site reconnaissance, stakeholder consultations and available baseline data.

Based on the identified risks, the undertaking shall be categorized as:

- a. **High Risk:** Significant, diverse, widespread, irreversible or unprecedented adverse impacts. Requires full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).
- b. **Moderate Risk:** Limited, site-specific, mostly reversible adverse impacts. Requires focused assessment and detailed Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).
- c. **Low Risk:** Minimal or no adverse impacts. Requires basic ESMP or screening checklist.

Categorization is risk-driven and determines the depth of assessment. National EMA Type A/B classification remains mandatory in parallel; the risk category shall inform the scope required under national regulations. The assigned risk category determines the level of environmental and social due diligence, stakeholder engagement requirements, and monitoring intensity.

4.1.2 Environmental and Social Assessment

After registration and scrutiny basing on the scope, size, sensitivity and complexity, the project is classified basing on four categories that is: Type A, Type B1, Type B2 and Special Project.

Type A projects requires full EIA and must be registered (Mandatory list). Type B1 are borderline project which may or may not require full EIA, Type B2 are non-mandatory projects and does not require a full EIA while Special Projects are projects that are classified depending on potential risks and need specialized studies. EMA clearly stipulates that EIA shall be conducted at the Proponents cost (Section 81(1)).

The environmental and social assessment of the project will be integrated into the existing National legal and Regulatory framework. The procedure to be followed must be in accordance with the Environmental Management (Environmental Impact Assessment and Audit) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018.

4.1.3 Steps to Consider in Environmental Assessments

The following are key issues for consideration before commencement of project development and issuance of Environmental Certificate:

- i. Subcontracting Environmental Expert to register the project paying the statutory registration fees of the project for the assessment.
- ii. Procedures for EIA study differs subject to the category which the project falls after screening. The Table below stipulates procedures that will be considered for the environmental and social impact assessment of the project based on which category they fall:

S/n	Category	Steps
1	TYPE A	a. Scoping reports and Terms of Reference (ToR) for conducting the environmental assessments are supposed to be submitted to key stakeholders in order to gather comments early on in the process as a way forward of expediting the review process. b. Application Forms, Scoping Report and ToR as well as Evidence of service of the consulted stakeholders are submitted to the governing review authority for review by the Consultant on behalf of the Developer for registration and approval c. Within 14 days after receipt of ToR the governing review authority will communicate to developer its decision whether the ToR are approved or not d. Upon approval of the scoping report and ToR, submit the Environmental Impact Statement to review authority. The statement will be prepared by the consultant in collaboration with the investor to ensure accuracy of information before submission. e. Upon receipt of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the governing review authority will review EIS by conducting site visit, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting and comments sent to Developer to improve the document within 28 days f. Developer will submit the improved EIS for the governing review authority to recommend to the Minister on the approval of the project and issuance of EIA Certificate

2	TYPE B1	a. Application Form and Scoping Report shall be submitted to the governing review authority. b. The governing review authority shall Screen the Scoping Report with the objective of determining whether an Environmental Impact Assessment should be undertaken (Category A) or not (Category B2). c. The decision reached shall be communicated to the developer or proponent within twenty-one days from the date of submission of the Project Brief. d. Where the governing review authority is satisfied that the project shall not have significant negative impacts on the environment or that, the Project Brief and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) discloses sufficient mitigation measures, the governing review authority may recommend to the Minister to approve the project. e. Upon approval of the project by the Minister, s/he shall issue an Environmental Impact Assessment Certificate. f. Where the governing review authority finds that the project shall have significant impacts on the environment and the project brief discloses no sufficient mitigation measures, require the developer or proponent to undertake full EIAs Study where all procedures of Type A projects will be followed.
3	TYPE B2	a. Detailed Project Brief submitted to the governing review authority for registration and review/examination. b. The examination shall be undertaken to determine whether the Environmental Management and Social Plan (EMSP) has sufficient information for recommendation of issuance of EIA Certificate or not. c. When the governing review authority determines that the EMP does not disclose sufficient mitigation measures shall, within seven days, require the developer or proponent to resubmit the Plan. d. Where the governing review authority is satisfied that the project shall not have significant negative impacts on the environment and the project brief and EMP discloses sufficient mitigation measures, the governing review authority may recommend to the Minister to approve the project.

		e. The Minister shall, within fourteen days, approve or disapprove the project and issue a Certificate or otherwise communicate his decision.
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4.1.4 Provisional Environmental Clearance (PEC)

The Council also recognizes and will take into consideration projects that are entitled with Provisional Environmental Clearance (PEC). The Environmental Management (Environmental Impact Assessment and Audit) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018, stipulates that the Minister responsible for the environment may issue Provisional Environmental Clearance (PEC) to facilitate the process for the developer/proponent on the priority areas of investment. PEC is issued to project based on whether the project is: -

- i. An industry;
- ii. An agro-processing project; and
- iii. Any project of strategic nature with national or public interest as may be determined by the Minister.

PEC is non-renewable with validity that extends within four months from date of issuance. PEC aims at enabling the investor to prepare and mobilize resources before issuance of Environmental Certificate for the above-mentioned project

The Provisional Environmental Clearance (PEC) is only issued by the Minister if the developer or proponent has fulfilled the following conditions: -

- a. Registered the project with NEMC;
- b. Attached proof of land ownership from relevant authorities;
- c. Attached a proof that, a project site is not within or near the sensitive ecosystem areas;
- d. Attached a proof that, a project shall comply with appropriate land use plan as provided for by relevant authorities;
- e. Attached a proof that, the Council has conducted site verification; and
- f. Recommendations from the site visit team to the Minister for issuance of PEC.

The Developer of the project must abide to conditions attached to PEC and should know that, within a period of four months after the issuance of PEC must complete the Environmental Impact Assessment Study.

The Environmental and Social Assessment for all undertakings shall be completed before commencement of activities. In low-risk cases where inclusion in the initial proposal is not feasible, a timeline for completing the assessment before implementation shall be incorporated in the project agreement and reported through annual performance reports.

4.2 Environmental and Social Management Plan

Where the environmental and social assessment identifies environmental or social risks, the assessment shall be accompanied by an environmental and social management plan that identifies those measures necessary to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the potential environmental and social risks.

4.3 Risk Management During Implementation

Risks shall be re-screened at key milestones (commencement, mid-term, and any significant design changes). Adaptive management shall be applied; any new or emerging risks shall trigger immediate mitigation measures and reporting. Quarterly environmental and social monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Director of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement.

4.4 Public Disclosure and Consultation

The Council shall identify relevant stakeholders and ensure their early and meaningful participation in the planning and implementation of all undertakings. Stakeholders' engagement shall be conducted in a transparent and inclusive manner, taking into account gender considerations and the needs of vulnerable groups. All information shall be disclosed in a timely, accessible and culturally appropriate manner to ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement.

The Council shall ensure that draft and final environmental and social assessment reports, including Environmental and Social Management Plans, are disclosed to project-affected people and other stakeholders in a timely manner and in accessible formats and languages. Project performance reports, including the status of implementation of environmental and social measures, shall also be made publicly available through the Council's official website and other appropriate channels.

Any significant proposed changes to an undertaking during implementation that may have environmental or social implications shall be disclosed and followed by appropriate consultations with directly affected communities.

4.5 Grievance Redress Mechanism

The grievance mechanism shall be accessible, transparent, free of retaliation, and ensure timely and fair resolution of complaints.

All grievances shall be recorded, reviewed and resolved in accordance with the detailed procedures set out in the NEMC Environmental and Social Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Framework, 2026. This framework provides clear guidance on grievance submission channels, registration, screening, investigation, resolution timelines, appeals and protection from retaliation.

Grievances may be submitted through the NEMC Call Centre, zonal offices, official email (grm@nemc.or.tz), written correspondence or the NEMC website portal. Contact details for all zonal offices are provided in the GRM Framework.

5.0 AUDITING, MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

Environmental audits shall be conducted on all undertakings to assess environmental performance and compliance with this policy and national regulations. Audit reports shall include a clear statement of performance and recommended actions to sustain or improve indicators.

The Council shall carry out regular monitoring and evaluation of all projects and programmes. Monitoring and evaluation reports shall include:

- a. A dedicated section on the status of implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan;
- b. Progress on measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate identified risks;
- c. Any corrective actions taken; and
- d. Key performance indicators related to environmental and social safeguards.

Mid-term and terminal evaluation reports shall also evaluate the undertaking's overall performance with respect to environmental and social risks and impacts.

6.0 INSTITUTIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure effective implementation of this policy, the following roles and responsibilities are assigned:

- **Director General:** Provides overall leadership, accountability and approval for high-risk undertakings.
- **Director of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment:** Coordinates day-to-day implementation, including screening, assessment review and enforcement.
- **Environmental Inspectors and Zonal Offices:** Conduct screening, site verification, investigations and compliance monitoring.
- **Environmental and Social Unit:** Provides technical support for risk categorization, ESIA/ESMP review and adaptive management.
- **Project Proponents:** Prepare evidence-based environmental and social assessments and implement approved Environmental and Social Management Plans at their own cost.

7.0 POLICY REVIEW AND UPDATE

This policy shall be reviewed at least every five years, or earlier if significant legal changes occur, lessons are learned from implementation, or feedback from stakeholders or funding partners indicates the need for improvement. The review process shall incorporate stakeholder feedback, monitoring results and lessons learned to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with national and international best practices

APPROVAL

This Environmental and Social Policy has been reviewed and approved by the Governing Board of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) and is hereby adopted for implementation.

APPROVED BY:





Eng. Mwanasha R. Tumbo

Chairman of the Board

National Environment Management Council (NEMC)

Date: 27th March 2026