Public Disclosure Authorized

Public Disclosure Authorized
Public Disclosure

Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 08/11/2025 | Report No: ESRSA04416

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P506439	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	AFE WASH Access MPA	2026

Operation Name	Accelerating Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region

Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Eastern and Southern Africa	Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia, Federal Republic of, South Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia	EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA	Other

Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
AUDA NEPAD	AUDA-NEPAD	04-Aug-2025	25-Sep-2025

Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost
29-Jul-2025	15,600,000.00

Proposed Development Objective

The PDO for phase 1 is to improve governance and build institutional capacities for climate-resilient water supply and sanitation service delivery in the participating countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa (AFE) Region. The PrDO for the MPA is to increase access to climate-resilient drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene services in participating countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa (AFE) Region

B. Is the operation being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

The regional WASH Access MPA aims to increase access to at least basic WASH services at people's home, in schools and in health centers, following a common intervention framework across participating countries (country-level phases) and

Public Disclosure

through a regional WASH acceleration operation (regional phase). The MPA proposes an investments of around US$ 1.49 billion in IDA and US$ 0.24 billion in IBRD (Angola), aiming to leverage US$ 0.21 billion of Government financing, US$ 0.65 billion of other development partner financing, and US$ 0.26 billion of private capital financing, with the objective to reach around 30 million people with access to at least basic water and/or sanitation services. The MPA supports a "systems change" approach tailored to the context of each participating country. The MPA designed with four pillars, each with a different menu of activities and interventions: Pillar 1: Platforms to Accelerate Access to WASH : The national platform approach consolidates government-led efforts to achieve universal, sustainable WASH services by integrating funding and promoting cross-sectoral cooperation. National platforms, steered by political and sectoral leadership, will focus on the preparation and/or implementation of National WASH Investment Plans, as well as on policy development, and coordination and mobilization of various sources of financing, while emphasizing inclusivity and gender equality. Digital applications will be leveraged to enhance planning and transparency. Country-level implementation of WASH platforms will involve various government entities. Regional support is provided through benchmarking progress towards SDG6, facilitating knowledge exchange, and attract climate-focused financing to improve WASH access and environmental outcomes across Africa. The Regional WASH Platform (phase I), will serve as a catalyst for countries within the region to embrace more systematic approaches in scaling up access to WASH. Phase 1 aims to facilitate countries' progress in accelerating sustainable access to WASH, through capacity building, progress monitoring, while fostering knowledge sharing among participants. Additionally, the Regional WASH platform plays a pivotal role in providing incentives and mobilizing funds, all directed towards advancing the regional WASH agenda. Through these concerted efforts, phase 1 under the MPA seeks to drive meaningful and sustainable improvements in WASH access across the region. Pillar 2: Sector Governance Reforms: This pillar focuses on strategic governance reforms, addressing non-financial barriers, and enhancing regulatory oversight. It will provide incentives and technical assistances to conduct necessary governance and institutional reforms to improve the enabling environment and the efficiency of public investments to attract increased private sector capital. Sector reforms and their implementation will be informed through analytics and the deployment of tools like Public Expenditure and Institutional Reviews, and Water Sector Assessment Programs (Water SAPs) to identify bottlenecks and establish roadmaps for improvement. The approach includes designing incentive schemes to promote efficient capital expenditure and regulatory alignment, with a focus on decentralized government levels. Under the Regional WASH Platform (phase 1), regulators and policy makers will receive technical assistance to expand their capacities and mandates through regional twinning arrangements, knowledge exchange and technical assistance on governance reforms. Pillar 3: Service Providers Performance Improvement: This pillar focuses on enhancing WASH service delivery models by improving the sustainability of operations and service provision in both urban and rural areas. This pillar aims at improving the creditworthiness of urban utilities as well as the implementation of sustainable operations and maintenance (O&M) models in rural areas. It will support the development and implementation of Performance Improvement Action Plans (PIAPs) and Rural Water and Sanitation Service Professionalization Strategies (RWSSPS) to set medium-term objectives and improve operational and financial sustainability. The implementation of such plans and strategies will aim at reducing water losses and energy consumption, improving the operating ratio of utilities and rural service providers through increasing revenues, cost-efficiency measures, leveraging digitalization. It emphasizes the importance of synchronized strategies for service expansion and operational efficiency, particularly in sanitation, and may involve City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Plans and their implementation where relevant. Additionally, the pillar aims to ensure affordability and inclusion for low-income populations, promote citizen engagement, and improve service delivery through mechanisms like utility scorecards and closing customer feedback loops. Regional capacity building initiatives for utilities, rural service providers, city administrations and rural WASH agencies will be supported through the Regional WASH Platform (phase 1). Pillar 4: Leveraging Financing for Resilient Investments to expand WASH coverage: This pillar aims to leverage both

Public Disclosure

public and private financing to expand resilient water and sanitation infrastructure, focusing on investments in access expansion, including trunk investments, water supply networks, WASH facilities in schools and health centers, and rural sanitation programs. By working with IFC and MIGA, this pillar will finance WASH resilient infrastructure designed to withstand climatic shocks and aims to enable and mobilize private capital, for example through PPP transactions and risk mitigation instruments to mobilize commercial financing and equity. The pillar includes a range of resilience-building activities, WRM analysis and resilient infrastructure design support. Under phase 1 it includes Technical assistance for diagnostics and analysis that can enable private capital mobilization, as well as training and competency development for private sector participation. Moreover, it includes state-of-the art transboundary aquifer assessments and the development of transboundary groundwater / aquifer management plans for MPA countries.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

The Project is regional in scope, covering multiple countries across Eastern and Southern Africa under the WASH Multi-Phased Programmatic Approach (MPA). While the operation does not involve physical infrastructure or civil works, it provides technical assistance and capacity building that may inform and/or catalyze future country-level investments in the water and sanitation sector. As such, the project's environmental and social risks are primarily downstream and indirect, related to the influence of policy, planning, and investment preparation activities.

The project spans both urban and rural areas. It targets rural settings in particular through support for monitoring access to WASH services and building the capacity of rural water operators. Urban contexts are addressed through activities focused on utility performance improvement and regulatory strengthening. Because many participating countries include underserved and vulnerable communities, the project presents opportunities to promote inclusion, gender equality, and citizen engagement. While Indigenous Peoples are not explicitly mentioned, the regional scope and rural emphasis suggest a possibility of their presence in some participating areas.

Several countries in the target region are affected by fragility, conflict, or violence (FCV), and the project may operate in these contexts. Through its focus on strengthening institutions, governance, and regional coordination, the project offers opportunities to support stabilization and service delivery in FCV-affected settings.

The project's support for transboundary aquifer assessments, which are particularly relevant for groundwater-dependent rural populations and ecosystems, may take place in high-biodiversity or ecologically sensitive areas. While this contributes to long-term environmental sustainability and resilience, it also necessitates careful management of environmental risks such as impacts on hydrological services or water balance.

D.2 Overview of Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) is the implementing agency of the Accelerating Access to WASH Regional Project and possesses strong institutional credibility and extensive experience coordinating regional and continental initiatives. It has played a pivotal role in advancing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) agendas across Africa, including through policy advocacy, infrastructure development planning, and partnerships with key stakeholders such as the African Union Commission (AUC), African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), Eastern and Southern Africa Water and Sanitation Regulators Association (ESAWAS), and the Africa Investment Program onWater Secretariat.

While AUDA-NEPAD has successfully managed regional technical assistance (TA) and capacity-building projects with various multilateral and bilateral development partners, it has limited direct experience applying the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). At present, AUDA-NEPAD does not have a formal Environmental and Social

Public Disclosure

(E&S) unit or permanent E&S staff in place. However, the agency has demonstrated strong willingness to comply with ESF requirements and to develop its capacity accordingly, displayed at this stage by appointing an E&S focal point. AUDA-NEPAD has committed to recruiting a qualified environmental and social specialist as part of the PIU and will establish the necessary institutional arrangements to ensure effective oversight of E&S risk management.
Given the project's regional nature and its focus on downstream technical assistance that may lead to future infrastructure development, enhanced implementation support from the World Bank will be necessary, particularly during the early stages of project implementation. This support will focus on capacity building for ESF compliance, development of screening tools for TA outputs, and stakeholder engagement processes to ensure that environmental and social risks are appropriately identified, managed, and monitored throughout implementation. With these measures in place, AUDA-NEPAD is expected to develop the institutional capability to manage environmental and social risks and deliver the project in accordance with World Bank standards.

II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

The environmental risk rating is Moderate. Accelerating Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region (P506439) will finance Type 2 and Type 3 technical assistance activities, including support for policy, institutional, and regulatory reforms, benchmarking and sector diagnostics, capacity building, monitoring systems development, and preparation of investment frameworks and action plans. While the project does not finance physical infrastructure or civil works, the technical assistance outputs are intended to inform and catalyze future investments in WASH infrastructure at the national level. These downstream investments may include water supply, sanitation, and related services with potential environmental impacts. The key potential downstream environmental risks relate to environmental pollution, disruption to hydrological ecosystem services, impacts on water balance, and occupational and community health and safety. However, the overall environmental risk is considered moderate in nature, scale, and severity, as WASH-related civil works typically occur in already serviced or disturbed areas and are unlikely to result in large-scale or irreversible impacts. Furthermore, the project's regional focus on planning, performance improvement, and resource mobilization reduces the likelihood of immediate environmental impacts during implementation. Relevant environmental considerations will be embedded into the terms of reference (ToRs) for technical assistance activities to ensure consistency with the ESF. For subsequent country-level operations financed under the AFE WASH MPA, (Phases 2 to 13) environmental risks will be assessed independently and may receive different environmental risk classifications and require appropriate E&S instruments based on the specific nature and scope of those investments.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Moderate

Phase 1 activities of the program are mostly related to TA activities (Type 2 and 3) on improving governance, institutional capacities and resource mobilization for water and sanitation service delivery in the Eastern and Southern Africa (AFE) Region. The social risks stemming from these activities are of moderate nature. These are mostly related to: (i) potential exclusion from some socioeconomically vulnerable sections of the population from project benefits, including those experiencing economic hardship and those in geographically distant areas, particularly given the interest in improving the financial sustainability of the WASH operation, which could potentially

Public Disclosure

create incentives to avoid activities and sectors in the less cost-effective areas and sectors; (ii) potential opposition from some groups of stakeholders to some of the policy changes to be supported by the project, such as those concerned with potential increases in the cost of accessing WASH services for the final users after the improvements (particularly those activities that involve private capitals), or those with a vested interest in alternative uses of water, such as irrigation; (iii) other potential downstream social impacts of country-level WASH investment plans, to be supported by Phase 1, which will need to be assessed further once participating countries and activities are formally confirmed. The country-specific projects to be prepared and implemented in the context of the WASH MPA will each have their own assessment of social risks, and may have a different social risk classification and risk management instruments, as needed.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESS) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Relevant

The Accelerating Access to WASH Regional Project (Phase 1 of WASH AFE MPA, P506439) will primarily finance Type 2 and Type 3 technical assistance activities under four components: (i) strengthening regional and national WASH platforms; (ii) advancing policy, regulatory, and governance reforms; (iii) improving service delivery performance; and (iv) leveraging financing for climate-resilient WASH infrastructure. These activities will include regional and national-level capacity building, benchmarking, diagnostics, support for investment planning and coordination, regulatory strengthening, monitoring system design, and preparation of performance improvement action plans (PIAPs) for utilities. Relevant ESSs include ESS1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 10. While the project will not finance any physical infrastructure or civil works, the technical assistance outputs are intended to inform and influence downstream investments at the national level, including public-private partnerships (PPPs), utility performance programs, and infrastructure supported through subsequent MPA country-specific phases. As such, potential downstream environmental and social risks include: pollution related to sanitation infrastructure, over-extraction or contamination of water resources, adverse impacts on hydrological ecosystems, and community or occupational health and safety issues during construction or service delivery. These risks are considered moderate in magnitude, as most future interventions are likely to occur in existing or already disturbed service areas. The regional nature of the project and its focus on upstream reforms and systems strengthening further limit the likelihood of direct impacts. To mitigate these risks, the Borrower (AUDA-NEPAD) will prepare an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). Environmental and social considerations, including screening for downstream impacts and guidance for aligning future investments with ESF standards, will be embedded into the ToRs for all relevant technical assistance activities. As country-specific operations are identified and further prepared, environmental and social risks and impacts will be assessed individually, with appropriate risk classification and ESF instruments applied. Stakeholder engagement will remain central throughout implementation, particularly to ensure transparency, inclusion, and the integration of community perspectives into future investment planning.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure Relevant

Stakeholder engagement activities will play key role in the program to coordinate with various stakeholders to improve program's outcomes and identify potential opposition, particularly in relation to the expected regulatory changes to be supported by the project. A draft SEP has been prepared by AUDA-NEPAD, and consultations took

Public Disclosure

place on July 14 and July 17, 2025. As identified in the draft SEP, project's key stakeholders include Ministries responsible for Finance, infrastructure and WASH in MPA countries, regional and national water and sanitation service providers, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and various civil society organizations. The draft SEP was disclosed by NEPAD on July 23, 2025.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions Relevant

ESS2 is relevant to the project activities, as the project will engage various categories of workers, primarily direct workers (e.g., AUDA-NEPAD project staff, technical experts) and contracted workers (e.g., consultants, firms, facilitators) to support the delivery of Type 2 and 3 technical assistance activities. These activities include policy and institutional diagnostics, national and regional benchmarking, capacity building, technical support to WASH regulators and utilities, development of monitoring and information systems, and facilitation of transboundary aquifer assessments. The project will not finance any civil works; therefore, labor risks related to construction activities are not expected during this phase. There may be limited occupational health and safety (OHS) risks associated with travel, in-person facilitation of workshops, field-level diagnostics (e.g., site visits for aquifer mapping or utility assessments), and data collection in remote or rural areas. Additionally, TA outputs may inform downstream infrastructure projects in future phases of the WASH AFE MPA, where labor-intensive civil works may occur and OHS issues become more prominent. While those downstream risks are beyond the scope of this phase, the project will embed guidance in technical assistance ToRs to ensure that labor management and OHS are addressed in follow-on operations. Labor Management Procedures (LMP) requirements will be reflected as part of ESCP.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management Relevant

ESS3 is relevant to the Project activities, given that the project will finance upstream technical assistance (TA) activities that may lead to future infrastructure investments with potential environmental implications. While no physical infrastructure or civil works will be financed under this phase, the project includes a range of Type 2 and 3 TA activities, including the development of national WASH investment plans, policy and regulatory reforms, transboundary aquifer assessments, and support for PPPs and utility performance improvement plans, which are expected to shape downstream water supply and sanitation infrastructure in participating countries. The potential downstream environmental risks associated with these TA activities relate to resource efficiency and pollution prevention, particularly if future investments result in: (i) excessive or inefficient water abstraction; (ii) impacts on water balance and recharge rates of groundwater systems; (iii) poor waste management practices in sanitation infrastructure; or (iv) improper handling or disposal of hazardous materials (e.g., from septic sludge, treatment chemicals, or construction waste). Additionally, downstream investments may increase energy consumption or generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions if not designed with resource efficiency in mind. To address these potential risks, the project will integrate environmental and social considerations into all relevant ToRs for TA activities, particularly those that guide policy, investment planning, and infrastructure-related diagnostics. Specific screening tools, such as an Environmental and Social Screening Form and an exclusion list, will be developed and applied during project implementation. These tools will help ensure that any proposed activities with significant resource consumption or pollution risks are flagged and addressed at an early stage.

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety Relevant

Public Disclosure

ESS4 is relevant to the Project activities, given that the project will finance a suite of technical assistance (TA) activities that may indirectly influence future WASH infrastructure investments across participating countries. While the project will not support any civil works or activities with direct environmental or physical footprints, the TA outputs, such as support for national investment planning, regulatory reform, transboundary aquifer assessments, and utility performance improvement, are explicitly designed to catalyze future infrastructure development in the water and sanitation sectors. Potential downstream community health and safety risks associated with these future investments include: (1) Inappropriate disposal of wastewater and sanitation-related waste, which could lead to contamination of local water bodies and the spread of waterborne or vector-borne diseases; (2) Degradation of potable water sources due to runoff or leaching from poorly managed WASH facilities; (3) Impacts on community water access and equity, especially in water-scarce or shared-resource settings; (4) Public exposure to hazardous or untreated waste, including sludge from on-site sanitation systems or chemicals used in water treatment; and (5) Risks to vulnerable groups, including women, children, and those with limited access to grievance mechanisms. Although minimal, SEA/SH risks may also arise from the deployment of consultants and facilitators for TA delivery, training, and engagement activities, especially where in-person interactions take place across regions and stakeholder groups. To mitigate these risks, AUDA-NEPAD will prepare a SEP to guide inclusive and transparent engagement, and raise awareness of rights and responsibilities related to service design and delivery. LMP requirements will be reflected as part of ESCP. Community health and safety considerations will be integrated into the ToRs for all relevant TA activities, particularly for those involving utility reform, sanitation planning, and infrastructure-related advisory services. These ToRs will promote upstream screening of health-related risks, identification of mitigation measures, and adoption of climate- and hazard-resilient design principles for downstream infrastructure.

ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement Not Currently Relevant

TA activities will not involve any land acquisition, physical and/or economic displacement.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources Relevant

ESS6 is relevant to the project activities, as the technical assistance (TA) activities to be financed may influence future infrastructure and water resource management decisions that could potentially affect biodiversity and natural habitats. Although the project itself will not finance any physical infrastructure or civil works, it includes Type 2 and 3 technical assistance across several components, such as investment planning, transboundary aquifer assessments, and performance improvement plans for utilities, that are intended to inform and enable downstream WASH investments in participating countries. One of the most direct linkages to ESS6 is through Component 4, which supports transboundary aquifer assessments in collaboration with IGAD and SADC-GMI. These assessments may involve data collection and diagnostics in ecologically sensitive or biodiversity-rich regions, particularly where aquifers intersect with wetlands, river basins, or protected areas. Additionally, future downstream WASH infrastructure, if located in or near natural habitats, could lead to habitat disturbance, degradation of ecosystem services, or impacts on aquatic and terrestrial species if not appropriately planned and managed. Improper siting of sanitation infrastructure, over-extraction of water resources, or pollution from mismanaged wastewater could further contribute to indirect impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem health. While these risks are downstream in nature and beyond the scope of the regional TA operation itself, the project will play an important role in mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into sector planning, diagnostics, and investment guidance. To mitigate potential impacts, the Borrower (AUDA-NEPAD) will integrate ESS6 principles into ToRs for all relevant TA activities. This includes

Public Disclosure

encouraging ecosystem-based approaches, promoting the protection of natural habitats in WASH investment planning, and requiring environmental screening tools to assess biodiversity sensitivity when preparing or advising on infrastructure options. Where relevant, biodiversity-sensitive approaches to source protection and water security will also be promoted in transboundary groundwater management work.

ESS7 - Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities — Relevant

Although no significant and/or direct impacts from the project are expected, ESS7 contributes to poverty reduction and sustainable development by ensuring that projects supported enhance opportunities for SSHUTLCs and VMG communities to participate in, and benefit from, the development process. The SEP (section 3.3. Disadvantaged/vulnerable individuals or groups) includes reference to these groups such as Indigenous, ethnic and pastoral communities and the need to ensure recognition of traditional water rights and uses (e.g. respect for customary governance of surface and ground water resources). Consultations throughout project implementation will play an important role, and this standard is deemed relevant at this stage to ensure broader stakeholder engagement and inclusion.

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage — Not Currently Relevant

ESS8 is not currently relevant to the project activities. The project will support regional technical assistance activities only and will not finance any civil works, physical infrastructure, or land-based interventions that would involve ground disturbance, excavations, or changes to existing structures. As such, there is no expected risk of direct impact on tangible or intangible cultural heritage during the implementation of this phase. The project activities will primarily focus on upstream support through analytical work, policy and institutional reform, investment planning, performance benchmarking, and capacity building at both national and regional levels. These activities will be delivered through technical assistance, workshops, training, and advisory services, which are not expected to interact with or affect cultural heritage sites or practices. However, while ESS8 is not deemed relevant under this TA-focused regional phase, there remains a possibility that future downstream investments informed by the project, such as WASH infrastructure to be developed in country-specific follow-on operations, may have potential implications for cultural heritage. Therefore, to manage this possibility, the ToRs for relevant technical assistance activities will encourage screening for cultural heritage considerations and alignment with ESS8 in future planning and design processes. If any country-specific investments are later identified to have potential impacts on cultural heritage, ESS8 would be applied and appropriate due diligence measures would be required under those operations.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries — Not Currently Relevant

ESS9 on Financial Intermediaries is not currently relevant to the Accelerating Access to WASH Regional Project, Phase 1 of the MPA. The project will not channel funds through commercial banks, microfinance institutions, investment funds, or other financial intermediary (FI) entities that would be responsible for allocating resources to subprojects. Instead, the project will be implemented directly by AUDA-NEPAD and its technical partners through the provision of technical assistance, capacity building, and regional knowledge-sharing activities.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

Public Disclosure

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways	Yes
OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas	No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework No

The Borrower's Environmental and Social Framework will not be used. Instead, the project will be implemented in full compliance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). This decision is based on the nature of the project as a regional technical assistance operation, the cross-border scope, and the fact that the Borrower, AUDA-NEPAD, is a continental-level regional institution and not a national government. As such, there is no unified, national legal and institutional framework to apply consistently across all participating countries.

Furthermore, AUDA-NEPAD does not currently operate its own environmental and social policy framework for environmental and social risk management of their operation that is equivalent in substance or implementation to the World Bank's ESF. While AUDA-NEPAD works closely with member states, RECs, and various development partners, its internal environmental and social policies and procedures are still under development and do not provide a structured system for screening, assessment, mitigation, and monitoring of E&S risks and impacts equivalent to the ESF.

Below is a summary by relevant Environmental and Social Standard:

ESS1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts
i) There is no existing AUDA-NEPAD policy framework equivalent to ESS1 for systematic risk screening, classification, stakeholder engagement, or E&S instrument preparation.
ii) AUDA-NEPAD has limited prior experience implementing the ESF or equivalent safeguard systems under IFI-financed projects.
iii) Gap-filling measures include preparation of SEP, ToRs with ESF-compliant language for TA activities, and development of screening tools and exclusion list for downstream risks.

ESS2: Labor and Working Conditions
i) AUDA-NEPAD has internal administrative rules and staff regulations for employment but lacks a comprehensive labor management system aligned with ESS2.
ii) There is no formal grievance mechanism for contracted workers or structured monitoring of occupational health and safety (OHS) risks.
iii) Labor Management Procedures requirements are embedded as part of the ESCP.

ESS3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management
i) AUDA-NEPAD does not have a dedicated institutional mandate or policy instruments for managing resource efficiency, pollution, or emissions across its programs.
ii) Capacity to evaluate water use efficiency, pollution prevention, or waste management practices is limited and will rely on sectoral experts and consultants.
iii) TA ToRs will be designed to incorporate ESS3 considerations, and an E&S screening form and exclusion list will be developed for activities with potential pollution or resource-use implications.

Public Disclosure

ESS4: Community Health and Safety
i) AUDA-NEPAD does not have an established framework for managing community health and safety risks associated with project activities.
ii) There are no institutional procedures for assessing downstream impacts related to WASH infrastructure or community exposure to health risks.
iii) ToRs for relevant technical assistance will incorporate ESS4 provisions, and project-supported guidance will promote safe, inclusive, and resilient infrastructure planning in downstream operations.

ESS6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources
i) While AUDA-NEPAD engages in natural resource programs at the continental level, it does not have a standardized framework to assess or manage risks to biodiversity as required under ESS6.
ii) AUDA-NEPAD does not currently screen for ecological sensitivity in TA design or investment planning activities.
iii) Biodiversity considerations will be embedded in ToRs and environmental screening tools, particularly for transboundary aquifer assessments and infrastructure-related guidance.

ESS10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure
i) AUDA-NEPAD has broad experience in stakeholder consultation and convening regional actors but lacks a formal stakeholder engagement framework aligned with ESS10.
ii) There is no established grievance redress mechanism (GRM) at the institutional level tailored to project-level implementation.
iii) A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will be prepared, including a project-level GRM, and provisions for inclusive, gender-sensitive, and transparent consultation practices across regions.

Use of Common Approach No

None

Public Disclosure

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by implementation?

The following instruments will be prepared and disclosed by Appraisal:
- Draft Environment and Social Commitments Plan (ESCP).
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), including a grievance mechanism sensitive to SEA/SH.

III. CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Task Team Leader:	Victor Vazquez Alvarez	Title:	Senior Water Specialist
Email:	vvazquez@worldbank.org		

TTL Contact:	Nishtha Mehta	Job Title:	Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist
Email:	nmehta1@worldbank.org		
TTL Contact:	Susanna Smets	Job Title:	Senior Water Specialist
Email:	ssmets@worldbank.org		

IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: http://www.worldbank.org/projects

V. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Victor Vazquez Alvarez, Nishtha Mehta, Susanna Smets
ADM Environmental Specialist:	Min Ji Sohn
ADM Social Specialist:	Aimonchok Tashieva

Public Disclosure