



GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT WATERS AND FORESTS

Project Management Unit "Integrated Nutrients Pollution Control"

ENVIROMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (ESMF)

For

Rural Pollution Prevention & Reduction Project (RAPID)

First version: 15 November, 2022
Revised version: 27 December, 2022

Table of contents

ABREVIATION AND ACRONYMS	4
GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS	5
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
I.1. Project Background	6
I.2. Project components	6
I.3. Project implementation	6
I.4. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)	6
I.5. Potential Key Environmental and Social Impacts.....	7
I.6. Implementation of the ESMF	7
I.7. Grievance Mechanism	7
I.8. Public consultations and Disclosure	7
II. INTRODUCTION	8
II.1. Environmental and Social Baseline.....	8
II.2. Project Objective	9
II.3. Project Components	9
III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT	13
III.1. Socio-economic context of targeted area	13
III.2. Environmental Context	14
IV. NATIONAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK	17
IV.1. Policy, Legal and Regulatory Framework	17
IV.2. Social key national legal provisions.....	17
IV.3. Environmental key national legal provisions	18
V. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL FRAMEWORK	21
V.1. The World Bank regulation	21
V.2. The Romanian regulation.....	21
VI. POTENTIAL E&S RISKS AND IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES	23
VI.1. Environmental and social assessment of project activities.....	23
VI.2. Environment risks and impacts	23
VII. OVERALL INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY	36
VII.1. Overall Institutional responsibility.....	36
VII.2. Monitoring and reporting.....	37
VII.3. Overview of Labor Use on the Project	37

VII.4. Assessment of Key Potential Labor Risks.....	38
VII.5. Brief Overview of Labor Legislation	39
VII.6. Responsible Staff.....	40
VII.7. Policies and Procedures	41
VII.8. Age of Employment.....	42
VII.9. Terms and Conditions	42
VII.10. Grievance Mechanism	42
VII.11. Contractor Management	43
VIII. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT	44
VIII.1. Stakeholder Engagement Plan.....	44
VIII.2. Grievance and redress mechanism (GRM).....	44
VIII.3. Public consultations	45
IX. ANNEXES.....	46
IX.1. National Legal and Regulatory Framework.....	46
IX.2. Environmental and Social Screening Checklist.....	49
IX.3. Public Consultations	50
IX.5. Sample Site-Specific ESMP/ESMP Checklist	54

ABREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

APIA	Paying agency for Financing Direct Payments
AFIR	Paying agency for Rural Development Grants
ANAR	National Administration Romanian Waters
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
EDG	European Green Deal
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GoR	Government of Romania
INPCP	Integrated Nutrients Pollution Control Project
KTN	Knowledge Transfer Networks
LILF	Directorate of Land Improvements and Land Fund of the MARD
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MADR	Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
MEWF	Minister of Environment, Waters and Forests
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPA	National Phyto-sanitary Authority
NRRP	National Recovery and Resilience Plan
POM	Project operational manual
PAPs	Project-affected parties/ persons
PDO	Project Development Objective
PMU	Project Management Unit
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
WB	World Bank

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Affected Communities - Refers to groups of people living in close proximity to a project that could potentially be impacted by a project ("Stakeholders," in contrast, refers to the broader group of people and organizations with an interest in the project).

Consultation - The process of gathering information or advice from stakeholders and taking these views into account when making project decisions and/or setting targets and defining strategies.

Engagement - A process in which a company builds and maintains constructive and sustainable relationships with stakeholders impacted over the life of a project. This is part of a broader "stakeholder engagement" strategy, which also encompasses governments, civil society, employees, suppliers, and others with an interest in the Project.

Grievance Redress Mechanism - a process for receiving, evaluating, and addressing project-related complaints from citizens, stakeholders, and other affected communities.

Non-governmental Organizations - Private organizations, often not-for-profit, that facilitate community development, local capacity building, advocacy, and environmental protection.

Stakeholders - Persons or groups who are directly or indirectly affected by a project, as well as those who may have interests in a project and/or the ability to influence its outcome, either positively or negatively (IFC's Handbook on Stakeholder Engagement (2007)); workers, local communities directly affected by the project and other stakeholders not directly affected by the project but that have an interest in it, e.g. local authorities, neighbouring projects, and/or nongovernmental organizations, etc.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan - A plan which assists investors with effectively engaging with stakeholders throughout the life of the project and specifying activities that will be implemented to manage or enhance engagement.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I.1. Project Background

The Project Development Objective is to strengthen the institutional capacity of selected public entities to monitor pollution from agriculture, and to transfer knowledge on agricultural pollution reduction for adoption by participating farmers.

I.2. Project components

This project has three components. **The first component:** *Modernization of Public Institutions in Charge of Pollution Control* will focus on strengthening administrative capacity within the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Forests (MEWF), their subordinated National Administration Romanian Waters (ANAR), the National Phytosanitary Authority (NFA) subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Directorate of Land Improvements and Land Fund (LILF) of the MARD as well as other national, regional, and county agencies involved with pollution reduction from agricultural sources. **The second component** is *Knowledge-Sharing, Awareness and Information/Innovation Transfer for Farmers*. Here, demonstration farms will be selected with support of the farmer associations and strengthened to showcase best practice examples on reduction of nutrient pollution and good farming practices and for promoting innovation. Based on the role model farms and farmers organization networks, enhanced national knowledge transfer networks (KTNs) will be developed, for the prevention and reduction of pollution from agricultural sources. **The third component** relates to project management, supporting the PMU with project management, implementation, monitoring, reporting, evaluation, and environmental and social impact assessment and management.

I.3. Project implementation

The Project will be implemented by the existing Project Management Unit (INPCP-PMU) located within the MEWF, building on their extensive experience with World Bank projects. The present PMU-staff and their functions will carry-over, guaranteeing continuity. Additionally, the coordination and operational capacity of the existing PMU will be enhanced by supplemental staff and consultants including the hiring of an Environment and a Social expert. While the PMU has experience with Safeguards policies, this project will be the first application of the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework. Through component 3, the project has made provisions for capacity building and allocation of resources covering environment and social risk management under the ESF. Further, the PMU will have an extended role in ensuring the coordination of all interventions and monitoring all project activities. This will involve a revision of the PMU procedures for clarifying the coordination mechanism between PMU, the beneficiaries and other institutions involved.

I.4. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

The Project is financed by the World Bank through an Investment Project Financing Instrument; therefore, the Bank requires that all environmental and social risks and impacts of the project to be addressed in accordance with the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The ESMF is an instrument that captures the applicable standards under the

ESF, sets out the principles, rules, guidelines and procedures which should be considered in the implementation of Project activities. The document includes information on the area in which the project is expected to be implemented, including any potential environmental and social vulnerabilities, as well as potential impacts that may occur and the mitigation measures expected to be used

I.5. Potential Key Environmental and Social Impacts

The overall Environmental and Social risk rating for this Project is moderate. This ESMF details the potential risks based on project activities and proposes mitigation measures.

I.6. Implementation of the ESMF

PMU will allocate human and financial resources to managing and implementing the ESMF. One dedicated social specialist and one dedicated environment specialist will be hired, to be primarily responsible for ESMF implementation. Six of the ten ESS are relevant for this project: ESS1 (Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts); ESS2 (Labor and Working Conditions); ESS3 (Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management); ESS4 (Community Health and Safety); ESS5 (Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement); and ESS10 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure).

I.7. Grievance Mechanism

The grievance mechanism will be established and implemented by the Borrower to receive and facilitate resolution on concerns and grievances addressed by project-affected parties related the environmental and social performance of the project in a timely manner.

The grievance mechanism is an accessible and inclusive system that receives and acts upon complaints and suggestions in a timely manner and provides project-affected parties with redress and feedback to.

The grievance mechanism will be accessible to all stakeholders and user-friendly. The Project affected parties will be able to raise concerns and grievances via mail, fax, email, the Project website and social media accounts. These channels are also mandatory according to the Romanian legislation on public access to the decision-making process and free access to public information.

I.8. Public consultations and Disclosure

As per Romanian legislation and WB ESF, public consultation and disclosure of all relevant information in relation to project is an integral part of this project. Relevant stakeholders have been identified throughout the SEP and engagement and consultation actions have been proposed for all processes that involve E&S risks identification and mitigation.

II. INTRODUCTION

II.1. Environmental and Social Baseline

Most Romanian farmers lack awareness of environmental impacts and knowledge of pollution prevention. In case of the agri-environmental and climatic measure (M10) of the National Rural Development Program (NRDP) 2014-2020, just 65,000 farmers committed to sustainable practices. As only 7.73 percent (1.13 million ha) of the total utilized agriculture area (UAA) are under commitment of the agri-environmental and climatic measures within the EU CAP, the possibility to widely apply good farming practices that foster environmental stewardship needs strengthening. While smaller farms traditionally employ more traditional practices and use fewer pesticides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizer, they also have less knowledge of appropriate use of agricultural inputs. Especially (semi-) subsistence farms which lack a clearly defined professional status with limited knowledge of environmental standards and implications thereof. The abolishment of the agriculture-specialized secondary schools in 1995 supports the poor education levels for those who operate Romanian farmland. This is also reflected in the fact that most Romanian farmers lack the set of skills that any given profession is associated with. With the dissolution of the National Agency for Agricultural Consultancy (ANCA) and unfinished transition towards agricultural chambers (2010 to date), Romanian farmers are also missing out on training opportunities with regards to the technological transfer and applying state-of-the-art environmental practices. While regional centers remained and some training takes place, Romanian farmers miss out on the effective delivery of advisory services that should teach them good farming practices, environmental stewardship, inform them on market opportunities, and raise awareness on environmental threats. As a result, some Romanian farmers still follow inappropriate farming practices, such as mal application of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, or disposal of animal waste and manure onto their fields, often along waterways without realizing the impact on human health or the environment.

Pollution from unsustainable agricultural practices has several roots. Romanian agriculture made some advances towards reducing its carbon footprint over the last decades. A reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 53 percent during the 1989-2011 period correlates with the decline of cattle numbers and reduction of synthetic fertilizer¹. As the release of methane gases have stabilized, other pollutants from agricultural sources come to the fore that have a concerning impact on environmental health and the socio-economic benefits of the rural population of Romania:

- a) **Nutrient pollutants remain a threat for the environment.** Romanian farmers still rely heavily on organic fertilizers, of which 90 percent are sourced at farm-level (mainly in small-sized pig and mixed farms). Some parts of Romania are still facing significant levels of groundwater nitrates and agriculture is estimated to account for 50 percent of the nutrient pollution in groundwater. Improper manure management coupled with scarce wastewater treatment facilities at municipal level contribute to this challenge. While the total levels of ammonia emissions contributing to air quality in Romania remained stable since 2010, the EU-27 average can showcase a downward trend.

¹ Ministry of Environment: Romania's Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1989-2011, National Inventory Report, May 2013.

Romania is considered a high-risk of non-compliance with the National Emission Reduction Commitments Directive (NECD)². Of the total reported ammonia emissions in Romania, 89 percent come from the agriculture sector³.

- b) **Various additional agriculture-sourced pollutants persist.** Antibiotics are still widely applied in the Romanian livestock sector, another example of water pollution from agricultural sources. While sales of these antimicrobials have slightly decreased, they are still used mainly in sheep and goat production, followed by cattle, poultry, and pigs. Overall, the livestock and meat industry is still suffering from subpar animal waste management. The lack of standardized processes dealing with transportation, storage, and proper treatment of animal by-products commonly leads to unwanted disposal of animal waste to the detriment of the environment. The environmental exposure to active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in Romanian rivers belongs to Europe's highest⁴. Pesticide sales have remained stable during the last decade, but Romania's frequent emergency authorization of plant protection products and the lack of control on the implementation of the integrated pest management contributes to pollution in the rural space.

Since EU accession, Romania's environment has achieved progress. During the last 15 years, Romania has taken a more aggressive stance towards environmental protection, driven mainly by transposing the environmental *Acquis Communautaire*. As an example, Romania recorded successes towards the defined standards stipulated in the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and especially in addressing the EU Nitrates Directive that aims at protecting the quality of ground and surface waters against pollution from agricultural sources. Most surface water bodies are in good or moderate ecological status and 2 percent of surface water are of poor chemical status⁵. While ground water bodies showcase abundant quantities, 10.5 percent of groundwater bodies still fail to achieve good chemical status⁶.

II.2. Project Objective

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen the institutional capacity of selected public entities to monitor pollution from agriculture, and to transfer knowledge on agricultural pollution reduction for adoption by participating farmers.

II.3. Project Components

² The National Reduction Commitment Directive defines reductions targets for Romanian ammonia of -13% by 2020 and -25% by 2030.

³ European Commission: Commission recommendations for Romania's CAP strategic plan, SWD(2020) 391 final, 18.12.2020.

⁴ Wilkinson, Boxall, Kolpin, et al.: Pharmaceutical pollution of the world's rivers. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, December 10, 2021.

⁵ European Commission: Commission recommendations for Romania's CAP strategic plan, SWD(2020) 391 final, 18.12.2020

⁶ The chemical status refers to Pb, Cd, Ni, Cr, Cu, and Zn.

The Project will benefit the whole territory of Romania and will be comprised of the following three components: (i) Modernization of Public Institutions in Charge of Pollution Control; (ii) Knowledge-Sharing, Awareness and Information/Innovation Transfer for Farmers; and (iii) Project management.

Component 1: Modernization of Public Institutions in Charge of Pollution Control. This component will focus on strengthening administrative capacity within the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Forests (MEWF), their subordinated National Administration Romanian Waters (ANAR), the National Phytosanitary Authority (NFA) subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Directorate of Land Improvements and Land Fund (LILF) of the MARD, as well as other national, regional, and county agencies involved with pollution reduction from agricultural sources. Going beyond the support provided for nutrient pollution in the INPCP, investments on equipment, technologies, and software will be targeted that are needed to address the agricultural pollutants. Good governance and a strong regulatory framework at national or regional level is of paramount importance for monitoring and pollution prevention and reduction.

Subcomponent 1.1: Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of MEWF for NRRP.

This subcomponent would support MEWF's monitoring and evaluation administrative capacity for the NRRP agricultural waste management component, at both, local and central levels. That is, the decentralized administrative capacity at level of the mayoralties for the implementation and the existing institutional capacity of the MEWF will be strengthened to leverage the absorption of NRRP investments by providing technical assistance and consultancy services for monitoring and evaluating the NRRP investments, including IT (software) development necessary for M&E and reporting.

Subcomponent 1.2: Enhancing the National Capacity for Monitoring, Prevention and Reduction of Pollution from Agricultural Sources in Rural Areas. In alignment with the targets defined in the EU Farm to Fork Strategy and going beyond investments carried out on nutrient pollution in the INPCP, this subcomponent will support:

- A) **Strengthening the institutional capacity of ANAR** (subordinated agency of the MEWF) with investments on (i) state-of-the-art monitoring equipment and an integrated database with hard- and software (including servers) that will replace the inefficient fragmented databases of the 11 River Basin Management office and support the Water Agency in monitoring the quality of surface and groundwater bodies, providing an early-warning-system in case of rising pollution and EU-compliant reporting, (ii) equipment for the laboratories to ensure sampling and testing of pesticides, antimicrobials, heavy metals, and other pollutants; (iii) training services of the personnel from the water quality laboratories of ANAR in the determination of nutrients and water sampling, to improve the institutional capacity of ANAR for monitoring and reporting in accordance with Directive 676/91/EEC.
- B) **Strengthening the institutional capacity of the National Phytosanitary Authority - NFA** (subordinated agency of the MARD) through targeted investments on (i) a national network to improve surveillance and alert system (collection of weather data) on plant diseases and pests, for an integrated pest management and sustainable use of

pesticides that will lead to a system of automatic recommendations on the type and volume of pesticides, (ii) mobile laboratories for inspection and calibration of pesticides field-application equipment, in order to reduce losses and prevent spreading, (iii) equipment for strengthening the laboratories capacity for pesticide use that will improve the detection and identification of plant diseases and pests, and (iv) digital technologies, such as databases and IT applications to track the movement of pesticides, ensuring traceability of pesticides to strengthen the sustainable use, monitoring, and reporting capacity.

- C) **Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Directorate of Land Improvements and Land Fund (LILF) of MARD** through: (i) a diagnostic analysis of the situation in the Romanian agriculture sector in order to strengthen the management and integration of environmental related qualitative and quantitative data / information, and thus build institutional capacity for monitoring and reporting in accordance with EU and international obligations; (ii) software development for integrated collection, processing, analyzing, mapping, and reporting of data; the software will draw from MARD's various interfaces with other entities and their existing databases: from NFA with regards to traceability of pesticides, from the animal identification and registration system and from the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (ANSVSA) for fertilizers and antibiotics; the software will also record data on emissions (e.g. ammonia, nitrogen oxides etc.) and include data modelling in order to generate and transmit inter-institutional reports; (iii) consultancy services and trainings for the developed software and digital technologies.

Component 2: Knowledge-Sharing, Awareness and Information/Innovation Transfer for Farmers. Demonstration farms will be selected with support of the farmer associations and strengthened to showcase best practice examples on reduction of nutrient pollution and good farming practices.

Subcomponent 2.1: Demonstrating role model farms and promoting innovation. An initiative will be financed to support the upgrade/modernization of existing farms (member of a farmers' organization) for demonstration purposes. These farms shall function as a role model to showcase different aspects of comprehensive pollution management that is: collection, storage, composting, application of manure and chemical fertilizers, use of modern field machinery for pesticides application, practices for reduced emissions and reduced losses of fertilizers and pesticides, climate change mitigation and adaptation. The financed interventions at farm level will sustain investments for environment protection while also increasing capacity and productivity. The envisaged investments will include, but not limited to facilities, equipment, and machinery that will lead to the prevention and reduction of pollution of nitrates, ammonia, pesticides, antimicrobials, while enhancing energy efficiency.

This subcomponent will also pilot and promote innovations of pollution mitigation and prevention solutions in rural areas, drawing from national and international best practices, promoting technical collaboration, and building capacity among agricultural entrepreneurs, research, eco-businesses, and the hosts of innovation. Demonstration

facilities will function as training sites, thus should be available for mutual learning and sharing of knowledge. The demonstration farms shall also be used as model for investments financed under the CAP.

Subcomponent 2.2: Establishing national knowledge transfer networks. Based on the role model farms and the farmers organization networks, enhanced national knowledge networks will be developed, to mitigate the agricultural pollution. The investments in networks and their training programs will function as a hub for advisory services, contributing to knowledge transfer on conditionalities, eco-schemes, organic farming, agri-environmental farming, farm environmental infrastructure and eco-innovations.

Subcomponent 2.3: Awareness Campaign. Informing the public, notably the rural population, on the various types of pollutants in Romania, their economic and environmental impact, and the Project's various investments (including the NRRP financed), prevention and reduction activities will be subject of an information campaign. Showcasing best-practices of farmers and rural households in certain regions and sharing experiences with the remainder of the country will support the campaign. With the aim to achieve behavioural changes, a comprehensive awareness campaign will be prepared for prevention and reduction of pollution from agriculture. The wide public will be targeted with messages for promoting the sustainable consumption and nutritious and healthy food.

Component 3: Project Management. Supporting the PMU with Project management, implementation, monitoring, reporting, evaluation, and environmental and social impact assessment and management through the provision of: (i) funds for incremental operating costs and for the acquisition of goods; (ii) PMU (staff) salaries for Project implementation; (iii) consultant and non-consultant services including the World Bank's new Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) for supervision, monitoring, and financial audit; and (iv) capacity building/training.

This will involve a revision of the PMU procedures for clarifying the coordination mechanism between PMU, the beneficiaries and other institutions involved. In addition, necessary capacity building on the World Bank's new ESF standards will be supported by the Project.

III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

III.1. Socio-economic context of targeted area

Romania's EU membership has triggered a positive socio-economic transformation. Since EU accession in 2007, Romania has benefitted from free movement of capital and labour on the single market, leading to a paradigm shift in societal changes and modernization of the economy. EU membership has helped reduce the rate of poverty; however, its growth is not inclusive as a large share of the Romanians in the bottom 40 percent of the income distribution continues to be overwhelmingly concentrated in low-productivity subsistence agriculture. Between 2014 and 2019, the share of Romanians living on less than \$6.85-a-day (2017 PPP) declined rapidly from 30.0 percent to 11.3 percent on the back of strong national- and EU-level labor markets. However, not all Romanians in the bottom 40 percent of the income distribution have been able to benefit from the strong economic growth.

Poverty reduction is progressing while inclusion problems persist in rural areas. Romania remains one of the poorest countries in the EU. Romania's inclusion challenge is predominantly a rural problem, with 70 percent of the poor population is living in rural areas; with women, Roma and the elderly overrepresented among the poorest. Romania has the second highest urban-rural income gap in the EU where the average urban income is almost 50 percent higher than the average rural income⁷. Access to basic services such as piped water, sanitation, internet, or electricity are still scarce in rural Romania. The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has further disproportionately affected the poor and the most vulnerable, and also brought long-term effects on Romania's human capital. Disparities in endowments, notably in human capital, have led to high levels of social and regional variations, above all, a striking urban-rural gap in living standards. Low wages and limited job opportunities have created stable patterns of poverty in Romania's rural areas, resulting in outmigration, led above all by the younger generation. Still, nearly 5 percent of Romania's population live in extreme poverty in marginalized areas with low human capital, high unemployment, limited health services, and inadequate housing conditions. The current state of physical infrastructure is impeding the development of rural areas in Romania: only 15 percent of communal roads are modernized, only 40 percent of rural households have regular access to drinking water, and sewerage services are in high need of construction and repair. In addition, the poor state of education services in rural areas add to the dilemma.

Institutional and policy constraints hinder social inclusion and poverty reduction. The high political and legislative volatility together with an incomplete institutional transition have limited Romania's ability to boost economic growth, implement key EU policies, and strengthen equality across the nation. The main institutional deficiencies are characterized by fragmentation of sector responsibilities, which lead to diffuse accountability and poor coordination. Capacity constraints in project planning and implementation result in investment delays. The financial market is shallow, preventing the mobilization of sufficient

⁷ World Bank, Country Partnership Framework for Romania for the Period 2019-2023, 2018.

resources for sustained economic growth. The overall business environment remains unstable, a direct consequence of institutional failures. Romania is ranked 55th in Doing Business 2020, yet frequent changes in the fiscal code, limited dialogue between the public and private sector, and short response time for businesses to respond to political decisions. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) tend to be more affected by the regulatory burden, limiting their efforts in enhancing innovation and productivity, and thus to improve Romania's competitiveness and EU convergence.

III.2. Environmental Context

Since EU accession, Romania's environment has achieved progress. During the last 15 years, Romania has taken a more aggressive stance towards environmental protection, driven mainly by transposing the environmental EU *Acquis*. As an example, Romania recorded successes towards the defined standards stipulated in the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and especially in addressing the EU Nitrates Directive that aims at protecting the quality of ground and surface waters against pollution from agricultural sources. Most surface water bodies are in good or moderate ecological status and 2 percent of surface water are of poor chemical status⁸. While ground water bodies showcase abundant quantities, 10.5 percent of groundwater bodies still fail to achieve good chemical status⁹.

Romanian efforts on reducing nutrient pollutants are being recognized. The European Commission (EC) commends Romania's progress on reducing nitrate discharges, as nutrient pollution levels during the assessment period 2016-2019 reveal a decline compared with 2012-2015 levels. In the report by the EC from October 2021, Romania is positively stated among those Member States that have developed action programs with measures reducing and preventing nitrate pollution, applying the measures to the whole territory¹⁰. This positive development is based on two decades of support: (i) prior to EU accession (2002-2007), the Agricultural Pollution Control Project started promoting the adoption of environmental-friendly agricultural practices while supporting ecologically sustainable land use in regional-focused areas of Romania; and (ii) since 2008, the Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project (INPCP) remains the support vehicle for the implementation of the EU Nitrates Directive. However, the INPCP is ending in 2023. The INPCP contributed to institutional strengthening, capacity building, and improving the coordination between the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Forests (MEWF) and concerned agencies, local governments, and designated communes. The INPCP also improved public awareness and information transfer towards compliance with the EU Water Framework Directive and EU Nitrates Directive. To date, the defined measurable development objectives are on track with 63.6 percent (out of the 70 percent) of the defined project area showing the downward trend of 10 percent

⁸ European Commission: Commission recommendations for Romania's CAP strategic plan, SWD(2020) 391 final, 18.12.2020

⁹ The chemical status refers to Pb, Cd, Ni, Cr, Cu, and Zn.

¹⁰ European Commission: Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the Implementation of Council Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources based on Member State reports for the period 2016-2019, COM(2021) 1000 final, October 11, 2021.

reduction in nitrates discharge in water bodies. 69 percent of the population in the project area are adopting preventive and remedial measures to reduce nutrient discharges.

Agriculture is still the main culprit for environmental pollution in rural areas. The primary sector plays a key, yet disproportionate role in this socio-economic fabric of rural Romania. Romanian agriculture accounts for 4.2 percent of total GVA and 23 percent of total employment. The dichotomous farm structure remains a distinct trait of Romanian agriculture: over 70 percent of 3.4 million farms manage less than 2 ha and generate incomes less than EUR15,000 per year¹¹. On the other end, just 0.4 percent (12,310 farms) are large-sized commercial enterprises with an acreage of over 100 ha and incomes beyond EUR50,000. Romania has by far the EU's largest share of subsistence and semi-subsistence farms producing mainly for their own consumption. Low factor incomes preventing access to finance, which again catalyze EU co-financed investments, and the lack of market integration affect subsistence farmers to adhere to environmental regulations. As only one quarter of Romanian farms receive financial support under the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the leverage for good farming practices that foster environmental stewardship and applying agri-environmental-and-climatic-measures is missing. 36 percent of the financial inflows under the CAP are earmarked for environmental and climatic measures. However, less than 10 percent of Romania's utilized agricultural area (UAA) is under commitment for environmental and climatic measures.

Pollution from unsustainable agricultural practices has several roots. Romanian agriculture made some advances towards reducing its carbon footprint over the last decades. A reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 53 percent during the 1989-2011 period correlates with the decline of cattle numbers and reduction of synthetic fertilizer¹². As the release of methane gases have stabilized, other pollutants from agricultural sources come to the fore that have a concerning impact on environmental health and the socio-economic benefits of the rural population of Romania:

- (a) **Nutrient pollutants (nitrates and phosphorus) are a threat for the environment.** While Romanian farmers still rely = on organic fertilizers (around 20% out of total fertilizers use), of which 90 percent are sourced at farm-level, they are not properly collected, stored, applied, or disposed of. Improper management of organic fertilizers leads to runoff of nitrates and phosphorus in river ways and/or contaminate ground water. Some parts of Romania are still facing significant levels of groundwater nitrates.
- (b) **Air quality is affected especially by the ammonia emissions.** While the total levels of ammonia emissions contributing to air quality in Romania has remained stable since 2010, the EU-27 average can showcase a downward trend. Romania is at a high-risk of non-compliance with the National Emission Reduction Commitments Directive (NECD)¹³. Of the total reported ammonia emissions in Romania, 89 percent come from the agriculture

¹¹ Eurostat: Farm structure survey 2016.

¹² Ministry of Environment: Romania's Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1989-2011, National Inventory Report, May 2013.

¹³ The National Reduction Commitment Directive defines reductions targets for Romanian ammonia of -13% by 2020 and -25% by 2030.

sector¹⁴. Romania has national and international obligations in reducing ammonia emissions.

- (c) **Various additional agriculture-sourced pollutants persist.** Antibiotics are still widely applied in the Romanian livestock sector, another example of water pollution from agricultural sources. While sales of antimicrobials have slightly decreased, the environmental exposure of these active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in Romanian rivers is among the highest in Europe¹⁵. Pesticide sales have remained stable during the last decade, but the lack of control on the implementation of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) contributes to pollution in the rural areas.

Most Romanian farmers lack awareness of environmental impacts and knowledge of pollution prevention. While smaller farms traditionally employ more traditional practices and use fewer pesticides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizer, they also have less knowledge of appropriate use of agricultural inputs. Especially (semi-) subsistence farms suffer from a lack of a clearly defined professional status with limited knowledge of environmental standards and implications thereof. As a result, some Romanian farmers still follow inappropriate farming practices, such as mal application of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, or disposal of animal waste and manure onto their fields, often along waterways without realizing the impact on human health or the environment.

¹⁴ European Commission: Commission recommendations for Romania's CAP strategic plan, SWD(2020) 391 final, 18.12.2020.

¹⁵ Wilkinson, Boxall, Kolpin, et al.: Pharmaceutical pollution of the world's rivers. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, December 10, 2021.

IV. NATIONAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The following section summarizes the key national legal and institutional provisions for assessing and managing environmental and social risks associated with the Project.

IV.1. Policy, Legal and Regulatory Framework

The national environmental legislation is fully aligned with the European environmental framework and sets clear provisions for the environmental permitting as part of the approval procedure for the development of the project. The legislation also includes relevant provisions for public information and participation in the decision-making process.

The proposed activities of the project are not expected to trigger an environmental impact assessment under the Romanian legislation. Still, there might be situations where a simplified EIA procedure might be requested by the national/local environmental authorities.

The Romanian legislation does not require a social impact assessment for investment projects, nor is this a requirement under the permitting procedures for construction works. However, the national legal framework provides the basis for addressing the overall socio-economic impact of investments (GD no. 907/2016 regarding the technical and economic documentation for public investments), effects of civil works on neighbouring properties (Law no.50/1991 regarding the permitting for execution of construction works and Law no. 287/2009 – The New Civil Code), or the application of quality norms and standards in constructions (Law no. 10/1995 regarding the quality assurance for constructions).

Annex 9.1 of this ESMF covers the main legal acts in relation to assessing and addressing social impacts associated with the Project, such as provisions for public consultations, assessment of impacts on neighbouring properties, community and occupational health and safety, compensations for any losses incurred in the process, etc, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) prepared for projects with major environmental impacts under the Romanian national permitting procedure, as well as the Permitting procedures include chapters on social aspects that are consistent with the aim of this document.

IV.2. Social key national legal provisions

The Romanian legislation does not require a social impact assessment for investment projects, nor is this a requirement under the permitting procedures for construction works. However, the national legal framework provides the basis for addressing the overall socio-economic impact of investments (GD no. 907/2016 regarding the technical and economic documentation for public investments), effects of civil works on neighbouring properties (Law no.50/1991 regarding the permitting for execution of construction works and Law no. 287/2009 – The New Civil Code), or the application of quality norms and standards in constructions (Law no. 10/1995 regarding the quality assurance for constructions). Annex 9 covers the main legal acts in relation to assessing and addressing social impacts associated with the Project, such as provisions for public consultations, assessment of impacts on neighbouring properties, community and occupational health and safety, compensations for any losses incurred in the process, etc. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) prepared for projects with major environmental impacts under the Romanian national permitting

procedure, as well as the Permitting procedures include chapters on social aspects that are consistent with the aim of this document.

The main institutions overseeing social issues that may be associated with the project or be influenced by the project include:

- Labor Inspectorate – the authority monitors the implementation of occupational health and safety and the implementation of the Labor Code; territorial units are present in each county of Romania and can support the Project in assuring national requirements are enforced during civil works;
- National Council for combating discrimination – prevention, mediation, monitoring, assistance for the application of Romanian legislation in relation to discrimination;
- General Directorate for Social Assistance and Children Protection – at national level/Social Assistance Departments at local level – authorities in charge with addressing socially vulnerable persons and groups and supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse and harassment;
- County Immigration Inspectorates – checking compliance with immigration legislation and procedures on the field;
- Local Social Assistance Departments, under Local Administrative Units, are responsible for identifying and monitoring families and persons that need social assistance, including vulnerable children;
- Roma Education Mediator – responsible at the level of the local public administration for creating a link between Roma communities and schools
- Local or county responsible with Roma issues – representing the interests of Roma communities at administrative level.

The relevant social legislation is presented in Annex 9.1.

IV.3. Environmental key national legal provisions

Law no. 292/2018 on the evaluation of the impact of certain public and private projects on the environment, and of the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 57/2007 regarding the regime of the protected natural areas, the conservation of the natural habitats, of the flora and wildlife, approved with modifications and completions by Law no. 49/2011, other organic and major laws on various domains, International Conventions and treaties signed and ratified by Romania, different governmental decisions or ministerial orders, the National Strategy on Sustainable Development Romania 2030 and the National Action Plan implementing the National Strategy on Sustainable Development Romania 2030 define the legal framework of environmental protection and related activities. This legislative framework delegates most of the state authority to the central environmental protection authority that is the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests (MEWF) and its territorial affiliates (NEPA, and LEPA). The environmental legislative framework, which approaches the EU standards, sets forth general principles of environmental policy (polluter-pays, integrated monitoring, sustainable development, NGOs and public participation, international cooperation, rehabilitation of degraded areas) and adopts the general ways for the enforcement of these principles, such as: harmonization of environmental policies and development programs, correlation between special and environmental development, compulsory use of the environmental permitting

procedure for certain economic and social activities with significant environmental impacts, use of economic incentives.

Agencies (entities) proposing new investment projects that are likely to have a significant environmental impact have to apply for an environmental agreement. This may be decided only after a serious environmental impact assessment accomplished by accredited experts and accompanied by a public debate. Potential impacts, mitigation measures and the necessary monitoring system should be outlined in this process. After project completion, an environmental authorization is also required. This may be issued after LEPA staff verify the compliance with environmental agreement provisions. Without these permits, the proposed activity is not allowed to proceed. Issuing of an environmental agreement is simultaneous with other required permits and authorizations, but the environmental agreement is preceded by obtaining of other approvals, as the case may be (for telecommunication utilities, for natural gas network, for electric power, from the Fire Commandment, etc.), the Water Permit being the most important one. The management agency of each activity is obliged to set up its own internal or self-monitoring system. Parameters to be monitored are established according to the provisions included within environmental agreement and environmental authorization. Data has to be registered and made available for LEPA staff. External Monitoring performed by LEPA is oriented mostly to the recognized important polluters, due to the serious scarcity of the necessary monitoring, analysis and information equipment.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The accomplishment of full EIA on which basis the environmental agreement would be issued, is mandatory for all activities listed in Annex I of the Law no. 292/2018 on the framework procedure for environmental impact assessment for certain public and private projects, as well as all projects proposed for the coastal zone and those proposed in protected hydro-geological areas. Projects listed in Annex II of the same normative act, projects proposed within a natural protected area and those designated for the management of the natural protected areas are subject to the screening procedure. The result of the screening procedure is a decision based on which the project is further subject to the EIA or not. The current regulations require that information provided by the developer of the EIA process include the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and where possible, offset the significant adverse effects. The environmental impact assessment procedure also includes the appropriate assessment procedure (referring to the projects' effects on habitats and species of community interest). The applicable environmental impact assessment legislation for the proposed investments is the legislation in force at the time the project holder notifies the environmental protection agency on its intention to carry it out.

The EIA procedure comprises a mandatory involvement of the public and the public authorities with environmental protection responsibilities. The public comments are considered in the EIA procedure. The public authorities with environmental protection responsibilities are always involved in the Technical Review Committee which is mandatory required by the national EIA procedure. The national EIA procedure is detailed in Law 292/2018 and MO no. 269/2020 on the approval of the general guidelines applicable to the environmental impact assessment procedure, of the environmental impact assessment procedure in transboundary context and other specific guidelines for various domains and project categories. The national EIA procedure is applied also using the guidance of MO 864/2002 on the transboundary EIA procedure and of MO 19/2010 on the approval of the

methodological guide regarding the adequate assessment of potential effects of plans or projects on protected natural areas of community interest, as appropriate.

The relevant national environmental legal provisions are presented in the Annex 9.1 to the ESMF.

V. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL FRAMEWORK

V.1. The World Bank regulation

The World Bank Environmental and Social Framework sets out the World Bank's commitment to sustainable development, through a Bank Policy and a set of Environmental and Social Standards that are designed to support Borrowers' projects, with the aim of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity.

Ten Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) set out the requirements for Borrowers relating to the identification and assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts associated with projects supported by the Bank through Investment Project Financing. The Bank believes that the application of these standards, by focusing on the identification and management of environmental and social risks, will support Borrowers in their goal to reduce poverty and increase prosperity in a sustainable manner for the benefit of the environment and their citizens.

The standards will:

- a) Support the Project in achieving good international practice relating to environmental and social sustainability;*
- b) Assist the Project in fulfilling their national and international environmental and social obligations;*
- c) Enhance nondiscrimination, transparency, participation, accountability and governance;*
- d) Enhance the sustainable development outcomes of projects through ongoing stakeholder engagement*

The six Environmental and Social Standards are applicable as follows:

ESS1: Assessment and Management of ESS Risks and Impacts;

ESS2: Labor and Working Conditions;

ESS3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention;

ESS4: Community Health and Safety;

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

ESS10: Information Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement.

V.2. The Romanian regulation

While the Romanian legislation covers the main provisions of the WB's ESF, the integrated management of environmental and social risks is not a specific requirement of legislation, as required by the ESF's ESS1, but rather captured across several legal acts. The current ESMF addresses this gap by providing an integrated approach to assessing potential environmental and social risks and proposing a set of mitigation measures that are implemented and monitored throughout project preparation and implementation. Romania has a solid legal and institutional system for citizens to request information of public interest and to address petitions to public institutions. Public consultations are carried at central level in relation to legislative initiatives, while environmental legislation requires consultations in projects that involve environmental impact assessment studies. However, the consultation and petitioning

activities are not proactively used in development projects to ask for feedback and contributions of citizens and civil society, that could improve the quality of public project. For this purpose, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, including provisions for consultations, public disclosure, feedback, and grievance redress mechanisms, has been proposed to address this gap in relation to the WB's ESF.

VI. POTENTIAL E&S RISKS AND IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

VI.1. Environmental and social assessment of project activities

The Project will benefit the whole territory of Romania and will be comprised of the following three components: (i) Modernization of Public Institutions in Charge of Pollution Control; (ii) Knowledge-sharing, awareness and information/innovation transfer; and (iii) Project management. Most of the activities of the Project consist of technical assistance to government ministries and procurement of equipment. However, In the framework of *Subcomponent 2.1: Demonstrating role model farms and promoting innovation*, may include the following indicative types of investments involving construction works:

- Modernisation of the stables roofs and floors for improved ventilation and improved design (reducing emissions from animal housing)
- Barns for wintering in traditional shepherding, including storage of the hay for bedding
- Open summer barns for traditional shepherding
- Slurry storages (including covered and equipped with mixers)
- Storages for chemical fertilisers
- Pesticides storages at farm level, including associated with the reuse of PPP containers
- Open stables for improving the animal welfare conditions, thus improving the health of animals and preventing the use of antimicrobials
- Watering and fencing systems, shade structures

Subcomponent 2.2 will include developing knowledge transfer networks through trainings for farmers on new climate smart techniques, eco-innovations, and pollution mitigation as well as awareness raising campaign targeting the public about various types of pollutants, their economic and environmental impact.

VI.2. Environment risks and impacts

The potential environment and social impacts of the Project are not likely to be significant, long-term, or irreversible on Romania's environment, forests, or other natural resources, and are assessed as moderate. The Project will generally lead to positive environmental and social results in the rural areas of Romania. The project will require robust stakeholder identification and engagement to ensure that the knowledge transfer activities lead to behavioural change and there is equitable access to the opportunities to participate in and benefit from the networks, technologies, innovations and demonstration farms.

Particular attention will be given to the supply of equipment under Subcomponent 1.2 for ANAR, NPA, LILF, as the new equipment could generate a stream of e-waste in case that the old equipment will be discarded. If there will be replacements of equipment with new generation ones, an electrical/electronic waste management procedure will be established.

For each of the project sites, particularly in terms of the locations for demonstration farms, associated facilities will be screened for potential risks inherent to activities on the farm which are not directly related to the project activities. The selection criteria for participating farms will also include an exclusionary list of existing activities on the farms which may categorically make the applying farm ineligible to participate due to high potential associated risks. The criteria will be in the POM.

A summary of the environment and social risks is presented in the table below:

Type of activities to be undertaken	Possible Environmental or Social Risks	Project affected persons (PAPs) or authority	Possible Mitigation Measures, responsibility and monitoring obligations
Construction works for modernization of the stables' floors for a smooth cleaning and improved design (reducing emissions from animal housing)	Exclusion of vulnerable groups from citizen engagement and consultation practices around project design	Local communities	The development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan at the level of each sub-project will identify vulnerable categories at local level and will collect information on their socio-economic conditions assuring that their perspectives are collected during public consultations, grievance mechanism and any additional engagement practices defined under the SEP. Additional measures may include: • Site-specific consultations will be conducted in accordance with the SEP, which will ensure that these groups are consulted and engaged. • A grievance mechanism that is easily accessible is expected to promote a proactive attitude of receiving feedback from vulnerable groups. Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
	Air pollution	Local residents	The development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan at the level of each sub-project will identify properly mitigation measures that may include: • Wetting surfaces during dry / warm working days to reduce the amount of dust produced. • Regular cleaning of public roads section used by

		contractor's vehicles and machinery. • Excavation works should not be performed in extreme weather conditions (rain, strong wind). • Make proper management of waste in facilities. Solid waste material resulting from scraping, excavations, fuels or oils shall not be discharged into waterways. Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
Water pollution	Local communities The ANAR and their 11 River Basin Management offices NGOs that militate for environmental protection	The development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan at the level of each sub-project will identify properly mitigation measures that may include: • In case of accidental spillage of petroleum products, absorbing substances should be applied immediately. • The contractor will comply with operational procedures and measures to prevent accidental pollution. Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
Soil pollution	Local authority for environmental protection NGOs that militate for environmental protection	The development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan at the level of each sub-project will identify properly mitigation measures that may include: • Regular maintenance of equipment, machinery and transport vehicles for construction and building materials to prevent leaking of hazardous substances. • Fuel storage tanks are prevented from leaks, installed on sealed surface. Absorbents are available on site to

		neutralize soil contamination. • Application of procedures developed for storing and handling of waste, hazardous waste and materials. • Creation of sealed parking areas for machinery and vehicles involved in construction activities. • Apply appropriate measures for protection against erosion, especially for work done on slopes. • Avoiding the execution of earth works in extreme weather conditions (rain, strong wind). • Temporary storage of humus in specially designated areas and in appropriate conditions. • Maintenance, fueling, washing and vehicle repair operations / maintenance of equipment to be made in sealed locations provided with absorbents to mitigate leakage of hazardous substances. Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
Noises and vibrations	Local residents	The development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan at the level of each sub-project will identify properly mitigation measures that may include: • Prohibiting the construction work at night and restrictions during times of rest, in sensitive areas (hospitals, kindergartens etc.). • Use appropriate equipment and methods to protect vulnerable structures located in the residential areas. • Reduction of vehicle speed in sensitive areas.

			Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
	Health and safety	Workers from the construction company	The development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan at the level of each sub-project will identify properly mitigation measures that may include: • All workers wear health and safety labor protection equipment. • Workers are provided with health and safety training. • First aid kit is available on the construction site. • Local residents are prevented from entering the construction site by fencing. • Information boards regarding health and safety risks for local residents are installed. Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
Construction works for modernization of the stables roofs for improving the ventilation / Equipment for ventilation systems (reducing emissions from animal housing).	Occupational Health and Safety	Construction workers, other associated staff	With the largest share of work-related accidents and fatalities in the construction sector, the OHS measures on site should be well prepared and documented in advance, in accordance with national legislation and WB policies. • Ensure workers are using Personal Protection Equipment, and World Bank Health and Safety guidelines are followed; • Provide a grievance mechanism for workers to freely raise workplace concerns; • Provide translation of OHS requirements on site for Contractors employing foreign workers;

			Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
Construction works for modernization of the stables roofs for improving the ventilation / Equipment for ventilation systems (reducing emissions from animal housing).	Disturbances to neighboring residents and institutions	Residents, Employees of neighboring institutions, Employees and customers of neighboring businesses	The Public Consultation section from the ESMPs that will be developed at the level of each subproject will identify the most relevant means to communicate and engage with audiences. Increased heavy traffic, noise, dust will be some of the impacts experienced by the neighbors during construction works. Information and consultations will involve the following steps: • identify all public buildings in the proximity of the construction site (150 m); • inform through letters on the extent of works and the expected timeline and invite them to forward any particular requests; • inform on grievance mechanism in place and means of addressing complaints; • monitor complaints and adapt works where possible to accommodate public requests; • install signaling panels next to the construction site and inform house owners and owners associations on the timeline of the process and expected impacts (letters/leaflets/posters); The ESMP will incorporate provisions for the Contractor, such as (1) assuring the use of silent machinery and vehicles, where possible, (2) minimize the dust by using best practice procedures for construction, (3) adapt its working schedule in a manner that accommodates the need for rest of residents (avoiding evening/night works)

			Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
	Air pollution	Local residents	The development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan at the level of each sub-project will identify properly mitigation measures that may include: • Wetting surfaces during dry / warm working days to reduce the amount of dust produced. • Regular cleaning of public roads section used by contractor's vehicles and machinery. • Excavation works should not be performed in extreme weather conditions (rain, strong wind). • Make proper management of waste in facilities. Solid waste material resulting from scraping, excavations, fuels or oils shall not be discharged into waterways. Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
	Water pollution	Local communities The ANAR and their 11 River Basin Management offices NGOs that militate for environmental protection	The development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan at the level of each sub-project will identify properly mitigation measures that may include: • In case of accidental spillage of petroleum products, absorbing substances should be applied immediately. • The contractor will comply with operational procedures and measures to prevent accidental pollution.

		Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
Soil pollution	Local authority for environmental protection NGOs that militate for environmental protection	The development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan at the level of each sub-project will identify properly mitigation measures that may include: • Regular maintenance of equipment, machinery and transport vehicles for construction and building materials to prevent leaking of hazardous substances. • Fuel storage tanks are prevented from leaks, installed on sealed surface. Absorbents are available on site to neutralize soil contamination. • Application of procedures developed for storing and handling of waste, hazardous waste and materials. • Creation of sealed parking areas for machinery and vehicles involved in construction activities. • Apply appropriate measures for protection against erosion, especially for work done on slopes. • Avoiding the execution of earth works in extreme weather conditions (rain, strong wind). • Temporary storage of humus in specially designated areas and in appropriate conditions. • Maintenance, fueling, washing and vehicle repair operations / maintenance of equipment to be made in sealed locations provided with absorbents to mitigate leakage of hazardous substances. Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU

	Noises and vibrations	Local residents	The development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan at the level of each sub-project will identify properly mitigation measures that may include: • Prohibiting the construction work at night and restrictions during times of rest, in sensitive areas (hospitals, kindergartens etc.). • Use appropriate equipment and methods to protect vulnerable structures located in the residential areas. • Reduction of vehicle speed in sensitive areas. Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
Storages facilities for chemical fertilizers and pesticides at the farm level, including associated with the reuse of PPP containers	Community health and safety risks	Local community, neighbors	Each sub-project will assure that the construction site is properly fenced and secured, with access allowed only for designated staff. Special attention will be given to construction sites that will involve the temporary relocation of workers on site. Additional measures may include: • Implement project specific Occupational Health and Safety Plan (OHSP); • Develop an induction program including a code of conduct for all workers to address: - Respect for local residents; • Disciplinary measures for infringement of the code of conduct and/or company rules;

			Develop and implement a grievance procedure and raise awareness of grievance procedures amongst affected communities. Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
	Water pollution	Local communities The ANAR and their 11 River Basin Management offices NGOs that militate for environmental protection	The development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan at the level of each sub-project will identify properly mitigation measures that may include: - In case of accidental spillage of petroleum products, absorbing substances should be applied immediately. - The contractor will comply with operational procedures and measures to prevent accidental pollution. Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
	Soil pollution	Local authority for environmental protection NGOs that militate for environmental protection	The development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan at the level of each sub-project will identify properly mitigation measures that may include: - Regular maintenance of equipment, machinery and transport vehicles for construction and building materials to prevent leaking of hazardous substances. - Fuel storage tanks are prevented from leaks, installed on sealed surface. Absorbents are available on site to neutralize soil contamination. - Application of procedures developed for storing and handling of waste, hazardous waste and materials. - Creation of sealed parking areas for machinery and

			vehicles involved in construction activities. • Apply appropriate measures for protection against erosion, especially for work done on slopes. • Avoiding the execution of earth works in extreme weather conditions (rain, strong wind). • Temporary storage of humus in specially designated areas and in appropriate conditions. • Maintenance, fueling, washing and vehicle repair operations / maintenance of equipment to be made in sealed locations provided with absorbents to mitigate leakage of hazardous substances. Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
Construction works (retrofitting, minor works)	Increased risk of work accidents in cases not involving relocation	local population	Where construction works do not involve relocation and day-to-day activities are performed in tandem with the interventions, an increased risk of accidents involves local population. To avoid and minimize these impacts, the site-specific ESMPs will provide sound measures for assuring health and safety provisions on site, including: • clear tasks for implementation and monitoring of H&S provisions for the Contractor; • designation of areas with restricted access; • clear and visible signaling panels in place in areas used by local population; • grievance mechanism in place to record any malfunctions in the construction works with impacts on human health and safety;

			• monitoring of H&S performance on-site by the Contractor and the ESMP responsible; • recording of any accidents (even the minor ones) in the Accident Book; Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
Construction works (retrofitting, minor works)	Road Accidents as a result of increased traffic	Residents, Pedestrians, and especially children	The Transport Management Plan, that will be incorporated into the ESMPs will need to outline increased risks zones on the routes to and from the construction site. In cases where these zones are very close to the construction site, collaboration with the public institutions, owners' associations and road police is necessary to reduce the risks associated with road accidents. The Transport Management Plan will include, among other aspects: - identification of high-risk areas; - Driver's trainings on speed limits and high-risk areas as part of the Contractor tasks; - Schedule of daily heavy Transport hours and the avoidance of inappropriate hours (e.g., at night) Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU
All types of works	Behavior that causes physical, mental, sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty	Children, female population	The risk is low, since the civil works are minimal and will not involve labor influx. However, the GRM has been devised to include a confidential and secure channel for uptake of related complaints. In addition, workers will be required to sign a code of conduct in this regard. Responsibility: PMU, Contractor

			Monitoring: PMU
Knowledge Transfer and Networking Activities	Risk of exclusion in the selection and participation of Farms for demonstration and selection of farmers	Vulnerable and marginalized groups (rural farmers, farmers from ethnic minorities, farmers with disabilities, etc.)	Robust SEP has been developed which identified and includes extensive engagement activities including adapting mode of communication and engagement platforms Help desk to support farmers to access information on the project will be established Clear criteria for eligibility, selection, exclusion and implementation of demonstration farms and participants of the KTN activities to be developed and communicated Responsibility: PMU, Contractors Monitoring: PMU

VII. OVERALL INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

VII.1. Overall Institutional responsibility

Project implementation will rely on the management experience of the INPCP Project Management Unit (PMU). The MEWF is the authority within the Government of Romania (GoR) entrusted with the overall responsibility of implementing the Project, ensuring full compliance with the Loan Agreement and with the subsidiary agreement signed between MEWF and MoF. The Project will be implemented by the existing Project Management Unit (PMU) located within the MEWF, to build on their extensive management experience. The MEWF will carry out the Project through the PMU, which is responsible for the implementation of the Project including procurement, financial management (FM), M&E (monitoring and evaluation), reporting and compliance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and standards. The PMU will be located within the MEWF premises to ensure integration with all other Ministry functions and departments. The MEWF shall operate and maintain the PMU during Project implementation with adequate staffing and resources. Office space for the PMU shall be provided by the MEWF, or separate space may additionally be rented by the PMU in proximity of the Ministry to ensure appropriate working space and conditions for the PMU office. Currently the PMU has 21 employees under INPCP to carry out core implementation activities. The present staff and their functions will be taken over and maintained and additionally, the coordination and operational capacity of the existing PMU will be enhanced with supplemental staff that will be hired for new defined positions and functions adapted to the implementation needs, and also with consultants. PMU's capacity will continue to be regularly reviewed and it may be further supplemented/redesigned during project implementation in case the volume of activities and/or the project implementation stage will require it. As the current PMU doesn't have experience in terms of the new World Bank ESF and standards, the Project under component 3 has allocated resources to support necessary capacity building activities in this regard.

The PMU will have overall responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of the Project.

In carrying out specific activities, the PMU will collaborate / contract relevant Romanian institutions, be it in the public or private sectors. The PMU will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with all relevant agencies, which will describe the operational procedures. The MOU will include the designated staff of each agency and their responsibility and tasks. The PMU will have responsibility for overall project monitoring and for the procurement and financial management aspects of the Project.

Establishment of Environment and Social Expertise within PMU

Organizational Chart of the PMU which will be included in the Project Operational Manual will have the position of a social specialist and an environment specialist maintained in the entire duration of the project. PMU's capacity will continue to be regularly reviewed and it may be further supplemented/redesigned during project implementation in case the volume of

activities and/or the project implementation stage will require it. As the current PMU doesn't have experience in terms of the new World Bank ESF and standards, the Project will develop necessary capacity building activities in this regard.

VII.2. Monitoring and reporting

The Project Operational Manual (POM) will detail the expected roles of the Project partners involved in the implementation. The POM will include details on institutional and implementation responsibilities, technical aspects of all components and activities, guidance related to monitoring and evaluation of the results framework, implementation of the requirements of the applicable ESF and its standards, disbursements and financial management aspects, applicable procurement regulations and arrangements, and monitoring and reporting provisions.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) arrangements will be designed for accountability, transparency, communication, and learning. M&E activities will support Project management by (i) tracking the progress of the Project, (ii) generate information on the status of the Project activities, (iii) analyze and aggregate data generated at local and national levels, and (iv) document and disseminate the good practices and key lessons learned from the Project activities to stakeholders in Romania.

Project monitoring on day-to-day activities will be carried out by the PMU. Monitoring will follow the Results Framework of the Project including PDO-level indicators as well as the intermediate component-level indicators. The PMU will provide the overall monitoring of information collection with regards to the progress of the Project activities and in compliance with the ESF standards and fiduciary regulations. The PMU's responsibility will be to define the M&E objectives, preparing the M&E plan and manual, and guarantee its implementation. Semi-annual progress reports will be prepared and discussed during the regular supervision missions of the World Bank. Necessary budget and resources for M&E will be allocated under Component 3: Project Management. This should allow necessary training for the M&E specialists and support implementation.

VII.3. Overview of Labor Use on the Project

Number of Project Workers: The workers to be employed in the project activities implementation will be contracted according to the World Bank/national procurement procedures, being employees or contractual staff of the contracted companies. All construction investments include small works, involving a small number of workers (with an average of less than 10 workers per site). A number of around 50 construction sites will be financed.

Characteristics of Project Workers: It is expected that most of the workers to be local, aged above 18 years old. An inclusive approach will be encouraged regarding gender, religion, nationality and race, sexual orientation and social status and political views.

Categories of workers:

Direct Workers: The new proposed PMU organisational structure will include procurement, economic, agricultural, technical, programming, project evaluation and selection, monitoring & evaluation, ex-post monitoring, communication and awareness, ESF issues, legal advisors, IT-expert, project assistant, logistical support and other staff to support the fiduciary functions as needed. Workers who are part of the civil service will maintain civil service regulations of their contract and those hired through the PMU will maintain their contractual obligations as mutually agreed with the PMU according to national legislation.

Contracted Workers: The contracted workers will be recruited and employed by the contracted companies and their possible sub-contractors, according with the national labour legislation, benefitting of all the legal rights and facilities. Other individual contracted workers may be hired for technical assistance activities.

Migrant Workers: It is possible that migrant workers (either domestic or international) to work on the project, legally employed by the contracted companies, according to the national labour legislation.

Community Workers

No community workers will be involved in the project. The labour-in-kind contribution will not be financed from the project proceeds.

Primary Supply Workers

No significant risk of child or forced labour or serious safety issues in relation to primary suppliers has been identified. However, appropriate measures will be included in procurement documents as a mitigation measure for any potential related risks.

VII.4. Assessment of Key Potential Labor Risks

Project activities that include construction works, may be:

- Modernisation of the stables roofs for improving the ventilation
- Modernisation of the stables` floors for a smooth cleaning and improved design (reducing emissions from animal housing)
- Barns for wintering in traditional shepherding, including storage of the hay for bedding
- Open summer barns for traditional shepherding
- Slurry storages (including covered and equipped with mixers)
- Storages for chemical fertilisers
- Pesticides storage facilities at farm level, including associated with the reuse of PPP containers
- Open stables for improving the animal welfare conditions, thus improving the health of animals and preventing the use of antimicrobials
- Watering and fencing systems, shade structures etc.

Key Labour Risks and mitigation measures:

- The conduct of hazardous work, such as working at heights or in confined spaces, use of heavy machinery, or use of hazardous materials with possible accidents or emergencies, which

will be mitigated by appropriate occupational health and safety measures as detailed in table in the preceeding chapter and monitored by the PMU.

- Presence of migrants or seasonal workers on the farms may pose as an associated risk, and not necessarily as a risk directly related to project activities. Associated facilities will be screened through the ESMP screening process and appropriate mitigation measures detailed therein. The selection criteria of farms will include exclusion measures to bar participation of farms with high potential associated risks. All other labor under the project will be screened according to national legislation and labor laws, as monitored through the National Labor Inspectorate.

VII.5. Brief Overview of Labor Legislation

Law no 319/2006 on safety and health of workers at work

Law no. 319/2006 establishes measures to promote improvements in the safety and health of workers at work and the general principles concerning the prevention of occupational risks, the protection of health and safety of workers, the elimination of risk and accident factors, the informing, consultation, balanced participation in accordance with the legal provisions, training of workers and their representatives, as well as general guidelines for the implementation of the said principles. This law applies to all sectors of activity, both public and private and its provisions are to be applied to employers, workers and representatives of the workers.

International conventions and bilateral agreements concluded by Romanian legal persons with foreign partners, with a view to carrying out working activities with Romanian personnel on the territory of other States contain clauses concerning safety and health of workers at work.

Romanian Legislation Regarding Occupational Health and Safety

- Government Decision no 1875/2005 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work
- Government Decision no 1876/2005 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from vibration
- Government Decision no 300/2006 on the minimum safety and health requirements for temporary or mobile construction sites
- Government Decision no 493/2006 on the minimum safety and health requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from noise
- Government Decision no 971/2006 on the minimum requirements for the provision of safety and/or health signs at work
- Government Decision no 1028/2006 on the minimum safety and health requirements regarding the use of the equipment with display screen
- Government Decision no 1048/2006 on the minimum health and safety requirements for the use by workers of personal protective equipment at the workplace

- Government Decision no 1051/2006 concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the manual handling of loads where there is a risk particularly of back injury to workers
- Government Decision no 1091/2006 concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace
- Government Decision no 1146/2006 regarding the establishing the minimum safety and health requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at work
- Government Decision no 601/2007 amending some normative acts in the domain of safety and health at work

Workers' rights

All workers, young workers included have the following rights:

- To be informed on the risks at tier working place, what actions should they take to be safe and how they should act in case and accident occurs or in other emergency situations
- To freely receive training in the field of occupational health and safety, specifically adapted to their working conditions
- To be provided with their individual safety equipment
- To participate, ask questions, reporting any insecure practices or conditions and to be consulted by the employer regarding the occupational health and safety.

If a young worker has suspicions regarding any aspect connected to his activity or work tasks he should be performing, they have the right and responsibility to bring these concerns to the attention of their supervisors. They eventually have the right to deny any dangerous work. A young person may not carry out a dangerous work, even if a responsible or another colleague are already performing it.

VII.6. Responsible Staff

The PMU would be responsible for day-to-day project management activities, including monitoring and reporting on project progress to all the relevant stakeholders. The costs for all these activities are budgeted under the Project Management component and may be increased should there be a need. In carrying out specific activities, the PMU will collaborate / contract relevant Romanian institutions, be it in the public or private sectors.

The social specialist, working closely with the relevant colleagues in the PMU will be responsible for the following aspects of the labor management procedures:

- Monitor regularly that the Contractor(s) are meeting contractual obligations towards contracted and sub-contracted workers as included in the General Conditions of Contract the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents, and in line with ESS2 and the national Labor Code;
- Ensure that contractor(s) responsible for the civil works under the project prepare the OHS plan to meet the requirements of national occupational health and safety regulations before the start of the works;

- Ensure that the workers for all contractors and subcontractors are aware about the grievance redress mechanism;
- Ensure that grievances are registered and addressed properly by the appropriate party;
- Consult and engage with Territorial Labour Inspectorates, County Immigration Inspectorates and with Public Health Directorates in relation to work contracts, rights of migrant workers, conditions of workers as appropriate.

The environment specialist, working closely with the relevant colleagues in the PMU will be responsible for the following aspects of the labour management procedures:

- Monitor that OHS standards are met at work places in line with national occupational health and safety legislation and Occupational Health and Safety Plan.

The Contractor(s) will be responsible for the following:

- Assigning or employing a person responsible for the adaption and implementation of the OHS plan to the requirements of the project;
- Maintaining records of recruitment and employment process of contracted workers;
- Communicating clearly job description and employment conditions to contracted workers;
- Having a system for regular review and reporting of labor, and occupational safety and health performance on site;
- Developing and implementing a grievance registration mechanism that would record and address the grievances raised by the workers;
- Delivering regular orientation and OHS training to employees.

VII.7. Policies and Procedures

The Project Operational Manual (POM) will detail the expected roles of the Project partners involved in the implementation. The POM will include details on institutional and implementation responsibilities, technical aspects of all components and activities, guidance related to monitoring and evaluation of the results framework, implementation of the requirements of the applicable ESF and its standards, disbursements and financial management aspects, applicable procurement regulations and arrangements, and monitoring and reporting provisions.

Project monitoring on day-to-day activities will be carried out by the PMU. Monitoring will follow the Results Framework of the Project including PDO-level indicators as well as the intermediate component-level indicators. The PMU will provide the overall monitoring of information collection with regards to the progress of the Project activities and in compliance with the ESF standards and fiduciary regulations.

VII.8. Age of Employment

The Romanian legislation in the field of labour protection sets specific requirements for the protection of young workers:

- Government Decision no. 600/2007 on the protection of young people at work
- Government Decision no. 867/2009 on the prohibition of hazardous work for children
- Law no. 279/2005 on the apprenticeship at the workplace

Before the start of the works, for any young worker a risk assessment should be carried out, including factors such as: physical, chemical and biological agents, the working equipment and its use, working processes, work tasks, work organization, training.

As a rule, young people under 18 should be forbidden to carry out activities:

- Which are beyond their physical or mental capabilities
- Imply exposure to toxic or carcinogen substances
- Imply exposure to radiation, excessive temperatures, noise or vibrations
- Imply risks which are difficult to be identified or avoided by young people due to their lack of experience or training, or due to insufficient attention paid to safety issues.

Young people under 18 but above the minimum age for school graduation may carry out the above-mentioned activities only in very special circumstances, when:

- The activity is extremely important for their professional training
- The activity is carried out under the supervision of a competent person
- The risks are mitigated to a minimum

Young people should not be allowed to carry out high risk activities even if all measures for their containment have been taken. There are also restrictions as regards the working schedule applicable to young workers. They benefit from long resting intervals than other workers.

VII.9. Terms and Conditions

According to the Governmental Emergency Ordinance no. 114/2018, the wage in construction sector is regulated to a minimum level, comparable with the medium salary on economy. The national provisions regarding the maximum 40 working hours per week, protection of employees, health leave, maternity/paternity leave, education/study leave, financial support and protection for construction workers during construction off-season etc, will apply.

VII.10. Grievance Mechanism

According to the provisions of the Romanian legislation in the field, any worker must immediately inform the employer and/or the persons with responsibilities in the field of occupational health and safety on any situation representing a serious and imminent danger and on any malfunction of protective systems.

The workers will also be informed on the grievance mechanism implemented by the project and given access to use it.

VII.11. Contractor Management

Contractors will be hired and supervised by the PMU. The ESMPs/ESMP checklists will be reflected along with other relevant contractor obligations under the ESF and national legislation, in all relevant procurement documents. The contractor will be responsible for developing and implementing a contractor site-specific ESMPs/ESMP checklists in line with the project ESMP/ ESMP checklist, including observing labour management procedures and SEP.

VIII. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

VIII.1. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stakeholder engagement is the continuing and iterative process by which the project identifies, communicates, and facilitates a two-way dialogue with the people affected by its decisions and activities, as well as others with an interest in the implementation and outcomes of its decisions and the project. It takes into account the different access and communication needs of various groups and individuals, especially those more disadvantaged or vulnerable, including consideration of both communication and physical accessibility challenges. The Borrower developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts. The SEP describes the timing and methods of engagement with stakeholders throughout the life cycle of the project as agreed between Bank and Borrower, distinguishing between project-affected parties and other interested parties. The SEP also describes the range and timing of information to be communicated to project-affected parties and other interested parties, as well as the type of information to be sought from them. It is designed to consider the main characteristics and interests of the stakeholders, and the different levels of engagement and consultation that will be appropriate for different stakeholders. It also sets out how communication with stakeholders will be handled throughout project preparation and implementation.

VIII.2. Grievance and redress mechanism (GRM)

The GRM is detailed in the SEP. The GRM intended to serve as a mechanism to:

- Allow for the identification and impartial, timely and effective resolution of issues affecting the project.
- Strengthen accountability to beneficiaries, including project affected people and surrounding communities, and provide channels for project stakeholders and citizens at all levels to provide feedback and raise concerns.

An effective GRM in place will also serve the objectives of reducing conflicts and risks such as external interference, corruption, social exclusion or mismanagement; improving the quality of project activities and results; and serving as important feedback and learning mechanism for project management regarding the strengths and weaknesses of project procedures and implementation processes.

The GRM will be accessible to a broad range of Project stakeholders who are likely to be affected directly or indirectly by the project. These will include beneficiaries, community members, construction workers, project implementers/contractors, civil society, media—all of whom will be encouraged to refer their feedback, including grievances to the GRM.

The GRM will be used to submit complaints, feedback, queries, suggestions or compliments related to the overall management and implementation of the project, as well as respective sub projects and site-specific activities

The GRM's functions will be based on the principles of transparency, accessibility, inclusiveness, fairness and impartiality and responsiveness.

The GRM will establish clearly defined timelines for acknowledgment, update and final feedback to the complainant. These will be stipulated in the Project Operational Manual. To enhance accountability, these timelines will be disseminated widely to Project stakeholders, through brochures, etc which will publicize the existence of the GRM. The timeframe for acknowledging receipt of a feedback will not exceed 10 working days from the time that it was originally received; all grievances will be resolved within 30 working days of receipt.

The GRM will also provide the option for beneficiaries, Project affected persons and other stakeholders to provide anonymous feedback. These are recorded and treated under the Law no. 544/2001 regarding the free access to public information and Law 233/2002 regarding the right to submit petitions.

The GRM will also have uptake channels for anonymous reporting of grievances related to gender-based violence, harassment and abuse through a secure line.

Direct address to the PMU, fax, e-mail and relevant telephone numbers have been provided for.

VIII.3. Public consultations

Public consultation and disclosure of all relevant information in relation to project will be an essential part of ensuring that all environmental and social risks are avoided or reduced to a minimum. Romanian legislation and WB provisions support the disclosure of the current ESMF and the site-specific ESMPs for public consultation, so that any concerns in relation to the approach, risk identification process and mitigation measures are dealt from an early phase of project preparation and implementation.

Relevant stakeholders have been identified throughout the SEP and engagement and consultation actions have been proposed for all processes that involve E&S risks identification and mitigation. Stakeholders range from institutions that are responsible with the implementation of relevant E&S legislation in Romania, farmers and farmers' organisations, affected communities, general population, etc.

Consultations on the ESMF

On 22.11.2022, ESMF and SEP were launched in public consultation. The announcement was posted on the MMAP website (<http://www.mmediu.ro/categorie/transparenta/10>), on the "Transparency" section, on both Romanian and Hungarian, with a deadline for submitting comments and proposals up to (including) 06.12.2022. By the deadline, there were no proposals/remarks on the ESMF and SEP.

On 28.11.2022, e-mails were sent with the invitation to participate in the December 5th on public consultation to stakeholders representing public institutions (16 representatives), farmers professional associations (7 representatives), NGO and other interested entities (16 representatives). The meeting of public consultation from December 5th, 2022 was attended, both physically and online, by 15 participants, representatives from various invited entities, and 3 PMU representatives (MEWF). Details of the public consultations are outlines in Annex IX.3.

IX. ANNEXES

IX.1. National Legal and Regulatory Framework

The main legal acts, by-laws and governmental policies that are relevant for the identification and mitigation of social impacts and risks, as well as environmental are listed in the table below:

Legislation	Purpose
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
EGO 195/2005 on environmental protection, approved by Law no.265/2006. Framework Law on Protection of the Environment.	Sets the principles governing the protection of the environment and of the economic activities in view of reaching the objectives of sustainable development
EGO 57/2007 regarding the regime of the protected natural areas, the conservation of the natural habitats, of the flora and wildlife.	Sets the principles for the regime of the protected natural areas, the conservation of the natural habitats, of the flora and wildlife.
Law no. 292/2018 on environmental impact assessment for certain public and private projects.	The Law establishes the rules for the environmental impact assessment for public and private projects with possible significant impact on the environment
MO no. 269/2020 on the approval of the general guidelines applicable to the environmental impact assessment procedure, of the environmental impact assessment procedure in transboundary context and other specific guidelines for various domains and project categories.	Sets the steps required for the environmental impact assessment for various domains and project categories.
MO no. 333/2021 MEWF and 165/2021 MARD for the approval of the Code of the agricultural good practices for the protection of the waters against pollution with nitrates from agricultural sources, and of the Action Program for the Water Protection Against Pollution with Nitrates from Agricultural Sources .	Sets provisions for agricultural good practices for the protection of the waters against pollution with nitrates from agricultural sources.

Legislation	Purpose
EGO 92/2021 on waste	Sets measures for preventing and minimizing waste production and effective management, reduction of their adverse effects and increasing the effectiveness of resource use towards a circular economy and long-term competitiveness
Law 104/2011 regarding ambient air quality.	The Law has the objective to maintaining the air quality and improving the air quality - component of the environment, preventing and reducing the adverse effects of physical, chemical, biological, radioactive and other factors on the atmosphere, with adverse consequences for the population and /or the environment, and regulates the activity of individuals and legal entities, irrespective of type of ownership and legal form of organization, when he/she directly or indirectly affects or may affect the air quality.
CONSTRUCTION WORKS	
Law no. 10/1995 on Quality in Construction	It sets a quality system for construction activities leading to the development and operation of quality constructions for the protection of human life, assets, society and the preservation of the environment.
Law no. 50/1991 on the authorization for execution of construction works	The provisions of the law are mandatory for authorizing the execution of constructions of any kind, category, destination, and type of property, except for objects of a military or secret which are specifically authorized character.
SOCIAL PROTECTION	
Law no. 53/2003 - Labor Code	The legal act regulates individual and collective employment relationships, the enforcement of the regulations regarding employment and the labor jurisdiction.
Law no. 319/2006 – Occupational Health and Safety	The law provides the general framework for health and safety at the workplace, roles and responsibilities, monitoring bodies.
Law no. 481/2004 regarding the civil protection	Envisions an integrated set of specific activities, measures and organizational, technical, operative, humanitarian and public information tasks,

Legislation	Purpose
	planned, organized and realized in order to prevent and reduce risks of disasters; protection of population; goods and environment against the negative effects of emergency situations.
Law no. 448/2006 regarding the protection and promotion of the rights of disabled persons (republished in 2008)	Regulates the rights and obligations of disabled persons granted for the purpose of their social integration and inclusion.
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
Law no. 544/2001 on access to public information	The Law ensures access to public information by all authorities and public institutions
Law 52/2003 on transparency in the decision-making process	This law establishes the applicable norms for ensuring transparency in the decision-making process within the central and local public administration authorities, other public authorities and regulates their relations with citizens, with associations established in accordance with the law, with other stakeholders in order to participate in the decision-making process.

IX.2. Environmental and Social Screening Checklist

(to be completed with project intervention in subcomponent 2.1 and adapted to the specific of the farm)

1. Subproject name

2. **Brief description of sub-project** (to include nature of the sub-project, cost, physical size, site area, location)

3. **Proposed activities** (in Yes/No terms)

Types of activities	Yes	No	Comments
Small scale refurbishing activities inside the premises			
Replacement of the asbestos roofs			
Major refurbishing activities involving removal/reconstruction of walls (especially when containing asbestos isolations or sheets)			
Renovation works involving generation of comparatively large waste quantities (e.g. replacement of floor, exchange of ventilation and or electrical systems, replacement of doors and/or windows)			
Refurbishing activities including replacement of ceramics; remodeling of the existing offices involving potentially hazardous materials like residues from paints, solvents, enamels, and the replacement of larger quantities of windows and doors			
Water supply and sanitation networks			
Public toilets			
Insulation of building envelope (walls, ceilings, roofs)			
Repair/replacement of external doors and windows, window optimization			
Fuel switching			
Reflective surfacing of walls behind radiators			
Pipe insulation			
Installation of solar panels for water heating			

Beneficiary:

Signature:

Date

IX.3. Public Consultations

On 22.11.2022, ESMF and SEP were launched in public consultation. The announcement was posted on the MEWF website (<http://www.mmediu.ro/categorie/transparenta/10>), on the "Transparency" section, on both Romanian and Hungarian, with a deadline for submitting comments and proposals up to (including) 06.12.2022. By the deadline, there were no proposals/remarks on the Plan for the Identification of the Interested Factors and no proposals remarks on the ESMF.

On 28.11.2022, e-mails were sent with the invitation to participate in the December 5th on public consultation to stakeholders representing public institutions (16 representatives), farmers professional associations (7 representatives), NGO and other interested entities (16 representatives). The meeting of public consultation from December 5th, 2022 was attended, both physically and online, by 15 participants, representatives from various invited entities, and 3 PMU representatives (MEWF).

Participants:

1. Vice-President Farmers' Association of Romania
2. Vice-President Association of Mountain Areas in Romania
3. Association of Mountain Areas in Romania
4. Representative of the National Sanitary Veterinary Authority
5. representative of the General Directorate for Biodiversity (MEWF)
6. representative of the General Directorate for Biodiversity (MEWF)
7. representative of the Romanian Waters National Administration
8. representative of the Romanian Waters National Administration
9. representative of the Romanian Ornithological Society (NGO)
10. representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
11. representative of the Romanian Farmers' Club
12. Vice-President of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (ASAS)
13. representative of the National Phytosanitary Authority
14. representative of the National Phytosanitary Authority
15. representative of the National Phytosanitary Authority

On behalf of MEWF, UMP "Integrated Nutrition Pollution Control" participated the following representatives:

- Coordinator Components 2 &3
- Technical Coordinator Component 1
- Project Assistant.

The PMU presented the new RAPID project, with a financing of EUR 60 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the beneficiaries, the project interventions and the types of investments to be made under each component and the key risks that were identified and the measures to be taken to ensure the reduction and elimination of these risks. Furthermore, was made a short presentation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) with emphasis on the importance of this document for assessing and managing environmental and social risks, in view of the objectives of these documents and the importance of stakeholder

involvement and consultation. Further on, participants were invited to comment over the identified risks and reduction measures for their possible adjustment / consolidation.

The Vice-President of ASAS made the following proposals:

- To include as beneficiaries the development farms established under the agricultural research stations, which are already having a well developed farm infrastructure, but oriented towards production;
- While modernizing the farms, the farms with roofs covered with asbestos should be targeted;
- The investment for producing energy at farm level should include pumps for underground heath recovering / energy transfer.

Vice-President of Farmers' Association of Romania considered that the identified risks and the proposed mitigation measures cover the risks that could manifest themselves in the realization of the investments proposed by the project. He reiterated the importance of this project for the improvement of farmers concerns about environmental policies, particularly on air, soil and water and the need of prioritizing the intervention in rural areas, based on the following remarks:

- Production of pelets out of manure should be considered, as will make possible the use of the application for the chemical fertilisers (thus, farmers will be encouraged to use organic farming, considering there will be no need of the special equipment for the application of the organic fertilisers);
- To include investments in Biogas Plants, using manure as raw material;
- Should encourage the use of digestat and of liquide fraction from the Biogas Plants
- Farmers should be supported with agro-chemical tests and elaboration of the fertilisation plans, as there is a strong reluctance on preparing these valuable soil tests, including by large farmers;
- Large farmers they do need knowledge on pollution prevention and reduction.

The PMU representatives clarified that Biogas Plants investments are extremelly costly (around 4 millions euro per investments, while these grants shall be limited at no more than 200,000 euro/project), and there is another grant scheme under the National Resilience and Recovery Plan that will finance this type of investments.

Participants of the public meeting consultation were thanked for their suggestions and participation and were encouraged by PMU representatives to reach out with more proposals and suggestions on the project before the project implementation becomes effective. They were informed that a comprehensive consultation on technical aspects and, especially on the types of investments for selected farms to be modernisation will be organised during project implementation, where specific information about the sub-projects will be shared including on MEWF websites; and stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on specific aspects of the model farm investments. At this stage, specific suggestions related to farm modernisation could be well integrated into sub-projects as appropriate depending on scope and related costs.



IX.4. Complaint Form

Public Grievance Form

Reference No:	
Full Name	
Contact Information Please mark how you wish to be contacted (mail, telephone, e-mail).	☐ By Post: Please provide mailing address: ☐ By Telephone: ☐ By E-mail
Preferred Language for communication	☐ [English] ☐ [Romanian]
Description of Incident or Grievance: What happened? Where did it happen? Who did it happen to? What is the result of the problem?	
Date of Incident/Grievance	
	☐ One time incident/grievance (date) ☐ Happened more than once (how many times?)

	Y On-going (currently experiencing problem)
What would you like to see happen to resolve the problem?	

Signature: Date:

IX.5. Sample Site-Specific ESMP/ESMP Checklist

A. GENERAL PROJECT AND SITE INFORMATION

INSTITUTIONAL & ADMINISTRATIVE				
Country				
Project title				
Scope of project and activity	Small scale construction works for rehabilitation of buildings under the _____ project			
Institutional arrangements (Name and contacts)	WB (Project Team Leader)	Project Management	Local Counterpart and/or Recipient	
Implementation arrangements (Name and contacts)	Safeguard Supervision	Local Counterpart Supervision	Local Inspectorate Supervision	Contactors
SITE DESCRIPTION				
Name of site				
Describe site location			Attachment 1: Site Map []Y [] N	
Who owns the land?				
Description of geographic, physical, biological, geological, hydrographic and socio-economic context				
Locations and distance for material sourcing, especially aggregates, water, stones?				
LEGISLATION				
Identify national & local legislation & permits that apply to project activity				
PUBLIC CONSULTATION				

Identify when / where the public consultation process took place	
INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING	
Will there be any capacity building?	☐ N or ☐ Y if Yes, Attachment 2 includes the capacity building program

Social Checklist for Construction and Rehabilitation Activities

	Social Impacts/Risks	Yes	No	Not Known	Details
1.	Is the public land proposed for investment free of any claims?				
2.	Was there an expropriation process involving this land in the past three years?				
3.	Will the project development suppose an additional workload for locally employed personnel?				
4.	Will the intervention include demolishing/construction works on (parts of) an existing building? <i>(Please specify what types of works are expected – 1. Demolition & reconstruction, 2. only demolition, 3. only construction)</i>				
5.	Are there near-by private properties that could be affected by these works?				
6.	Could the demolition/construction works affect the local traffic/accessibility for the near located inhabitants/institutions/workers/business owners?				
7.	Will the works require access to private property?				
8.	Is (are) the owner(s) of the private property willing to grant access during the period of works?				
9.	Could the required access to the private property disturb/cause significant financial losses to the affected party (explain if applicable)?				
10.	Will the demolition/construction works affect the water supply to inhabitants/workers/business in the area?				
11.	Will the demolition/construction works affect power supply to inhabitants/workers/business owners in the area?				
12.	Will the demolition/construction works affect gas supply to inhabitants/workers/business owners in the area?				

13. Will the demolition/construction works affect the supply of the thermal agent to inhabitants/workers/business owners in the area?				
14. Are there expected to be drilling works on the site?				
15. Could those works affect the private buildings/land placed in close proximity?				
16. Is there any possibility to move out, close of business/commercial/livelihood activities of persons during demolition/constructions?				
17. Are there informal houses or squatters on the site or in the near vicinity of the site?				
18. Is there any physical displacement of persons due to constructions?				
19. Does this project involve resettlement of any persons? If yes, give details.				
20. Will there be loss of incomes and livelihoods (e.g. affecting nearby crops or orchards)?				
21. Will people permanently or temporarily lose access to facilities, services, or natural resources?				
22. Is the project expected to lead to temporary relocation of the teachers, staff and students from the affected building?				
23. Will the relocation increase the workload for the personnel (traveling longer distances, adapting to relocation site conditions)?				
24. Will the working conditions of the relocated population of students, teachers and staff be worsened due to movement?				
25. Will that relocation lead to increased transportation costs for the relocated persons?				
26. Will project generate excessive labor influx as a result of new constructions?				
27. Has there been any conflict involving foreign workers in the recent years at the level of the local community?				

	28. Is there a large Roma population? Please indicate the percentage and include information about other ethnic groups, if the case.				
--	--	--	--	--	--

B: ENVIRONMENTAL /SOCIAL SCREENING

Will the site activity include/involve any of the following??	Activity	Status	Triggered Actions
	A. Building rehabilitation	☐ Yes ☐ No	See Section A below
	B. Minor new construction	☐ Yes ☐ No	See Section A below
	C. Wastewater treatment system	☐ Yes ☐ No	See Section B below
	D. Historic building(s) and districts	☐ Yes ☐ No	See Section C below
	E. Acquisition of land ¹⁶	☐ Yes ☐ No	See Section D below
	F. Hazardous or toxic materials ¹⁷	☐ Yes ☐ No	See Section E below
	G. Impacts on forests and/or protected areas	☐ Yes ☐ No	See Section F below
	H. Handling / management of medical waste	☐ Yes ☐ No	See Section G below
	I. Traffic and Pedestrian Safety	☐ Yes ☐ No	See Section H below
	J. Labor Influx	☐ Yes ☐ No	See Section I below

C: MITIGATION MEASURES

ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST
0. General Conditions	Notification and Worker Safety	
A. General Rehabilitation and /or Construction Activities	Air Quality	

¹⁶ Land acquisitions includes displacement of people, change of livelihood encroachment on private property this is to land that is purchased/transferred and affects people who are living and/or squatters and/or operate a business (kiosks) on land that is being acquired.

¹⁷ Toxic / hazardous material includes but is not limited to asbestos, toxic paints, noxious solvents, removal of lead paint, etc.

	Noise	
	Water Quality	
	Waste management	
B. Individual wastewater treatment system	Water Quality	
C. Historic building(s)	Cultural Heritage	
D. Acquisition of land	Land Acquisition Plan/Framework	
E. Toxic Materials	Asbestos management	
	Toxic / hazardous waste management	
F. Affected forests, wetlands and/or protected areas	Protection	
G. Disposal of medical waste	Infrastructure for medical waste management	
H Traffic and Pedestrian Safety	Direct or indirect hazards to public traffic and pedestrians by construction activities	
I. Labor Influx	Accommodation	
	Foreign workers	

D: MONITORING PLAN

	parameter to be monitored						
Phase	What	Where	How	When	Why	Cost	Who
During activity preparation							
During implementation activity							
During supervision activity							