

DNSH Criteria for Promotion of Healthy Ecosystems and Biodiversity Objective

Guiding principles

An activity is considered as doing significant harm to the objective of 'Promotion of healthy ecosystems and biodiversity' if:

- The activity is detrimental to the good ecological potential of water bodies, including surface waters and groundwaters, or to the good environmental status of marine waters; OR
- The activity contributes to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water, or land; OR
- The activity is detrimental to a significant extent to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems or where that activity is detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of community interest.

In order to ensure the activity does not harm the environmental objective, the risks and impacts to the following are identified, evaluated, managed and monitored:

- Impact on water resources
- Impact related to noise
- Impact on air
- Impact on soil
- Impact on biodiversity

DNSH criteria

The main criteria for this environmental objective are provided below:

1. Perform Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening for the activity, and if necessary, conduct the EIA as per appropriate guidance.
1.1. Determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is required for any aspect of potential significant harm by using the EIA screening guidance. This is available in Appendix III .
1.2. If EIA/ESIA is required, the guidance for performing them is provided in Appendix IV .
1.3. For an ongoing activity, where no EIA was conducted before commencement, an EIA should be conducted with respect to any relevant and material aspect of potential significant harm. The details of any significant harm being caused by an ongoing activity must be presented as part of an assessment.
2. The environmental risks and impacts identified by the EIA are appropriately addressed.
Impact on water resources: • Environmental risks related to water quality and/or water consumption are identified and managed. • Ensure relevant Water Quality Management Plan are developed and implemented in consultation with relevant stakeholders (guidance for development of management plans provided in Appendix V). • Monitor the compliance and effectiveness of the mitigation measures committed in the Plans.
Impacts related to noise: • Environmental risks related to noise pollution are identified and managed at the time of construction and operation of the activity. • Ensure noise emissions comply with maximum permissible noise levels for the jurisdiction as well as any applicable international agreement or conventions (National and international standards and guidance provided in Appendix V). • Ensure relevant Noise Management Plans are developed and implemented in consultation with relevant stakeholders • Monitor the compliance and effectiveness of the mitigation measures committed in the Plans.

Impacts on air:

- Environmental risks related to air pollution are identified and managed at the time of construction and operation of the activity.
- Ensure air emissions comply with maximum permissible air quality levels for the jurisdiction as well as any applicable international agreement or conventions (National and international standards and guidance provided in **Appendix V**).
- Ensure relevant Air Quality Management Plans are developed and implemented in consultation with relevant stakeholders
- Monitor the compliance and effectiveness of the mitigation measures committed in the Plans.

Impacts on soil:

- Environmental risks related to soil pollution are identified and managed at the time of construction and operation of the activity.
- Ensure content of soil pollutants (such as metals, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyl, and total petroleum hydrocarbons) comply with maximum permissible soil quality levels for the jurisdiction as well as any applicable international agreement or conventions (National and international standards and guidance provided in **Appendix V**).
- Ensure relevant Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans are developed and implemented in consultation with relevant stakeholders
- Monitor the compliance and effectiveness of the mitigation measures committed in the Plans.

Impacts on biodiversity:

- Environmental risks related to biodiversity are identified and managed at the time of construction and operation of the activity.
- Ensure relevant Biodiversity Management Plans are developed and implemented in consultation with relevant stakeholders (guidance for development of management plans provided in **Appendix V**).
- Monitor the compliance and effectiveness of the mitigation measures committed in the Plans.