

4.6 Biodiversity and invasive species

Principle: There are healthy, functional and viable aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in the project-affected area that are sustainable over the long-term, and biodiversity impacts arising from project activities are managed responsibly; and that ongoing or emerging biodiversity issues are identified and addressed.

Scope: Ecosystem values, habitat and specific issues such as threatened species and fish passage in the catchment, reservoir and downstream areas, as well as potential impacts arising from pest and invasive species associated with the project.

Requirements:

Criteria	Minimum requirements (good practice)	Advanced requirements (best practice)
Assessment	<p>Preparation Stage:</p> <p>An assessment of terrestrial biodiversity; aquatic biodiversity including passage of aquatic species and loss of connectivity to significant habitat; and risks of invasive species has been undertaken with no significant gaps.</p> <p>Implementation Stage:</p> <p>Biodiversity issues relevant to project implementation and operation have been identified through an assessment process utilising appropriate expertise; and monitoring is being undertaken during the project implementation stage appropriate to the identified issues.</p> <p>Operation Stage:</p> <p>Ongoing or emerging biodiversity issues have been identified, and if management measures are required then monitoring is being undertaken to assess if management measures are effective.</p>	<p>Preparation Stage:</p> <p>The assessment takes broad considerations into account, and both risks and opportunities.</p> <p>Implementation Stage:</p> <p>Monitoring of biodiversity issues during project implementation takes into account inter-relationships amongst issues, and both risks and opportunities that become evident during implementation.</p> <p>Operation Stage:</p> <p>Identification of ongoing or emerging biodiversity issues takes into account both risks and opportunities</p>
Management	<p>Preparation Stage:</p> <p>Plans and processes to address identified biodiversity issues have been developed for project implementation and operation.</p> <p>Implementation Stage:</p> <p>Processes are in place to ensure management of identified biodiversity issues, and to meet commitments, relevant to the project implementation stage; and plans are in place for the operation stage for ongoing biodiversity issues management.</p> <p>Operation Stage:</p> <p>Measures are in place to manage identified biodiversity issues.</p>	<p>Preparation Stage, Implementation Stage and Operation Stage:</p> <p>Processes are in place to anticipate and respond to emerging risks and opportunities; and commitments in plans are public, formal and legally enforceable.</p>
Conformance/ Compliance	<p>Implementation Stage and Operation Stage:</p> <p>Processes and objectives in place to manage biodiversity issues have been and are on track to be met with no major non-compliances or non-conformances, and biodiversity related commitments have been or are on track to be met.</p>	<p>Implementation Stage and Operation Stage:</p> <p>There are no non-compliances or non-conformances.</p>

Outcomes	<p>Preparation Stage:</p> <p>Plans avoid, minimise, mitigate and compensate negative biodiversity impacts arising from project activities.</p> <p>Implementation Stage and Operation Stage:</p> <p>Negative biodiversity impacts arising from project activities are avoided, minimised, mitigated, and compensated..</p>	<p>Preparation Stage:</p> <p>Plans avoid, minimise, mitigate and compensate negative biodiversity impacts due to project activities; and plans provide for enhancements to pre-project biodiversity conditions or contribute to addressing biodiversity issues beyond those impacts caused by the project.</p> <p>Implementation Stage:</p> <p>Negative biodiversity impacts arising from project implementation are avoided, minimised, mitigated and compensated; and enhancements to pre-project biodiversity conditions or contribution to addressing biodiversity issues beyond those impacts caused by the project are achieved or are on track to be achieved.</p> <p>Operation Stage:</p> <p>There are healthy, functional and viable aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in the area affected by the hydropower facility that are sustained over the long-term; or the facility has contributed or is on track to contribute to addressing biodiversity issues beyond those impacts caused by the operating hydropower facility.</p>
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4.7 Indigenous peoples

Principle: The project respects the dignity, human rights, aspirations, culture, lands, knowledge, practices and natural resource-based livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples in an ongoing manner throughout the project life.

Scope: The rights at risk and opportunities of Indigenous Peoples with respect to the project, recognising that as social groups with identities distinct from dominant groups in national societies, they are often the most marginalised and vulnerable segments of the population.

Requirements:

Criteria	Minimum requirements (good practice)	Advanced requirements (best practice)
Assessment	<p>Preparation Stage:</p> <p>An assessment of the representation of Indigenous Peoples in the project-affected community has been undertaken, including identification of their rights at risk in relation to the project, utilising local knowledge and expertise.</p> <p>Implementation Stage:</p> <p>Issues that may affect Indigenous Peoples' rights in relation to the project have been identified through an assessment process utilising local knowledge and expertise; and monitoring of project impacts and effectiveness of management measures is being undertaken during project implementation appropriate to the identified rights at risk.</p>	<p>Preparation Stage and Implementation Stage:</p> <p>The assessment takes broad considerations into account, including wider opportunities for Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>Implementation Stage:</p> <p>Monitoring during project implementation takes into account inter-relationships amongst issues, and both risks and opportunities that become evident during implementation.</p> <p>Operation Stage:</p> <p>Identification of issues that may affect Indigenous Peoples' rights is undertaken with the free, prior and informed participation of Indigenous Peoples; and takes into account both risks and opportunities.</p>