Projects shall aim to achieve a net gain in biodiversity and natural habitat quality, while preventing adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and ensuring ecological connectivity.

Projects shall have a minimized and managed carbon footprint, measured on a whole project lifecycle basis. Projects can demonstrate a positive GHG emissions avoidance (not including any purchased carbon offsets.)

Projects shall use a lifecycle approach (in its design, construction, operation, and decommissioning) and avoiding, minimising, recycling/up-cycling, and re-using waste generated.

Projects shall use pollution prevention to minimise impacts on various receptors, including air, soil, water, fauna, flora, and the human environment, as well as issues like noise, light, vibrations, and heat.

Projects shall identify and address risks throughout their lifecycle, ensuring resilience to hazards and climate changes, and aligning with climate resilience policies, while also enhancing sector, ecosystem, and institutional resilience through co-beneficial activities.
Projects shall conduct an analysis of its impact on gender equality, ethnic diversity, and vulnerable groups, and implement a plan to address gender-based violence and harassment risks while enhancing positive outcomes.

Projects shall proactively monitor and evaluate their impact on public health and safety of local communities as well as on people working on the project and the project site.

Projects must identify and address supply chain issues, boost local employment, enforce ethical labour policies, and monitor performance during construction, while also reporting on relevant indicators for human and labour rights improvements.

Projects shall prevent involuntary resettlement and economic displacement, ensuring like-for-like land and tenure, and minimise displacement through alternative designs and community engagement, including resettlement and livelihood restoration plans where necessary.

Projects shall effectively engage with all affected stakeholders and communities, both ahead of the project and throughout the project lifecycle and implement a stakeholder engagement plan to address issues identified, including impacts on all communities and cultural heritage sites within the project area, as well as the degree of expected direct and indirect economic, social, cultural, and environmental impact.

Projects must develop and implement an anti-corruption and anti-bribery management system throughout the project lifecycle.

Projects must implement measures that promote ethics, accountability, integrity, and transparency throughout the project lifecycle.

When projects benefit from a direct or contingent government financial obligation, they must disclose any such direct and/or contingent government obligations. Other projects must demonstrate they comply with the accounting and fiscal rules where the project is located and they are not seeking fiscal advantages which go beyond the project’s scope.

Projects shall implement an environmental and social management system (ESMS) in adherence with national corporate governance regulations and ensure that sustainability performance targets are tracked with time-bound milestones.