



Environmental Sustainability Check-List

to be used for projects submitted under EU Regional Funding

Drafted by Stefanie Lang, November 2007

Rationale:

The following set of questions tries to capture and assess in how far proposed projects comply with the environmental and sustainable development requirement of EU Regional Funding. The proposed questions serve as a checklist to be applied when looking at a project pipeline by the managing authorities in cooperation with the selection or monitoring committees. It should serve all stakeholders in the various committees and it is not only applicable to environment programmes, but to project pipelines of **all** programmes.

The questions are neither too technical nor too detailed, but nevertheless able to give an indication project impact. They can also serve as a guideline for monitoring. Project check-list questions are both procedural as well as content-oriented and have been developed by WWF staff in Brussels with the input of those participating in steering and monitoring committees, with input of the European Commission and national Ministries of Finance as well as the private sector.

How to use the check-list:

Step one:

The general questions can be used and applied to any project and any sector. It is at a very general level and includes procedural questions. It can be used as a starting point to be followed by specific questions or as a more general check-list in itself.

Step two:

Later, the questions are grouped by topics/ sectors and can be applied specifically to a project proposed for a certain sector or topic. If you are not sure about the sector, you may run the proposal through several or even all blocks of questions.

The specific questions can be answered and the results can then be added. Adding up all the points then gives a global score and we propose to visualise the scores in a traffic light format to assess the sustainability of a project quickly. Please also explain why a certain colour of the traffic light has been chosen. Pay attention if there are too many question-marks to the questions. This would mean that a proposal needs to deliver more information and also means that this project needs to be revisited by the committee.

Who should use the check-list:

We suggest this list to be used by all stakeholders in the implementation process: In the monitoring, evaluation or steering committees, in project development, project management and project evaluation. It can be used in project administration, project planning as well as in project management. We see this check-list as first step in a process and as a flexible instrument to be potentially refined or adapted to the specific national or regional situation.

IMPORTANT:

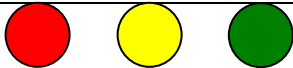
The questions serve as a tool for transparency as we advise to publish all the evaluation sheets.

Contact, questions or suggestions:

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Step one:

10 Questions to General Sustainability

No.	Question	yes	no	?
1	Has this project been developed with the input of environmental and social stakeholders?			
2	Is this project proposal making sure that the smallest possible amount of resources (soil, water, air, energy etc) is used for this project?			
3	Is the proposal including green procurement standards for all required goods, materials and services?			
4	Has this proposal considered potential negative environmental and social impacts in a mid- and long-term perspective?			
5	Will this project support or ensure the provision of environmental services of a certain area (like flood prevention, water purification, air cleaning)?			
6	Will this project still be beneficial with the consequences of climate change like more or less rain, flood and drought risks etc.?			
7	Will this project lead to a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions?			
8	Will this project still be beneficial once the EU funding is used and public funding needs to be used for maintenance?			
9	Has the project proposal excluded risks of water, air or soil contamination?			
10	Does the project proposal exclude the negative impact of a protected site, a vulnerable area or a highly valuable ecosystem or a nature park?			
	FINAL OVERALL SCORE			
	 <p>Comments and explanation why a certain assessment has been given:</p>			

Mark the relevant answer for each question and add up in the final overall score line. Decide if you want to give the project the green, red or yellow light and explain why.

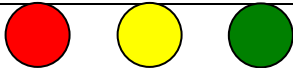
Step two:

Specific Questions to certain project types

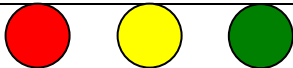
Decide what type of project/measure you want to check and chose amongst the following topics:

1. Water infrastructure
2. Transport
3. Water transport
4. Flood protection
5. Business investments
6. Construction
7. Renewable energies
8. Energy efficiency
9. Waste
10. Nature protection
11. Technical Assistance

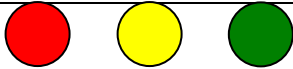
1. 10 Questions to water infrastructure-related projects

No.	Question	yes	no	?
1	Is this project excluding the negative impact of any water bodies, coastal waters, wetlands etc.?			
2	Has this proposal considered using the polluter-pays principle?			
3	Will this project comply with the non-deterioration clause of the water framework directive?			
4	Is this project using the most recent supporting water-saving and water recycling technology?			
5	Is this project supporting or promoting realistic water pricing?			
6	Will this project lead to more efficient water use, water-saving or water recycling?			
7	Is this project proposing activities to raise awareness about water scarcity, water-saving or water recycling?			
8	Will this project lead to an improvement of the water quality of a certain water body?			
9	Is this project supporting the establishment and management of protected areas in water bodies?			
10	Is this project including technologies for migratory fish like ladders or detours?			
	FINAL OVERALL SCORE			
	 <p>Comments and explanation why a certain assessment has been given:</p>			


2. 10 Questions to transport-related projects

No.	Question	yes	no	?
1	Will this project decrease CO2 emissions?			
2	Will this project help to reduce the need for transport?			
3	Will this project increase public transport use or the safe use of bicycles?			
4	Is this project leading to a decoupling of economic growth and road transport?			
5	Will this project promote the most environmentally favourable transport solution?			
6	Will this project lead to more goods being transported by sustainable modes?			
7	Will this project still be relevant when looking at the demographic changes ahead?			
8	Has this project considered natural extreme conditions like floods, earthquakes, erosion etc. and the potential negative impacts?			
9	Has this project considered alternative routings so to avoid damaging valuable natural sites?			
10	Will this project include technologies to mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity and species?			
	FINAL OVERALL SCORE			
	 <p>Comments and explanation why a certain assessment has been given:</p>			

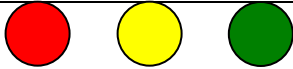
3. 10 Questions to water-transport related projects

No.	Question	yes	no	?
1	Will this project leave the morphology of the river unchanged?			
2	Will this project help to adjust ships to the river instead of rivers to the ships?			
3	Will this project still be relevant and beneficial with the impacts of climate change (less water or flood risks)?			
4	Will this project ensure the inter-modal shift from ships to other transport means?			
5	Will this project support ships to be as energy efficient as possible?			
6	Are technologies used that reduce the amount of water pollution?			
7	Does the proposal include strategies to minimise water contamination risks (oil spills, accidents)?			
8	Is any harbour construction complying with the conservation regulation of the EU?			
9	Will this project ensure that protected riparian or sea habitats are not destroyed?			
10	Will this project ensure mitigation measures for river or sea species?			
	FINAL OVERALL SCORE			
	 <p>Comments and explanation why a certain assessment has been given:</p>			

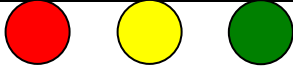
4. 10 Questions to flood protection-related projects

No.	Question	yes	no	?
1	Is the flood protection technology climate change proof as there might be more water at shorter times?			
2	Is this project concentrating on flood prevention rather than flood retention?			
3	Does the flood protection mainly use natural flood protection measures like restoration of flood plains?			
4	Is the project part of an integrated river basin flood protection concept?			
5	Will this project mainly use soft engineering measures for flood prevention?			
6	Is the project complying with the non-deterioration clause of the Water Framework Directive?			
7	Will the project support the management of protected areas and species in the river basin?			
8	Is this project giving more space to rivers as a flood prevention measure?			
9	Has this project a strong trans-boundary flood prevention and protection co-operation element to avoid the “export” of flood risks downstream?			
10	Is the project also tackling the land-use patterns to make riverside areas less prone to flood risks?			
	FINAL OVERALL SCORE			
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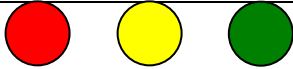
5. 10 Questions to business investments-related projects

No.	Question	yes	no	?
1	Does this project support the business to comply with environmental regulation?			
2	Has this project considered the most up-to-date technology for energy efficiency in production?			
3	Does this project support the business to use more renewable energy sources?			
4	Is this project supporting the business to use less natural resources like water, soil etc?			
5	Has this project considered the most up-to-date technology for recycling and waste reduction?			
6	Will this project support businesses to emit less polluting or hazardous substances to air, water or soil?			
7	Will this project develop, support or market eco-technology?			
8	Will this project support jobs in the eco-technology field?			
9	Is this proposal including green procurement rules for the purchase of materials, goods and services?			
10	Is this project encouraging company staff in developing, testing or practising environmental protection measures?			
	FINAL OVERALL SCORE			
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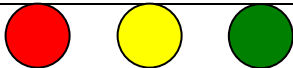
6. 10 Questions to construction-related projects (buildings and housing)

No.	Question	yes	no	?
1	Will this project achieve more use of renewable energy sources for the building concerned?			
2	Will this project lead to a construction with neutral or even positive (energy-producing) CO2 balance?			
3	Will the project implement above-standard energy efficiency requirements and lead to the highest possible energy efficiency in the building concerned?			
4	Will the project support also private owners to make their buildings more energy efficient?			
5	Will the proposal support the implementation of an energy audit for buildings?			
6	Is the construction using brown-field space instead of green-field space?			
7	Is the construction climate change impacts-proof when looking at flood risks?			
8	Does this proposal help to reduce the urban sprawl of cities?			
9	Is the project linked to a sustainable transport concept instead of leading to more CO2 emission?			
10	Will this project serve its purpose with demographic change impacts (less population in some regions, more urban population, older population)?			
FINAL OVERALL SCORE				
 <p>Comments and explanation why a certain assessment has been given:</p>				

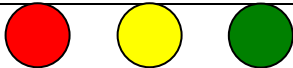
7. 10 Questions to projects related to renewable energies

No.	Question	yes	no	?
1	Is this project proposing renewable energy investments which are adapted to local and regional circumstances?			
2	Is this project prioritising small-scale, local renewable energy sources rather than large investments?			
3	Is this project supporting the introduction of renewable energies via feed-in-schemes, tax incentives, credit-schemes?			
4	Is this project using to the highest possible energy efficiency in the energy production?			
5	Has the project involved and consulted local stakeholders?			
6	Is this project leading to more transparent prices for renewable energies?			
7	Is this project supporting renewable energies procurement rules?			
8	Is this project supporting the research, development or refinement of renewable energy sources?			
9	Have potentially negative impacts of renewable energy production on the environment and on habitats been considered and avoided?			
10	Is this project including training schemes for relevant stakeholders in renewable energy technology?			
	FINAL OVERALL SCORE			
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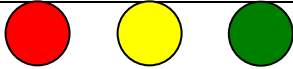
8. 10 Questions to projects related to energy efficiency

No.	Question	yes	no	?
1	Will this project support the energy efficiency for public buildings and houses?			
2	Is this project creating tax, credit or policy instruments to achieve more energy efficiency on a long-term?			
3	Is this project developing the energy efficiency of public services for transport?			
4	Is this project developing the energy efficiency of public services like lightening?			
5	Is this project leading to more efficiency in the energy provision and/or energy transport?			
6	Is this project supporting the introduction of an energy-efficiency audit scheme?			
7	Is this project supporting energy-saving procurement rules?			
8	Is this project including an awareness-raising aspect to train end-users in energy saving measures?			
9	Is this project training relevant stakeholders in energy-saving technology?			
10	Is this project including a scheme to support private owners to invest into energy efficiency in their houses?			
	FINAL OVERALL SCORE			
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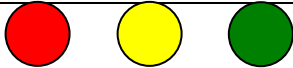
9. 10 Questions to projects related to waste

No.	Question	yes	no	?
1	Has the proposal considered other forms of waste treatment than land-fill or incineration?			
2	Is this project reducing the amount of waste going to landfills?			
3	Is this project part of a wider recycling strategy?			
4	Does this project also contain an element to prevent waste from the start?			
5	Is this project containing an element to change practices in the production and / or retail cycle to make waste easier to be recycled?			
6	Is this project considering an activity to change practices in the industrial production to achieve a "close cycle" waste treatment?			
7	Is this project supporting the enforcement of the polluter-pays-principle for the waste sector?			
8	Has this project achieved some cooperation with the private sector?			
9	Is the project supporting households to avoid or recycle waste?			
10	Is the project considering awareness - raising elements for waste prevention and recycling?			
	FINAL OVERALL SCORE			
	 <p>Comments and explanation why a certain assessment has been given:</p>			

10. 10 Questions to nature protection-related projects

No.	Question	yes	no	?
1	Is the project linked to a wider, national or even trans-boundary conservation or protection strategy?			
2	Will this project also achieve social benefits?			
3	Will this project also achieve economic benefits for the region?			
4	Will this project recognise and/or monetarise the ecosystem services provided?			
5	Is the project containing an awareness - raising element?			
6	Has this project achieved some cooperation with the private sector?			
7	Will the project provide for sustainable funding schemes for conservation actions even after the end of the project?			
8	Is this project cooperating within a wider development context like tourism development or local production?			
9	Is this project supporting the prevention of natural risks (like fire, droughts, floods)?			
10	Has this project developed a strategy how to disseminate results or best practices?			
	FINAL OVERALL SCORE			
	 <p>Comments and explanation why a certain assessment has been given:</p>			

11. 10 Questions to Technical Assistance related measures

No.	Question	yes	no	?
1	Is this measure benefiting social, economic and environmental stakeholders to the same degree?			
2	Will this measure directly benefit the horizontal integration of environmental issues?			
3	Will this measure support the application of environmental scrutiny like the SEA or EIA directives?			
4	Will this measure also support the non-governmental stakeholders in the implementation process?			
5	Will this measure support the partnership principle and the transparency in policy implementation?			
6	Will this measure lead to better consultation processes for projects?			
7	Is this measure investing in organisational support and information tools in environmental fields like energy efficiency, renewable energy, nature protection etc?			
8	Is this measure developing lessons-learned for a wider audience?			
9	Is this measure investing into sustainability research in evaluation?			
10	Is this measure supporting the inter-sectoral cooperation during policy implementation?			
	FINAL OVERALL SCORE			
	 <p>Comments and explanation why a certain assessment has been given:</p>			