

Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

This template has been developed to support project proponents in meeting the requirements for stakeholder engagement laid out by the Innovation Facility and relevant carbon standard, particularly those related to advancing **social inclusion, equitable benefit-sharing, and gender equality**. It aligns with Section C, Part 3: Focus of the Innovation Facility in the [Concept Note](#), and is informed by the principles outlined in Chapter 1.2.3 of the [Innovation Facility's Guidelines for Applicants](#) and Chapter 6 of the [IUCN Stakeholder Engagement – Guidance Note](#).

The template is intended to guide proponents through the process of identifying and engaging relevant stakeholders, especially those located within or near the project site, who may be directly or indirectly affected by, or who may influence, the project. These stakeholders may include Indigenous Peoples, local communities, traditional leaders, women, youth, and other marginalised or vulnerable groups, as well as relevant government institutions at the national, regional, and local levels and non-governmental institutions.

Template Structure

The first section of the template focuses on **stakeholder analysis**, helping proponents assess each stakeholder group's interests, potential influence, proximity to the project area, and the likely impact of the project on them. A matrix format is provided to support systematic identification and prioritisation.

The second section provides a structure for the **Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)**, which summarises planned engagement activities throughout the project cycle. This includes proposed methods for information sharing, consultation, and participation; roles and responsibilities for implementation; resource requirements; and timing and frequency of engagement activities. The plan should be proportionate to the project's environmental and social risks and tailored to the local context and needs of each stakeholder group.

The final section supports documentation of **stakeholder consultations** carried out throughout the project lifecycle, from the concept note, to the full project proposal and finally implementation stages. This includes space to capture information on when and where consultations occurred, who participated (with gender disaggregation where possible), the methods used, key issues discussed, and how input received has shaped project design.

Proponents are encouraged to use this template not only as a compliance tool, but as a means of strengthening relationships, improving project outcomes, and ensuring accountability and transparency throughout the life of the project. More information on Stakeholder Engagement Requirements can be found in the Innovation Facility ESMS Manual and the IUCN Guidance Note on Stakeholder Engagement.

Alignment with Carbon Standard Requirements

In addition to complying with the Innovation Facility requirements, this template also supports alignment with the stakeholder engagement provisions of the specific carbon standard under which the project intends to certify its carbon credits.

Different carbon standards, such as the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) by Verra, Gold Standard, Plan Vivo, among others may include specific requirements on the timing, duration, methods and documentation of stakeholder engagement. These often include minimum disclosure periods or formal consultation steps for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), particularly for Indigenous Peoples and other rights-holding communities.

This section allows you to specify those requirements, ensuring that your stakeholder engagement process is tailored to the selected standard and helps maintain the project's eligibility for certification.

Stakeholder Engagement Requirements of the Selected Carbon Standard

Please specify the carbon standard under which the project will be certified:

<write answer here>

Does the selected carbon standard include specific stakeholder engagement requirements (e.g., minimum consultation, comments and disclosure periods, documentation procedures)?

If yes, please summarise them below:

Requirement Category	Standard-Specific Requirement
Minimum consultation period	3- 6 months
Minimum comments period	3 months
Minimum public disclosure period	6 months
Timing of engagement within the project cycle	Year 2 of the project
Frequency of engagement activities	trimestral
Documentation and reporting obligations	yes
Others (specify and add rows as necessary)	

1. Analysis of Stakeholders

Analysis of Stakeholders

Stakeholder (SH)	SH's role, main activities and capacity/expertise in areas <u>related</u> to the project	Potential influence of the SH on the project (a) 1=very low to 5=very high	Potential impact of the project on the SH (b) 1=very low to 5=very high	Significance (a x b)
Government agencies (at different levels i.e., national, regional, local)				
Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources & Fisheries <i>At central level:</i> General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGPA) <i>At local level:</i> Fisheries District of Sfax Fisheries District of Gabes	The responsibilities include planning agricultural and fisheries development, conducting sectoral studies, drafting policies, managing water and land resources, modernizing agricultural structures, coordinating reforms, expanding market networks, enhancing international trade, supervising research, and overseeing institutions dedicated to agricultural advancement. These efforts align with national economic goals and promote sustainable resource management and sectoral growth.	5	4	20
APAL Coastal Protection and Management Agency	The role of APAL (Coastal Protection and Development Agency) is to manage, protect, and sustainably develop coastal areas to prevent erosion, preserve ecosystems, and support economic activities.	3	2	6
INSTM Institut National des Technologies de la Mer	The INSTM (Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer) is Tunisia's national institute for marine science and technology. It plays a key role in marine research, monitoring, and sustainable management of marine and coastal	3	3	9

	resources, supporting national policies on fisheries, aquaculture, biodiversity, and the blue economy.			
Office de la Marine Marchande	regulate maritime transport, ensure port security, and promote commercial shipping to support the national economy.	4	4	16
Environment ministry	enforcing protections, monitoring ecosystems, promoting sustainable practices, and raising awareness to preserve marine biodiversity and carbon sequestration.	4	3	12
National Agency of Environmental Protection (ANPE)	ensuring the project's compliance with environmental regulations and national waste management standards. It provides technical guidance, monitors environmental impacts, and facilitates coordination with relevant authorities. ANPE also supports awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts, helping to promote sustainable plastic waste collection and recycling practices.	4	4	16
Ministry of Economy and Planning	The Ministry of Economy is involved in establishing the institutional, legal, and financial framework necessary for the development of a national blue carbon market, mobilizing investments, facilitating certification and credit sales, and ensuring that revenues are channeled towards conservation efforts and sustainable economic opportunities for coastal communities.	3	2	6

Local stakeholders (break down to Indigenous Peoples, local communities, village committees, etc)				
Fishery Cooperatives GDP – Ghannouch	GDP (Groupment of fishery development) are key partner to WWF Med NA in the Gulf of Gabes, promotes sustainable artisanal fishing through eco-friendly techniques, no-take zone co-management, and diversification (e.g., blue crab valorization). It also empowers fishermen's wives via training in net repair, fish processing, and marketing to enhance livelihoods and community resilience.	4	4	16
Interprofessional grouping of sea products GIPP	Support developing new synergies in the diversification of fishing by offering fishermen other opportunities to improve their income and reduce fishing effort, and this by transforming certain species of fish with low commercial value into more valued and marketed and ready to eat. These activities are part of the strategy of the blue economy and sustainable development	3	2	6
National Tunisian Tourist Office	Provides support to enhance local community opportunities through initiatives related to the blue economy.	3	2	6
Civil Society Organisations (include grassroots level)				
Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries UTAP	Main organisation that discuss Fishers rights and sector issue at national level. influence decision makers. key CSO partner at national level with local representations.	3	2	6
Agricultural Extension and Training Agency AVFA	The Agricultural Extension and Training Agency builds capacity in Tunisia's fisheries sector through training and awareness programs. Recently, it partnered to	3	2	6

	empower Ghannouch fishermen's wives, providing skills in net repair, product development, and marketing to strengthen the local fishing value chain.			
Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR)	Contributes to empowering Arab women economically, socially and politically to fully exercise their human rights, through producing knowledge, capacity-building of regional and national institutions and civil society in advocacy for gender equality, advancement of women and strengthening their presence in decision-making positions.	3	2	6
Association for the Preservation of the Southern Tunisian Wetlands (ASZHST)	A local NGO in Gabès, actively engaged in the conservation of marine and freshwater biodiversity, has participated in mapping Posidonia meadows and contributes to raising awareness among the local population in Gabès and its surrounding areas.	2	2	4
Association « Sfax El Mezyena »	A local NGO in Sfax dedicated to improving the city's environment through cleaning initiatives and urban beautification efforts.	2	2	4
Private Sector				
Banking sector	The banking sector will enable the mobilization and channelling of financial resources necessary for the project, providing tailored financing, de-risking mechanisms, and access to carbon revenues.	2	2	4
International organisations				
Mediterranean Posidonia Network	The Mediterranean Posidonia Network will play an important role in strengthening the project's restoration design, providing	3	3	9

	expert guidance on restoration techniques, facilitating scientific exchanges, and ensuring that the initiative applies best-practice, evidence-based approaches for the recovery of <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> meadows.			
United Nations Development Programme – Tunisia (UNDP)	Provide informational support for the project, offering guidance, sharing best practices, and facilitating knowledge exchange to ensure alignment with international standards and sustainable waste management approaches.	2	3	6
Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)	The SPA/RAC will be engaged to receive updates on the project's activities, particularly on Posidonia meadow conservation. Their involvement will facilitate coordination, promote knowledge exchange, and help align the project's efforts with Barcelona convention AND regional strategies for the protection of marine biodiversity.	3	3	9
Research institutions & universities				
Faculté des Sciences de Tunis	The Faculty of Science will be a key scientific partner in the project, responsible for designing, implementing, and validating the carbon sequestration measurement and monitoring processes for the restored Posidonia meadows. By providing technical expertise, training, and quality assurance, the Faculty will ensure that the project's climate benefits are accurately quantified and align with international carbon credit standards.	4	3	12

Faculté des Sciences de Sfax	The University of Science of Sfax will serve as the scientific and technical backbone of the project in the topic of ALDFG removal. By combining applied research, innovative recycling approaches, and capacity building, the University will collaborate through its own projects (such as life med turtles) to decrease the impact of ghost gear on the Gulf of Gabès' ecosystems and support the establishment of a sustainable and inclusive blue economy.	4	3	12
Others (Specify):				
Conseil Bancaire et Financier de Tunisie	The Conseil Bancaire et Financier de Tunisie (CBFT) is a platform that fosters cooperation among banks and regulators, advises on financial policies, and promotes the stability and development of Tunisia's banking and financial sector.	3	2	6

Please explain any interactions between/among the stakeholders listed above that are relevant to the project.

2. Documentation of Stakeholder Engagements

Consultations (place and date)	Organisations represented and respective functions	Number of participants (disaggregated by gender)	Form/ methodology of consultation	Issues discussed and outcomes of discussion	Response to issues raised including how they influenced project design
18 February 2025 in Jerba (South Tunisia)	Fishers, NGOs,	10	Meeting	Results of the socio-economic survey conducted in October 2024 on <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> awareness and potential Blue Economy opportunities to be developed in collaboration with local stakeholders.	The survey highlighted a general lack of awareness among both decision-makers and the local population regarding the ecological importance of <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> , as well as limited knowledge about the concept of blue carbon. It was noted that certain decisions, particularly in coastal management, can have negative impacts on seagrass meadows due to inadequate beach management practices. Participants emphasized the need for targeted communication efforts, suggesting the use of local media channels and the organization of community events involving key stakeholders such as fishers and divers to raise awareness and foster engagement.
25 December 2024 – Sidi Rais	Fishery authority, fishers	6	Meeting and field visit	The fishing practices of small-scale fishers and their impact on <i>Posidonia</i> seagrass beds, as well as potential ways to support these fishers in improving their working conditions.	Fishers face a lack of territorial rights and are in constant competition with larger vessels coming from outside their areas. They need to be empowered and supported to have a stronger voice in resource management. Many of them are aware that the health of

					fishery resources is closely tied to the presence of <i>Posidonia</i> meadows. However, they require better knowledge and training on how to minimize their impact through more sustainable fishing practices.
18 mars 2025 Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries	Direction General de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture	8	Meeting	The collaboration with the DGPA focuses on key areas such as sustainable fisheries management and marine conservation. To strengthen and formalize this partnership, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is planned, aiming to enhance coordination and joint actions between WWF and the DGPA.	The support of DGPA is a real important asset for the advancement of the project specifically on the ADLFG removing issue and the engagement of fishers in the golf of Gabes region
17 june 2025 in Ministry of Environment	Ministry of Environment	4	meeting	a meeting was held with the Ministry of Environment to discuss carbon rights and ownership in the context of the WALD Innovation Facility project. The objective was to present the project, seek the Ministry's support prior to the implementation of activities, and gather their perspective on issues related to the carbon market.	The question of carbon ownership is still under exploration in Tunisia. Although the country has signed the Paris Agreement, no specific carbon projects have yet been implemented that have successfully generated carbon finance. However, the Ministry expressed interest in exploring this potential and in using the WALD project as an opportunity to pilot and further investigate carbon finance mechanisms.

Attach evidence including photographs, registration lists and reports

3. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stakeholder	Type/Category of Stakeholder	Purpose of Engagement	Mechanism / process of Engagement	Responsible Entity/Person	Frequency of Engagement	Timing of Engagement	Financial costs
Faculté des Science de Sfax	public	Contribute to outcome Output 1.1: ALDFG removed from priority area	Potential collaboration	Imed Jribi	Trimestrial	starting of the project	1000 Euros From co-funding
Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and fishery	public	Contribute to outcome Output 1.1: ALDFG removed from priority area	Potential collaboration	Ali Cheick Sboui, Director General of Fisheries and Aquaculture	Trimestrial	Starting of the porject	500 Euros From co-funding
Fishers cooperatives in the area of work	NGO	Fishers' involvement	Through meetings	Fishers Cooperative of Ghannouch, Gabes	Trimestrial	Starting of the project, during training phase and at the end	2000 Euros From co-funding
Ministry of Environment	Public	Carbon market	Formal meetings	Hatem Ben Belgacem, National Focal Point of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Trimestrial	Starting of the project to the end of the project	500 Euros From co-funding
Ministry of Economy and Planification	Public	Carbon market and new finance mechanism settings	Formal meetings	Director General of Economic Financing and Financial Sector Supervision	Trimestrial	Starting of the project to the end of the project	500 Euros From co-funding

Women organisations	NGOs	Ensure women participation to the project activities	Potential collaboration	Ichrak Alayya, President of Women Cooperative of Ghannouch	Trimestrial	Starting of the project	1000 Euros From co-funding
Local government representatives	Public	Secure the buy-in of local authorities	Formal meetings	Governor of Gabès	Trimestrial	Starting of the proejct, during field activities and training	2000 Euros From co-funding
ANPE: National Agency for Environmental Protection	public	Waste management best practices	Formal meetings	Director General	Annual	Starting of the project	500 Euros From co-funding
APAL: Agency for Coastal Protection and Development	public	take part in the process of securing specific authorization	Formal meeting	Director General ad Interim	Semestrial	Starting of the project	500 Euros From co-funding
APIP: Agency of Ports and Fishing Facilities	Public	Disposal of Ghost gears and waste management tracking in the ports	Formal meetings	Naoufel Romdhane, CEO	Trimestrial	Starting of the project	500 Euros From co-funding
INSTM: National Institute of Marine Science and Technology	public	Plastic recycling research	Scientific events	Saloua Sadok, Director General ad Interim	Trimestrial	Starting of the project	500 Euros From co-funding
Local NGOs (exp: ATUTAX, ASZHST, zero	NGOs	Engage with local communities	Potential collaboration	Presidents	Trimestrial	Staring of the project	2000 Euros From co-funding

waste, TunSea..)							
PNUD	International organisation	Sharing information and best practices	Potential collaboration	Resident Representative	Annual	Staring of the project	No cost
SPA RAC	International organisation	Sharing information and best practices	Potential collaboration	Mahmoud Elyes Hamza, Director	Annual	Staring of the project	No cost
IUCN	International organisation	Sharing information and best practices	Potential collaboration	Maher Mahjoub, Director	Annual	Staring of the project	No cost
Banking sector	Private sector	Carbon market	Potential collaboration	Director	Annual	During the project implementation	No cost