



# INTPA-NEAR Environment & Climate Week

27-31 March 2023  
Brussels, Belgium



# Greening infrastructure investments

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# 'Green & Clean' in the Global Gateway

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Sergio Oliete, INTPA F4





## The Global Gateway will...

...invest in developing **infrastructures** that are **clean, climate resilient** and aligned with pathways **towards net zero emissions**.

- Projects will live up to the European Green Deal oath to '**do no harm**' and ensure the use of **environmental impact assessments** and **strategic environmental assessments**.
- The EU will provide a guarantee to support investments in several sectors such as **clean energy** and **green infrastructure** [...]
- Promote the implementation of the **G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investments** at the international level.

# The G20 Quality Infrastructure Investment Principles



# Challenges

- How can we implement effective short-term solutions without sacrificing European values and standards (e.g. the Green Deal)?
- What role can NDICI-Global Europe grants play where massive investments are needed to fill the infrastructure gap?
- How to respond to demand without significantly increasing emissions and by protecting biodiversity?

# EU response

- EU is **promoting standards and taxonomies**, not imposing them.
- From ‘do not harm’ to doing good there is a **cost**.
- High **additionality of blending** for environmental protection and climate adaptation: increases development impact by covering additional costs, leading to projects of higher quality.
- Attention: the additionality is justified to cover actions going **beyond the legal requirements** or **the corporate social responsibility**.
- Need to work **holistically** and **upstream**: national or MDB standards may not be satisfactory for the EU's greening ambitions. **Need to avoid delays** to ensure that the GG is a competitive strategy.

# Entry points, roles & responsibilities

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Juan Palerm, Greening Facility



# Greening infrastructure investments – key points

- Aligning to the ‘Green & Clean’ principle
- Ensuring ‘Do No Harm’ (EGD)
- Complying with Art. 29 of the NDICI Regulation (excluded activities)
  - No conflict with NDC
  - Environment and climate screening
  - No significant harm
- Maximising opportunities for transformational change
- Positive agenda approach
- ESS not part of the pillar assessment
- Joint responsibility



# Upstream work is of essence

- Participate in the preparation of project pipelines
- Promote projects with potential for transformational change
- Promote the positive agenda approach (e.g. contributions to climate targets, biodiversity-positive cooperation)
- Promote EU values
- Dialogue with national partners and FIs
- **Don't just take the back seat!**







# Screening of pipelines

- Check compliance with Art 29 of the NDICI Regulation
- Know and understand the applicable ESS (environmental & social safeguards) – be mindful of cases of intermediary FIs
- Ensure environment & climate risk screening is performed – know the risk category and if an E(S)IA and/or CRVA are required



## Strategic planning for greener solutions

- Find out about strategic planning that underpins infrastructure projects, and promote Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)
- For projects with intensive water use, ensure these are framed in a River Basin Management Plan that:
  - ✓ Has been agreed with all stakeholders (water users and environmental actors)
  - ✓ Has government ownership at the relevant levels





## Last resort solutions

- Be mindful of last resort solutions, e.g. for
  - Desalination
  - Waste-to-energy



# Request and check relevant documents

- Environmental & Social Impact Assessments
- Environmental Management Plans
- Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessments
- Biodiversity Management Plans
- Ensure these are reflected in contractual documents and M&E system
- **Such documents should be shared by the FI at the earliest stage possible, and as a matter of routine!**



# Be mindful of minimum requirements

- Preparation of ESIAs and CRVAs are not an EU additionality, they are minimum requirements and should be part of the loan
- Climate proofing is always relevant for infrastructure projects







## Be involved...

- If relevant, engage in the monitoring and evaluation
- Unforeseen environmental and social impacts need early solutions!

# Small group discussions

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# Discussion questions

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Can you share positive experiences engaging with FIs and national partners to promote infrastructure projects that contribute to environment and climate objectives and ensure 'Do No Harm'?

What were success factors?  
Obstacles?

What would you need to engage in a more meaningful 'green' dialogue with FIs and partner governments? To promote greener investments?

What support can be provided by HQ?



# Thank you

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