

ANNEX 4

Guidance for integrating environmental and climate-related aspects in identification and formulation studies

This annex provides guidance on addressing environmental and climate-related issues during the identification and formulation of an action, with a specific focus on actions that do not require a **specific**

environmental or climate risk study such as an environmental impact assessment, a strategic environmental assessment or a climate risk assessment.

AT THE IDENTIFICATION STAGE

Key tasks to be performed include:

- Undertaking environmental and climate-related screening;
- Conducting preliminary investigation of key environmental and climate-related issues, opportunities and risks (time allowing);
- Summarising the outcomes of the screening (*and if relevant preliminary investigation*) process (for submission to QSG1).

1. Environmental and climate-related screening

Environmental and climate-related screening should be undertaken as soon as broad options regarding the focus of the action and the likely aid modality (project approach or budget support) have been determined. If necessary, screening can be refined and updated as more detailed information about the action's objectives, expected results and implementation modalities becomes available – but if possible, it is recommended not to wait until the end of the identification stage to undertake the initial screening, and also to make this exercise an integral part of the terms of reference of the experts in charge of supporting identification work (with a corresponding allocation of resources). Indeed, screening at an early stage allows conducting preliminary investigation of key environmental and climate-related issues, opportunities and risks during the identification phase, which enhances opportunities for integrating them in project design.

The choice of aid modality determines the screening process to be applied – either screening for strategic environmental assessment, which is a relevant tool for programme-based approaches or projects that provide strategic level support or screening for environmental impact assessment and climate risk assessment, which are relevant tools for individual project approaches (see Annex 3).

In most cases, the choice of broad aid modality and key support options is already made at the identification stage, so that the adequate screening process can be applied upfront. If it is not the case and by the end of identification, it is still not entirely clear which screening process should apply, it is recommended to conduct initial screening based on the most likely scenario or possibly based on both approaches – and then to refine or adjust screening in the early stages of formulation, when key technical options have been determined.

Whichever screening process is applied, it is strongly recommended to engage the national and/or local environmental authorities, so that they are aware of the envisaged action, support technical screening against national regulations and procedures (which also play a role in determining the outcomes of the screening process, in particular with regard to the need for environmental impact assessment), and contribute to the identification of key aspects to be addressed during formulation.

2. Preliminary investigation of key issues, opportunities and risks

Screening supports the identification of key environmental and climate-related issues, opportunities⁽¹⁾ and risks to be considered in the design of the action. If the screening process can be conducted early during the identification phase rather than at the end of it, preliminary investigation of these key aspects can be conducted as part of identification work. Preliminary investigation work beyond mere screening offers the following advantages:

⁽¹⁾ For example, with regard to sustainable management of environment and natural resources, sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience, low-emission development, green economy and green jobs.

- Environment- and climate-related issues, opportunities and risks are more meaningfully addressed in the later design of the action⁽²⁾;
- If the outcome of the screening process indicates that a *specific* environmental or climate risk study is needed, then investigation work can lead to the preparation of more relevant and focused terms of reference for the study;
- If the outcome of the screening process indicates that no *additional* environmental or climate risk study is needed but key environmental and/or climate-related aspects should be addressed during formulation, then the investigation work can lead to better integration of the relevant aspects in the terms of reference of the formulation or technical feasibility study.

3. Summary of environmental and climate-related screening outcomes

The outcomes of the screening (and if relevant the preliminary investigation) process must be reported in the “Summary of environmental and climate-related screening outcomes” in the “Template for the assessment of cross-cutting issues” (for submission to QSG1). Whichever assessment tool is being considered, there are three broad options:

- A specific study (strategic environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment or climate risk assessment) will be undertaken;
- No *additional* study will be undertaken, but further assessment of key aspects will be conducted during formulation;
- No further assessment will be undertaken.

A short justification for the selected option should be provided, in particular if the conclusion is that no further assessment is required. If further assessment is planned (either through a dedicated study or as part of formulation work), the key aspects to be addressed should be briefly described.

Besides information on the outcomes of the screening process:

- Answers must be provided to two “concluding questions” concerning the main issues and/or opportunities regarding environment, biodiversity and climate change in the sector of intervention, and proposed measures to address or seize them;
- Information must be given also on whether the action is expected to contribute to:
 - The EU commitment to allocate at least 20% of its spending to climate change-related action: this requires a Rio marker 1 or 2, i.e. “significant objective” or “main objective”, for climate change adaptation and/or mitigation;
 - The EU commitment to double financial resources allocated to support efforts by developing states towards meeting the internationally agreed biodiversity objectives: this requires a Rio marker 1 or 2, i.e. “significant objective” or “main objective”, for biological diversity.

Annex 8 provides information on how Rio markers are attributed and what it takes to secure one.

⁽²⁾ For example, in the sector and policy assessment, the stakeholder analysis, the problem analysis and identification of priority areas for support, the identification of risks, the analysis of lessons learned, the identification of possible synergies and complementarity with other actions, the understanding of cross-cutting issues, the formulation of objectives and expected results, and generally the design of the intervention logic.

In practice, experience has shown that relatively few actions require a dedicated environmental or climate-related study – but the bulk of actions would gain from more systematic and thorough consideration of environmental and climate-related issues, opportunities and risks during formulation. For some actions these aspects are of little relevance, but in most cases they have at least some relevance and should not be dismissed without further investigation. Besides supporting improved sustainability of development interventions, more careful investigation of environmental and climate-related aspects, resulting if appropriate in the integration of explicit environmental sustainability and climate resilience objectives, activities and measures, supports the implementation of EU commitments with regard to climate- and biodiversity-relevant funding.

AT THE FORMULATION STAGE

Key tasks to be performed include:

- Conducting more in-depth investigation of key environmental and climate-related issues, opportunities and risks and identifying possible response options and measures;
- Integrating environmental and climate-related opportunities and risk mitigation measures in detailed project design;
- Updating the outcomes of the screening and assessment process (for submission to QSG2).

1. More in-depth investigation of key issues, opportunities and risks

If the outcomes of the screening process conducted at the identification stage indicates some further assessment of environmental and climate-related aspects is needed, there are two main possible scenarios:

a. *A dedicated study is conducted during the formulation phase*

In such a case, the environmental or climate-related study is generally the subject of a specific contract, distinct from the contract for the formulation or technical feasibility study:

- Strategic environmental assessment (see draft ToR in Annex 5) typically addresses environmental as well as climate-related (adaptation and mitigation) risks and opportunities;
- Environmental impact assessment is traditionally focused on preventing or mitigating the adverse impacts of a project on the environment, but terms of reference can be enhanced to encompass environmental and climate-related risks, constraints and opportunities (see draft ToR in Annex 6)⁽³⁾;
- Climate risk assessment (see draft ToR in Annex 9) is focused on the identification and mitigation of climate risks and vulnerabilities. If environmental aspects other than climate-related risks need to be considered, this should be done as part of the general formulation study.

Note that occasionally, for a variety of reasons including lack of time and/or adequate resources during the formulation phase, it is decided to undertake an environmental or climate risk study *after* the formulation phase, either during the technical preparation period that precedes the signature of the financing agreement/contract or during project implementation. In such cases, an initial assessment of key environmental and climate-related aspects (less detailed than the one to be conducted at a later stage) should still be undertaken in the context of the formulation study, as described in the next point. This is needed to ensure that:

- Environmental and climate-related issues, opportunities and risks are sufficiently understood to ensure upfront integration in the intervention logic and the action's design, including the formulation of objec-

⁽³⁾ If for any reason this extension of the scope of the EIA is not feasible or desirable, the latter aspects (i.e. risks, constraints and opportunities) can be included in the scope of the general formulation study, while the EIA addresses environmental impacts.

tives and expected results, the planning of activities and the logical framework (or detailed disbursement criteria, for budget support programmes);

- Aspects that require specific attention are adequately identified and understood, supporting the preparation of more relevant and focused terms of reference for the study;
 - The action’s design is flexible enough (e.g. from the perspective of activities to be conducted, the allocation of technical and financial resources and the monitoring framework) to allow the integration of the conclusions and recommendations of the study into project activities at the implementation stage.
- b. **Key environmental and climate-related aspects are assessed as part of the formulation study**

If no dedicated study is conducted during formulation, the assessment of key environmental and climate-related aspects (as identified in the context of the screening process and giving due consideration to opportunities rather than just risk mitigation) needs to be made an integral part of the formulation or technical feasibility study. In this scenario, and assuming external expertise is hired to support the formulation process, a single contract covers the assessment of technical and environmental aspects. Model terms of reference for the assessment of key environmental and climate-related aspects (to be integrated in the overall ToR for identification and formulation support) are proposed at the end of this annex.

It should be noted that this approach requires the integration of environment- and climate-related competences in the requirements for expert profiles, as well as the allocation of resources matching the expected workload associated with this component of formulation work – which should be proportional to its importance for the intervention’s impact and sustainability. Careful identification, prior to the start of formulation work, of key aspects (including opportunities) to be assessed and integrated in project design is recommended both to control the marginal cost and time needed to address environmental and climate-related opportunities and risks and to ensure focus on essential aspects.

2. Integration of opportunities and risk mitigation measures in project design

Whether environmental and climate-related aspects are assessed through a dedicated study or as part of the wider formulation study, it is important that the resulting findings and recommendations, including those related to opportunities, are available in time to influence the action’s design (overall intervention logic, refining of the ‘analytical’ sections of the action document⁽⁴⁾, definition of objectives and expected results, description of planned activities, choice of implementing modalities and partners, budget, logical framework and/or detailed disbursement criteria). The timing of the environmental and climate-related assessment thus needs to be carefully articulated with the rest of the formulation work to allow such integration, if needed on the basis of iterative interactions between environmental and other technical experts.

3. Summary of environmental and climate-related screening outcomes

In view of submission to QSG2, the “Summary of environmental and climate-related screening outcomes” (*which is part of the “Template for the assessment of cross-cutting issues”*) must be updated to reflect the outcomes of assessment work conducted during formulation. At this stage, the update is likely to concern primarily the “concluding questions” and the possible contribution of the action to climate- and/or biodiversity-related financial objectives through the allocation of Rio markers.

⁽⁴⁾ These are the sections on sector context, policy assessment, stakeholder analysis, priority areas for support / problem analysis, risks and assumptions, lessons learned, complementarity and cross-cutting issues.

Model terms of reference for the assessment of key environmental and climate-related aspects in identification and formulation studies

(Elements outlined below should be integrated as appropriate (with adjustments as needed to ensure overall consistency and relevance to specific needs and circumstances) in the ToR for technical support to identification and formulation work).

1. CONTEXT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Insert a brief overview of what is already known about key likely environmental and climate-related issues, opportunities and risks in the sector of intervention. Relevant information may be available from the multiannual indicative programme, the country environmental and climate change analysis (or any similar document), national policy and strategy documents, sector assessment reports, reports from past interventions including lessons learned, and more. References to key documents may be provided here or in an annex to the ToR.

2. OBJECTIVES

With specific regard to the integration of environmental and climate-related aspects, the expert(s) will support:

- The identification and assessment of key environmental and climate-related issues, opportunities and risks that are relevant to the planned intervention;
- The identification and assessment of practical options and measures to prevent or mitigate significant negative environmental impacts (including greenhouse gas emissions if relevant), optimise positive ones, foster sustainable management of natural resources, and promote resilience to climate change and climate-related risks;
- The prioritisation of such options and measures and their integration in the design of the action;
- The assessment of whether the intervention, taking account of its nature, the national and/or local context and key priorities and objectives, has the potential to contribute specifically to biodiversity-, desertification- and/or climate-relevant objectives;
- If this potential is established, support the adjustments in the text of the action document, the logical framework and any other relevant technical annex that may be needed to justify the attribution of one or more Rio markers as either significant or main objective of the intervention.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

3.1. IDENTIFICATION PHASE

To support the integration of environmental and climate-related aspects, the expert(s) will:

- As soon as broad options regarding the focus of the action and the likely aid modality (project approach or budget support) have been determined, apply the appropriate environment and climate risk screening process, according to [Annex 3](#) of these guidelines;
- On this basis:

- Determine whether a *specific* study (strategic environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment or climate risk assessment) needs to be undertaken (outcome a), and if so whether it is feasible to conduct it during the formulation phase; or no dedicated study is needed but further assessment of key environmental and climate-related aspects should be conducted as part of formulation work (outcome b); or no further assessment needs to be undertaken at all (outcome c);
- In the case of outcome a or b, identify the key environmental and climate-related aspects that will need to be addressed during formulation;
- Time allowing, i.e. if the screening process can be conducted early during the identification phase rather than at the end of it, and resources allowing, conduct preliminary investigation of key environmental and climate-related issues, opportunities (e.g. with regard to sustainable management of environment and natural resources, sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience, low-emission development, green economy and green jobs) and risks;
- Reflect initial findings on environmental and climate-related aspects as appropriate considering their relevance and significance, in the initial action document⁽⁵⁾, the draft logical framework, and any other relevant technical annex to the action document;
- Assess whether the intervention, taking account of its nature, the national and/or local context and key priorities and objectives, has the potential to contribute specifically to biodiversity-, desertification- and/or climate-relevant objectives – and thereby to EU commitments to increase the amount of funding dedicated to these issues⁽⁶⁾;
- Support the selection of appropriate values for the “aid to environment” and Rio markers (either not targeted, significant objective or main objective) in line with the guidance provided in Annex 8, and if any of these markers is selected as a significant or main objective of the intervention, help ensure that the text of the initial action document, the draft logical framework and any other relevant technical annex meets the criteria for securing the proposed marker(s);
- Summarise the outcomes of the environment and climate risk screening process in the “Template for the assessment of cross-cutting issues”; (see Annex 3 to these ToR);
- *(If relevant (outcome a), support the Contracting Authority in drafting terms of reference for the required specific study (strategic environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment or climate risk assessment)) (Note: this can only be requested if a specific resource allocation and time allowance are provided – otherwise the expert(s) should not be expected to provide such support. An alternative option is to request support from the Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming Facility, contact: Europe-Aid-C2-MAINSTREAMING@ec.europa.eu).*

In budget support programmes, particular attention should be paid, in the preliminary assessment of the policy and institutional frameworks, to the level of integration of environmental and climate-related issues in the supported policies and strategies, as well as the adequacy of the institutional and legal/regulatory frameworks and of sector budget resources to address related challenges, opportunities and risks.

⁽⁵⁾ Possible entry points include sections on sector context, policy assessment, stakeholder analysis, priority areas for support / problem analysis, risks and assumptions, lessons learned, complementarity and cross-cutting issues, objectives and expected results and (if already developed at the identification stage) indicative activities and intervention logic

⁽⁶⁾ Specific commitments have been made in relation to biodiversity and climate change – but of course any contribution to combating desertification and land degradation is also much valued

3.2. FORMULATION PHASE

If the environmental and climate risk screening results in outcome a (dedicated environmental or climate risk study to be undertaken during the formulation phase), and assuming study results are available in time for integration with other formulation work, the expert(s) will:

- Analyse the study's findings and recommendations;
- Adjust the action's design (overall intervention logic, refining of the 'analytical' sections of the action document⁽⁷⁾, definition of objectives and expected results, description of planned activities, choice of implementing modalities and partners, budget, logical framework and/or detailed disbursement criteria, as appropriate) to integrate the relevant findings and recommendations of the study.

(If the Contracting Authority wishes to get some technical support from the formulation team during the implementation of the environmental or climate risk study, e.g. for commenting on the draft scoping and final reports, this can be specified in the ToR but can only be requested if a specific resource allocation is provided for this work. An alternative option is to request support from the Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming Facility, contact: EuropeAid-C2-MAINSTREAMING@ec.europa.eu).

If the environmental and climate risk screening results in outcome b (assessment of key environmental and climate-related aspects to be conducted as part of formulation work), or in outcome a (dedicated environmental and/or climate study to be undertaken) but for any reason the study cannot take place during the formulation phase, the expert(s) will:

- Conduct a more in-depth assessment of key environmental and climate-related aspects as identified in the context of the screening process (including aspects related to the institutional and legal/regulatory framework, institutional capacities, and connections with poverty alleviation and livelihoods), from the double perspective of understanding issues, opportunities and risks and identifying practical response options and measures that could be integrated to enhance the overall sustainability of the planned intervention. This work should be based on a list of aspects to be agreed with the Contracting Authority prior to the start of the formulation assignment, and conducted to a level of detail matching the time and resources allocated to this specific exercise;
- Integrate key findings of this assessment in the action's design (overall intervention logic, refining of the 'analytical' sections of the action document, definition of objectives and expected results, description of planned activities, choice of implementing modalities and partners, budget, logical framework and/or detailed disbursement criteria, as appropriate).

In all projects and programmes, it is recommended to give due attention to opportunities (e.g. with regard to sustainable management of environment and natural resources, sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience, low-emission development, green economy and green jobs), rather than just focusing on risk mitigation.

In budget support programmes, particular attention should be paid, in the detailed assessment of the policy and institutional frameworks, to the level of integration of environmental and climate-related issues in the supported policies and strategies, as well as the adequacy of the institutional, legal/regulatory and monitoring frameworks and of sector budget resources to address related challenges, opportunities and risks. If environmental and/or climate-related aspects are found to be particularly relevant for the sustainability of the supported policy, strategy or programme, it is essential to reflect these aspects in the programme's monitoring framework and in the choice of disbursement criteria. If the assessment of the policy, institutional, legal/regulatory and/or monitoring frameworks reveals gaps or weaknesses in the capacity to address environmental and/or climate-related issues, it is also recommended to dedicate some of the "complementary support" resources to addressing the identified weaknesses.

⁽⁷⁾ These are the sections on sector context, policy assessment, stakeholder analysis, priority areas for support / problem analysis, risks and assumptions, lessons learned, complementarity and cross-cutting issues.

If the environmental and climate risk screening results in outcome c (no further assessment needed), no further work on environmental and climate-related aspects will be required (apart from advising on values for the environment and Rio markers, see paragraph below).

Whatever the outcome of the environment and climate risk screening, the expert(s) will support the final selection of appropriate values for the “aid to environment” and Rio markers (either not targeted, significant objective or main objective), in line with the guidance provided in [Annex 8](#), and if relevant with QSG1 comments on these markers. If any of them is selected as a significant or main objective of the intervention, the expert(s) will help ensure that the text of the action document, the logical framework (or detailed disbursement criteria, for budget support programmes) and any other relevant technical annex meet the criteria for securing the proposed marker(s).

4. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

4.1. IDENTIFICATION PHASE

- An initial action document and, as relevant, a draft logical framework and any other relevant technical annex adequately reflecting key environmental and climate-related issues, opportunities and risks – including the selection of appropriate values for the “aid to environment” and Rio markers;
- Outcomes of the environment and climate risk screening process meaningfully and comprehensively presented in the “Template for the assessment of cross-cutting issues”;
- A short report⁽⁸⁾ providing:
 - A summary of the work conducted in relation to the assessment of environmental and climate-related aspects at the identification stage (e.g. review of national legislation and regulations on environmental impact assessment, review of documentary sources, discussions with key national stakeholders and/or development partners) and key findings at this stage;
 - Evidence of how the screening process outcomes were determined, based on the relevant screening list(s) and questionnaire found in [Annex 3](#) of these guidelines as well as the screening list(s) and/or questionnaire(s) associated with national regulations on environmental impact assessment;
- *(If relevant, draft terms of reference for either a strategic environmental assessment, an environmental impact assessment or a climate risk assessment).*

4.2. FORMULATION PHASE

- *(If relevant, comments on the draft scoping and final reports of the strategic environmental assessment, an environmental impact assessment or a climate risk assessment);*
- A quasi-final action document and, as relevant, a logical framework (or detailed disbursement criteria, for budget support programmes) and any other relevant technical annex adequately reflecting key environmental and climate-related issues, opportunities and risks and practical responses – including the selection of appropriate values for the “aid to environment” and Rio markers;
- Outcomes of the environment and climate risk screening process meaningfully and comprehensively updated in the “Template for the assessment of cross-cutting issues”;

⁽⁸⁾ This can be a chapter in the identification mission report.

- If any specific work has been conducted in relation to the assessment of environmental and climate-related aspects at the formulation stage, a short report⁽⁹⁾ providing:
 - A summary of this work (e.g. review of national legislation and regulations on environmental impact assessment, review of dedicated environmental or climate risk study, review of additional documentary sources, discussions with key national stakeholders and/or development partners, workshops, field missions);
 - Key conclusions and recommendations for the integration of environmental and climate-related aspects at the implementation phase (as a complement to the information provided in the action document and its annexes, which has to remain concise and may therefore not include all important details).

5. EXPERT PROFILES

Expert profiles and the composition of the expert team should be determined in a flexible manner so that:

- If the experts in charge of the identification and formulation study have adequate skills, they can take care of the assessment of environmental and climate-related aspects;
- Otherwise an environmental or other specialised expert can be called in to contribute specifically on these aspects, either at a distance (if few inputs are expected to be needed) or through participation in the in-country mission.

This notably implies that:

- A provision is made for the travel expenditures of the specialised expert if one is needed⁽¹⁰⁾;
- If no specialised expert is needed, extra working days (compared with a scenario “without environmental assessment”) are allocated to the other experts for conducting environmental assessment work.

5.1. GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

For the assessment of environmental and climate-related aspects, one team member at least should have:

- Master level or post-graduate studies in a relevant field (e.g. environmental sciences, environmental management, environmental economics, natural resource management, climate change sciences, climate change and development) or equivalent professional experience of at least 5 years in a relevant field.

5.2. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

For the assessment of environmental and climate-related aspects, the expert team taken together should have:

- Proven experience in environment and climate change mainstreaming, and/or management of environmental and climate-related aspects, in the sector of activity of the planned intervention or a closely related sector: at least 3 assignments in the context of development or international cooperation.

⁽⁹⁾ This can be a chapter in the formulation mission report.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Depending on the expected level of inputs, distance support may be sufficient at the identification phase while in-country support is provided during formulation.

6. RESOURCES

Resources allocated to the assessment of environmental and climate-related aspects must be modulated based on the expected relevance and significance of environmental and climate-related issues, opportunities and risks. Interventions in sectors such as natural resource management, rural development, agriculture and food security, energy, transport and infrastructure, water and sanitation, waste management, territorial planning, urban development, disaster risk reduction, private sector development are expected to require more time and resources than interventions in other sectors; however, a sufficient allocation of time and resources should also be made for environmental and climate-related assessment in interventions in sectors such as education, health, migration, trade, governance, where significant opportunities exist. In all cases, it is recommended to keep the allocation of working days “indicative”, to provide some flexibility to reallocate resources across tasks in case of unanticipated developments.

Indicatively, the following resources will be allocated to the assessment of environmental and climate-related aspects:

- At the identification stage: (3 to 15) working days. *(Count 2 extra working days if the experts are expected to contribute to the drafting of terms of reference for a specific environmental or climate study);*
- At the formulation stage:
 - If a dedicated environmental or climate risk study is conducted as a separate assignment during formulation: (4 to 8) working days – to be agreed between the Parties and confirmed by the Contracting Authority prior to the start of formulation work, depending on the extent to which the dedicated study may impact on the action’s design (choice and focus of activities, budget, implementing modalities, ...) and therefore require extra work. *(Count 2-3 extra working days if the experts are expected to comment on the study’s draft scoping and final reports);*
 - If environmental and climate-related assessment work is conducted as part of formulation work under this assignment: (3 to 15) working days – to be agreed between the Parties and confirmed by the Contracting Authority prior to the start of formulation work, depending on the number of issues to be investigated, the expected depth of assessment work and the time (if any) that could be dedicated to preliminary assessment at the identification stage;
 - If no additional environmental and climate-related assessment work is required during formulation: nil.

7. INDICATIVE CALENDAR

- Insert key activities related to environmental and climate-related assessment in the overall indicative calendar of the assignment, including screening work and possibly preliminary assessment work⁽¹¹⁾ at the identification stage, assessment work and/or integration of the findings and recommendations of a dedicated study (if any) at the formulation stage;
- Make sure a sufficient provision is made to accommodate environmental and climate-related assessment on top of other requirements – especially if formulation work cannot be finalised until the findings and recommendations of a separate environmental or climate risk study are available;

Keep the calendar indicative so that there is flexibility in re-arranging it by mutual agreement before the start of formulation work, especially when the calendar may be strongly influenced by the outcomes of environmental and climate risk screening.

⁽¹¹⁾ If broad options for the intervention are already known at the start of the identification assignment, screening can take place early rather than late in the identification phase, making it possible to do some additional preliminary assessment work during identification.