



Cultural Heritage

Environmental and Social Standard 8 (ESS8)*

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED STANDARD ABOUT?

Cultural heritage is a valuable, irreplaceable community connection between the past and the future, and is an integral part of people's identity and practice. Tangible and intangible cultural heritage are important assets for economic and social development, and sources of valuable scientific and historical information. The proposed Environmental and Social Standard 8 (ESS8) builds on the 2009 Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS) requirements and broadens the scope to include both tangible and intangible cultural heritage that are to be protected from the adverse impacts of project activities and promote the equitable sharing from the use of cultural heritage. The standard seeks to protect cultural heritage and encourages its broader use as an enabler of sustainable development.



* The full text of ESS8 is at [Safeguard Policy Review: Draft Policy | Asian Development Bank \(adb.org\)](https://www.adb.org/who-we-are/safeguards/safeguard-policy-review/draft-policy). <https://www.adb.org/who-we-are/safeguards/safeguard-policy-review/draft-policy>. This information brochure was prepared based on the consultation draft of the proposed Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) for information purpose only. Guidance from the ADB Board of Directors will be sought on the full text of the proposed ESF as part of the Working Paper, scheduled in Q4 2023. The final ESF will be considered for approval by the ADB Board of Directors in 2024.



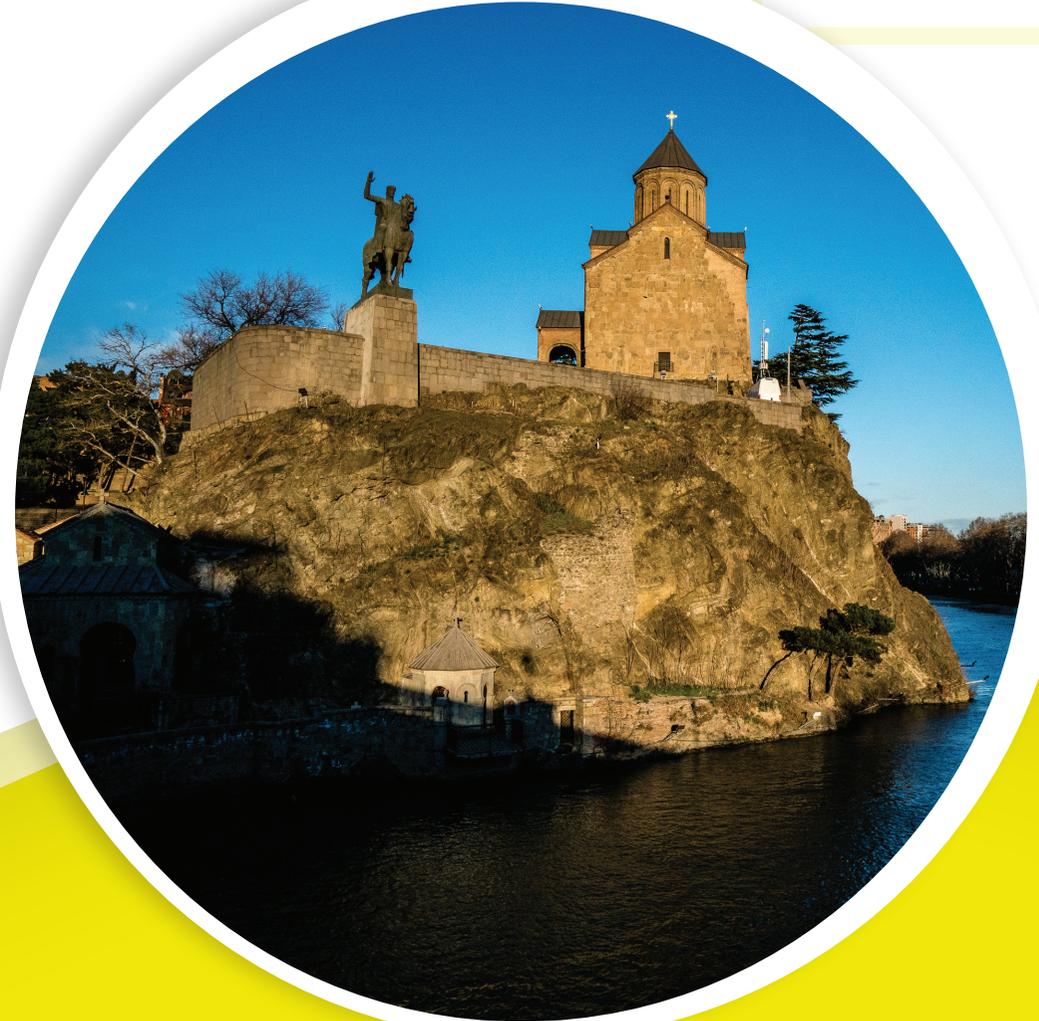
**SAFEGUARD
POLICY REVIEW
AND UPDATE**





Its objectives are to:

- protect cultural heritage from adverse impacts of project activities, and support its conservation;
- address cultural heritage protection as an integral aspect of sustainable development;
- apply the mitigation hierarchy to avoid and minimize adverse impacts on cultural heritage;
- promote meaningful consultation with stakeholders regarding cultural heritage; and
- promote the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of cultural heritage.



WHAT ARE THE NEW AND IMPROVED POLICY PROVISIONS?

1



Intangible cultural resources and visual impacts

The proposed standard covers requirements to manage the direct and cumulative project specific risks and impacts to both tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

2



Indigenous Peoples

Provides requirements for areas with overlapping presence of Indigenous Peoples (IP) areas and cultural heritage, which was not previously covered in the SPS. If cultural heritage is identified in IP areas, then free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) may need to be obtained as required in ESS7.

3



Different types of cultural heritage

Sets out requirements for chance finds procedures, and provides for specific requirements for different types of cultural heritage such as archaeological sites and material, underwater cultural heritage, burial sites and human remains, landscapes or natural resources, built sites, and movable cultural heritage.



4



Stakeholder engagement

Undertake meaningful consultation to identify cultural heritage, its significance, assess risks and impacts, explore methods for avoidance, mitigation, and monitoring and reporting options.

