



«CENGİZ ENERJİ SAN. VE TİC A.Ş.»

## Construction Of Combined-Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant With A Capacity Of 550 MW

### Stakeholder Engagement Plan






125-1105-SEP

**REGISTRY OF DOCUMENT VERSIONS**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purposes and Objectives Preparation a SEP

Stakeholder Engagement Plan (hereinafter referred to as the SEP) prepared as part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the project “Construction Of Combined-Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant With A Capacity Of 550 MW” (hereinafter - ESIA) in Sharaf Rashidov district, Jizzakh region, Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter - Project).

According to the results of the competitive selection of “CENGIZ ENERJI SAN. VE TIC A.Ş” (hereinafter the Client) the contract for provision of environmental and social services within the complex ESIA for “ALFA LINE (Encompass)” LLC

The purpose of the SEP is to ensure effective management of stakeholder engagement activities at various stages of Project implementation. The SEP is developed taking into account the requirements of the national legislation, as well as in accordance with the international requirements of the IFC.

The objectives of the SEP are to:

- (i) Ensure a systematic approach to identifying stakeholders and building and maintaining constructive relationships with them, particularly those affected by the project;
- (ii) Assess the level of stakeholder interest and support for the project, and to ensure that stakeholder input can be incorporated into project design and environmental and social performance;
- (iii) Promote and ensure effective and inclusive engagement with project affected parties throughout the project life cycle on issues that potentially affect them;
- (iv) Timely disclosure of relevant project information on environmental and social risks and impacts to stakeholders in an understandable, accessible and appropriate manner and format;
- (v) Provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise questions and address grievances, and to enable them to respond to grievance.

The SEP consists of six chapters. Following the introduction, Chapter 2 briefly describes the requirements for stakeholder engagement; Chapter 3 focuses on previous consultations regarding the Project; Chapter 4 includes the stakeholder engagement program and methods; and Chapter 5 discusses the grievance and appeal mechanism. The last chapter presents procedures for monitoring and evaluating SEP implementation.

During the course of the Project, the SEP may be reviewed and updated as necessary, for example, if design decisions change or new stakeholders are identified.

## 1.2 Brief Project Description

The project provides for the construction of a combined-cycle gas turbine power plant with a capacity of 550 MW in 1 unit of a gas turbine unit (GTU), 1 unit of a steam turbine (ST), manufactured in Germany, with the necessary buildings and auxiliary structures and with the creation of appropriate infrastructure on the territory of a combined-cycle power plant with a capacity of 550 MW in Sharaf Rashidov district, Jizzakh region.

The provision of the design electric capacity of a combined-cycle gas turbine power plant with a capacity of 550 MW to the existing energy system will solve the issue of covering the shortage of energy supply in a number of districts of Jizzakh region and Jizzakh city.

The total area of the allocated site for the construction of a combined cycle power plant is 9.43 hectares.

The implementation of this project is carried out by the company “CENGIZ ENERJI SAN. VE TIC A.Ş.” (Republic of Turkey, investor) in order to implement the Investment Project, the Investor created CENERGO LLC.

Offered by the company “CENGIZ ENERJI SAN. VE TIC A.Ş.” the technology of a combined cycle gas turbine plant is determined by the high reliability, mobility and efficiency of fuel and energy resources, which serves as an advantage over other types of power plants.

The implementation of this project will be carried out on the basis of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures for the implementation of the investment project construction of a combined-cycle gas turbine power plant with a capacity of 550 MW in Jizzakh region” No. DP-361 dated 08/11/2023.

Objectives of the proposed project:

- meeting the growing demand of the industrial sector, businesses and the public for electricity;
- improving the energy efficiency of production, transportation and distribution of electric energy;
- increasing the efficiency and rational use of electric energy at all stages of the technological process based on energy-saving technologies and optimization of generating capacities;
- ensuring accelerated development and increasing competitiveness of the country’s energy sector;
- active involvement of direct foreign investments in the construction of new generating capacities;
- reduction of specific fuel consumption indicators;
- reducing the loss of electrical energy during its transportation;
- improving the efficiency of electricity production;
- decline of fuel (natural gas) consumption for power generation;



- 
- minimizing the negative environmental impact of energy industry facilities
  - creation of additional jobs, improvement of the standard of living of the population.

The Client intends to involve international creditors to finance the Project, which, when financing projects, adhere to the environmental and social requirements of the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

At the first stage of the ESIA, a preliminary assessment of the planned activities was carried out on the basis of materials submitted by “CENGİZ ENERJİ SAN. VE TİC A.Ş.” as well as the departure of Consultants to collect data, conduct field work and consult with stakeholders.

## 2 STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

### 2.1 General Information

The SEP is designed in accordance with the requirements of the national legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the IFC Performance Standards. Funding of the Project is planned with the involvement of international lenders, according to the Terms of Reference the Project must comply with the provisions of the IFC Environmental and Social Policy, IFC Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability (PS), and the requirements of international best industry practices with respect to information disclosure and stakeholder engagement.

### 2.2 Applicable National Requirements

Public engagement and disclosure of information begins at the earliest stages of Project planning and is regulated as part of the national environmental impact assessment process (hereinafter referred to as the ESIA). The EIA procedure in Uzbekistan is regulated by the following legislative acts:

- Law of the RUz “On Nature Protection” No. 754-XII dated on 09/12/1992;
- Law of the RUz “On Environmental Expertise” No. 73-II3 dated on 25/05/2000;
- Resolution of the the Cabinet of Ministers “On Further Improvement of Environmental Impact Assessment Mechanism” dated on 07/09/2020;
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the RUz, “On approval of the Regulations on the state environmental expertise” No. 541 dated on 07/09/2020 (hereinafter referred to as – Regulation on SEE).

The EIA procedure is subject to State Environmental Expertise (SEE). This is the process of establishing the environmental compliance of an economic activity object and determining the adequacy of the environmental impact assessment conducted by the State Unitary Enterprise (SUE) “Center for State Environmental Expertise” or the regional offices of the SEE of the the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry of Ecology) at both national and regional levels, depending on the project category. The SEE provides for four categories of economic activities, ranging from Category I (high risk) to Category VI (local impact). In accordance with the applicable requirements, the Project is categorized as Category I. The State Environmental Expertise of the EIA of economic activities belonging to Category I of environmental impact is carried out by the SUE “Center of State Environmental Expertise”.

According to the Regulation on SEE, environmental impact assessment is a procedure that includes three stages of EIA: (i) the project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS, at the planning stage before financing), (ii) an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS, additional studies and analyses may be recommended, provided before approval of the feasibility study), (iii) a Statement of Environmental

Consequences of Environmental Impact (SEC, the final step at the stage of commissioning). Category VI projects submit only the project Environmental Impact Statement to the regional offices of the SEE of the Ministry of Ecology. "Regulations on the procedure for holding public hearings of environmental impact assessment projects", (Annex No. 3, DCM of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 541 dated on 07/09/2020) regulates the procedure for holding public hearings on proposed, planned or ongoing activities related to a high risk of environmental impact (hereinafter referred to as Category I) and an average risk of impact (hereinafter referred to as Category II).

A summary of the non-technical nature of the proposed, planned or ongoing economic activity is submitted for public hearings, including:

- brief description of the activity;
- review of options for technological solutions and solutions for the sites of the planned activity;
- brief assessment of the existing environmental and socio-economic conditions;
- brief description of the sources and types of negative impacts on the environment associated with the project implementation;
- forecast and assessment of possible changes in the state of the environment and socio-economic conditions;
- forecast and assessment of possible design emergencies;
- measures to prevent, minimize and/or offset adverse impacts;
- assessment of possible significant transboundary impacts (if applicable).

Also, public hearings can be held on existing activities of I and II impact categories in case of legitimate complaints from individuals or legal entities.

Public hearings imply equal rights for everyone to express their reasoned opinion on the issue under discussion based on the study of documentary information related to the issue under discussion and not containing confidential information.

The participants of the public hearings are:

- Stakeholders;
- Non-state non-profit organizations;
- Citizens' self-governance bodies;
- Mass media (hereinafter referred to as Media)

Representatives of authorized bodies on ecology and environmental protection participate in public consultations as observers.

The organizers of public hearings are district (city) khokimiyats.

The results of the public hearing are documented in the protocol of the public hearing, which is signed by the chairman and the secretary.

One copy of the protocol is provided to the client within one working day, the second copy remains with the organizer of the public hearing.

Information about the conducted public consultation, with a copy of the minutes attached, is sent by the organizer of the public consultation for information to the territorial bodies of the Ministry of Ecology.

As a result of the public hearing, a decision may be made on public support for the proposed or planned economic activity in the territory under consideration or on the refusal of public support for the proposed or planned economic activity in the territory under consideration.

Public hearing is considered competent only if at least ten representatives of stakeholders participate in it.

The Client conducted public consultations and hearings during the development phase of the SEP. During the public hearings with the participation of the population, issues of the implementation of the planned project were discussed and relevant presentations were made on the technological process and the impact of the power plant on the environment, as well as social benefits for residents of the area where the facility is located.

There were no objections from residents living near the combined cycle steam and gas power plant to the construction and operation of this power plant in the designated area.

Considering that the existing approach to public consultations in Uzbekistan does not require the involvement of the general public and is often limited to consultations with government authorities, the basis for planning stakeholder participation and disclosure of information about the Project is based on best industry international practice and applicable international requirements.

## **2.3 Applicable International Requirements**

According to the IFC project categorization, the Project belongs to Category "A".

The project is categorized as "A" because it is predicted that the proposed activity is a source of significant environmental and/or social impacts, which at the time of its categorization are difficult to determine or assess and therefore require a comprehensive assessment of environmental and social impacts, based on broad public participation and disclosure of information to key stakeholders.

Categorization of the Project is due to its geographical location, the proximity of residential areas and other environmental and social risks associated with the disruption of the usual economic way of the local population and the need to restore it. In accordance with the requirements of international lenders, regulating the procedure for consultation and disclosure of information for Category "A" projects, it is necessary to develop a SEP, which among other things establishes a mechanism for filing and consideration of complaints received in respect of the Project.

Applicable requirements of financial institutions are set forth in Section 2.3.1.

### **2.3.1 Applicable IFC Requirements**

IFC is a member of the World Bank Group, working in the private sector of the economy. IFC's Environmental and Social Sustainability Policy defines key

requirements for public consultation, disclosure and stakeholder engagement, which are reflected in the Performance Standards (2012 edition). The IFC's eight PSs apply to projects in the private sector of emerging markets.

Specific consultation requirements are established for each PS, which are generally expressed in the definition of PS 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts. These requirements are directly related to the need to engage with the public, provide relevant information about the project, conduct meaningful consultation and apply mechanisms for dealing with appeals and grievances of local communities affected by the project at all stages of its life cycle, as well as the ways to fulfill these conditions. With regard to engagement with stakeholders, the following requirements are established, namely engagement must:

- begin at an early stage of the project cycle;
- continue on an ongoing basis throughout the project life cycle;
- be based on the early disclosure and dissemination of relevant, transparent, objective, meaningful and easily accessible information in the relevant local language(s) and in a format that is culturally appropriate and understandable to the local population;
- focus on those directly affected as opposed to those not directly affected;
- be free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, or intimidation;
- ensure full participation and meaningful dialogue with the public where applicable;
- be documented.

The IFC's PSs aim to provide accurate and timely information on investment plans. The IFC Access to Information Policy specifies that for Category "A" projects, a summary of the findings and recommendations of the review must be disclosed and include, at a minimum, the following information:

- indication of the Performance Standards and applicable mechanisms for dealing with complaints, including a compliance adviser;
- justification for determining the category of the project according to the IFC classification;
- description of the main social and environmental risks and impacts of the project;
- key measures to limit such risks and impacts, as well as additional measures and actions that must be implemented to comply with the IFC PS in the implementation of the project;

- electronic copies or links to websites where the ESIA materials are available;
- additional documents such as action plans, stakeholder engagement plans, resettlement action plans, etc.

### **3 STAKEHOLDERS AND ENGAGEMENT METHODS**

#### **3.1 Stakeholders**

Stakeholders are individuals or groups of individuals who are directly or indirectly affected by the Project and may have an interest in and/or an opportunity to affect the outcome of the Project, either positively or negatively.

Stakeholders may include vulnerable or disadvantaged groups of the population or persons living in the Project area of influence, their official and non-official representatives, regional and district government authorities or local self-government bodies, public organizations and special interest groups, academia or educational institutions.

#### **3.2 Previously Performed Consultations and Disclosure**

Identification of Project stakeholders was initiated at the stage of preparation of the Scoping report based on the results of the inspection of the site and adjacent areas, desktop studies and initial consultations with regional and local authorities and local selfgovernment bodies.

In October 2021, a series of consultations were held with the following Project stakeholders:

- Khokimiyat of Jizzakh city;
- Khokimiyat of Sharaf Rashidov district, Jizzakh region;
- Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection of the city of Jizzakh and Sharaf Rashidov district;
- The Center for sanitary and epidemiological supervision of the city of Sharaf Rashidov district;
- Department of Cultural Heritage of Jizzakh region
- Employment Center of Sharaf Rashidov district;
- Makhallas - Gozgontepa, Khalkobad, Sukokli and Olmachi.

Consultations are used to initially disclose information about the Project, explain the ESIA procedure, request baseline data, identify related projects, stakeholders and their interests, and understand concerns about the Project.

It was found that the health and safety of the population, providing vulnerable and unprotected segments of the population the opportunity to take advantage of the positive effects of the Project are of concern.

The second stage of the consultation was carried out in May 2024 during the basic social studies, in particular:

- Focus groups (women, youth, residents of the project area) with representatives of Gozgontepa, Khalkobad, Sukokli and Olmachi makhallas. These makhallas were identified at the stage of initial assessment of the project during consultations with the administrative bodies and responsible representatives of the combine, as populated areas within 1000-2000 m from the borders of the complex;
- In-depth interviews with farmers affected by the project, during construction (checking procedures for land alienation, compensation payments);
- In-depth interviews with chairmen of makhalla committees located in the Project impact area.

Information disclosure measures implemented in April-May 2024 are presented in Table 3.1 (Table 3.1):

*Table 3.1 Disclosure Activities*

<b>Measures</b>	<b>Result</b>
Publication of the report on ESIA Study Program Report	Project documents are made publicly available in Russian and English languages. Disclosure was made on the website of the Client, within ten days from the date of publication of the ESIA Study Program Report. The contact information of the responsible representative of the Client (e-mail, address, phone number) was indicated on the website. The ESIA Study Program Report was also sent to the chairmen of makhalla committees in printed form.
Receiving comments and suggestions on the ESIA Study Program Report	The collection of comments and suggestions will last until May 30, 2024. The Client has confirmed to the Consultant in writing that no comments or suggestions from stakeholders were recorded during the report disclosure period.

### **3.3 Stakeholder Analysis**

The stakeholders identified in the initial stage were categorized based on their dependence on and potential to influence the Project.

In this context, dependence is defined as the extent to which a stakeholder believes that the Project will achieve its goal of producing hot-rolled sheets in coils of low-carbon, low-alloy quality and ordinary quality steels. Influence is defined as the power formally delegated to an interested party to control the Project and the ability to influence its ultimate goal.



These definitions and characteristics, as presented in Table 3.2 and Table 3.3, are taken from the Stakeholder Engagement Guide “AccountAbility” 2005.

*Table 3.2 Characteristics of Stakeholder Dependency*

<b>Dependency</b>	<b>Description</b>
High	The stakeholder is highly dependent on the Project achieving its goal and will be significantly and directly dependent on its outcome (positive or negative).
Medium	The stakeholder may be indirectly affected by the outcome of the Project (positive or negative), but any impact is unlikely to be significant.
Low	The stakeholder may be indirectly affected by the outcome of the Project (positive or negative), but any impact will be minor.

Source: AccountAbility (2005).

*Table 3.3 Characteristics of Stakeholder Influence*

<b>Influence</b>	<b>Description</b>
High	The stakeholder has strong official authority over the project and can: Revoke or grant licenses for certain activities Restrict or grant access to investment funds; and Restrict or grant access to resources, sites, research, or data
Medium	The stakeholder has limited official authority (which may not be directly related to the project) and, therefore, can influence the course of the project
Low	The interested party has no official authority over the project or ability to influence its outcome

Source: AccountAbility (2005).

Having established the degree of dependence and influence of the stakeholder, we can classify stakeholders into the following categories using the provisions of Table 3.3.

**Key stakeholders:** parties who may be directly affected (positively or negatively) by the project. This category usually includes local populations, especially the poor and marginalized groups who are traditionally excluded from participation in economic planning.

**Secondary stakeholders:** parties who may affect or are indirectly affected by the development of the project. This category usually includes public organizations, private firms, banks and their shareholders, etc.

**Third-order stakeholders:** parties who are indirectly affected by the project, but more so than secondary stakeholders. This category usually includes parties who have an interest in the project and would like to be kept informed about its progress. Such stakeholders can also publicize necessary information about the project and influence it.

Table 3.4 Stakeholder Category Determination

Dependency of stakeholders on the project	Stakeholder influence on the project		
	Low	Medium	High
High	Key stakeholder	Key stakeholder	Key stakeholder
Medium	Key stakeholder	Secondary stakeholder	Secondary stakeholder
Low	Key stakeholder	Secondary stakeholder	Stakeholders of third-order

### 3.3.1 Key Stakeholders

The population of Sharaf Rashidov district, Jizzakh city, located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Project and all associated facilities, are likely to experience direct significant impacts (both positive and negative) during the construction phase.

However, the public does not have official authority over the Project. Thus, the local population is classified as a party with a high degree of dependence on the Project, but with a low degree of influence, which makes it the main stakeholder.

Similarly, the beneficiaries of the Project are likely to experience a direct and significant impact on how employment opportunities are provided during the construction and operation phases, but do not have official authority to influence how and when this happens. As a result, the beneficiaries of the Project also belong to the category of the main stakeholder.

Vulnerable groups of the population living in the nearest settlements (makhallas) and the beneficiary population are likely to be highly dependent on the Project, since they are more likely to suffer from the impact of the Project and/or will be limited more than others in their ability to take advantage of the benefits and benefits of the Project due to their social status. This group of stakeholders has very little influence on the Project, perhaps even less than the rest of the affected population, and is therefore considered the main stakeholder.

Those who will be exposed to economic displacement will experience significant and direct impacts from its implementation. The low degree of influence due to the lack of official authority classifies this group as the main stakeholder.

In the context of this Project, the farm affected by the construction of the facility is considered as a person subject to economic and physical displacement in connection with the allocation of land for construction.

### **3.3.2 Secondary Stakeholders**

Secondary stakeholders are individuals/organizations that can influence and are indirectly affected by the Project. This category usually includes funding organizations and banks, ministries and agencies, public organizations, mass media, etc. These stakeholders are listed in Table 3.5.

### **3.3.3 Third-order stakeholders**

At this stage, the third-order stakeholders have not been identified.

### **3.3.4 Stakeholder Analysis Results**

Currently, nine main groups of stakeholders have been identified in relation to the Project. Table 3.4 presents an analysis of stakeholders, their interests in relation to the Project, as well as proposed methods of information disclosure and interaction with them.

It is recognized that vulnerable or socially unprotected groups of the population will experience an impact different from other (major) groups of the population.

The consultations will be used to gather information and opinions on how the Project could potentially affect different groups of the population. Consultations and public information activities will take into account organizational and cultural factors, including language, accessibility of information, literacy levels and time availability for relevant population groups.

If you represent a stakeholder that is not listed in the table below and would like to receive information about the Project, you can contact us using the contact details in Chapter 5.

Table 3.5 Project stakeholders and methods of interaction with them

Stakeholder group	Status					Interaction methods														
	Key	Indirectly stakeholder	Affected Party	Stakeholder	Decision-making party	Personal meetings	Official correspondence	Disclosure of EIA information	Consultations on land alienation	Publication of the PAS <sup>1</sup>	Publication of personnel policy	Consultations on staff reduction	Interaction with PRS	Interaction with the Head of Environmental Management and	Interaction with the head on labor and social issues	Mechanism for receiving complaints from the population	Employee grievance mechanism	Monitoring and reporting	Website of the Client	
Affecting the population, vulnerable and socially disadvantaged populations																				
Residents of Sharaf Rashidov district, Jizzakh city, Jizzakh region areas, including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups:	x		x		x					x		x	x		x				x	
people with disabilities	x		x		x					x		x			x				x	
pensioners	x		x		x					x		x			x				x	
poor population	x		x		x							x			x				x	
unemployed	x		x		x					x		x	x		x				x	
women and female-headed households	x		x		x					x		x			x				x	
children under the age of 15	x		x		x							x			x				x	
Local farmers whose farms may be affected as a result of the Project	x		x		x	x		x	x	x			x		x				x	
Makhallas - Gozontepa, Chalkobad, Sukkli and Olmachi.	x		x		x	x		x		x		x	x		x					
Workers, being employed workers, workers of third-party organizations and employee representatives																				
Local residents	x		x		x					x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	
Employees of "CENGIZ ENERJI SAN. VE TIC A.Ş"	x		x		x					x	x		x						x	
Construction workers	x		x		x								x			x	x		x	
Trade unions and workers representatives	x		x			x				x	x				x	x	x		x	
The lender bank		x		x				x	x	x	x				x					
International Labour Organization		x		x						x			x							
Territorial and regional organs of state authorities, local self-government bodies, regulatory and state organizations																				
National electric networks		x		x						x			x	x	x					
Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan		x		x						x			x	x	x					
Ministry of Employment and Labor		x		x						x			x	x	x					
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan		x		x						x			x	x	x					
Khokimiyat of Jizzakh city	x		x			x		x	x	x			x		x					
District khokimiyat (Sharaf Rashidov district)	x		x			x		x	x	x			x		x					
Local environmental authorities	x		x			x		x		x			x		x	x				
Local cadastral authorities	x		x			x		x	x	x			x		x	x				
Local labor and employment authorities	x		x			x		x		x			x		x					
Department of Cultural Heritage of Jizzakh region	x		x					x	x	x			x							
Consultants of																				
ALFA LINE (Encompass) LLC	x		x			x			x	x				x						
Public associations and organizations																				
Uzbek-German Forum on Human Rights International Anti-Slavery Organization International Labor Rights Forum Women's Committee of Uzbekistan Others (to be identified through SEP disclosure)		x		x						x			x		x					
Contractors, suppliers and private enterprises																				
Local suppliers of raw materials and materials	x		x			x				x			x		x	x				
Local construction contractors	x		x			x			x	x			x		x	x				x
Other enterprises (to be identified through SEP disclosure)	x		x			x				x			x							
Other stakeholders																				
Local newspapers, local radio stations, local TV channels		x		x		x			x	x	x		x		x					

<sup>1</sup> Environmental and Social Management Plan<sup>2</sup> Environment, Health and Safety

## 4 STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT PLAN

### 4.1 General Information

Stakeholders engagement activities are aimed at two main tasks:

- providing relevant information about the Project. Disclosure allows stakeholders to understand the impacts and benefits of the Project, thereby minimizing potential problems and risks;
- providing those affected by the Project with the opportunity to express their opinions, preferences, and grievances. Consultations will be more productive and constructive if stakeholders are given timely and accurate information about the Project, its impacts and expected benefits. At the same time, the direct participation of stakeholders in the planning and design process is ensured.

The various stakeholder engagement and disclosure activities of the Project are based on the principles of inclusion and continuity, and comply with the applicable IFC requirements for Category A projects.

### 4.2 Gender Aspects

IFC expects its clients to identify any potential gender and disproportionate negative impacts and to take steps to mitigate these. Where appropriate, clients will be encouraged to enhance the positive gender impacts of projects by promoting equality of opportunity and women's socioeconomic empowerment, particularly in relation to access to finance, services and employment.

Currently, the Cabinet of Ministers of RUz has the post of Deputy Prime Minister responsible for the protection of women's rights and interests; similar positions have been created at all subnational levels of government. The government of Uzbekistan pays special attention to both supporting the role of women in all spheres of public life and social protection of women in the workplace.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has taken decisive steps to improve the legal status of women. In the period from October 2022 to October 2023, a number of important changes were adopted in the country. The new Labor Code guarantees equal pay for equal work for men and women, and also removes restrictions on women's employment in certain industries. In addition, domestic violence in all its manifestations, including physical, psychological and economic, has been criminalized.

These reforms have had a positive impact on Uzbekistan's position in the WBL 1.0 index, in particular in terms of salaries and marriage. As a result, the overall assessment of the republic increased by an impressive 11.9 points, reaching 82.5 points out of 100.

In the overall WBL ranking, Uzbekistan took 85th place, equaling such progressive countries as Singapore, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. The country led Central Asia and was among the five countries with the greatest progress in the field of gender equality, along with Jordan, Malaysia, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Key NGOs working on gender issues have been identified as stakeholders (also included in Table 3.4) and will be engaged with them throughout the life cycle of the Project in accordance with the SEP.

### **4.3 Engagement and Continuity**

Consultations will take into account the views of men and women, reflecting different concerns and priorities regarding potential impacts of the Project, mitigation mechanisms and positive effects. Consultation and disclosure will be continuous throughout all stages of the ESIA and the subsequent construction and operation stages of the new power plant.

All communications and information disclosure will be conducted in Russian and Uzbek. Local communication channels and public media will be used to ensure that information is available to as many people as possible.

### **4.4 Internet Resources**

The Client's website [https://cengizenerji.com.tr/?lang=en /](https://cengizenerji.com.tr/?lang=en/) and a separate link for information disclosure <https://cenergo.uz/environment-and-social/>, will be used to post announcements and publish Project documentation, as well as to inform about the progress of the Project and issues of public interest.

### **4.5 Community Liaison Officer**

The Client's organization appointed a specialist responsible for public relations (Community Liaison Officer (CLO)), whose responsibilities include ensuring at all stages of the Project constructive and meaningful interaction with local residents who are affected by or interested in the implementation of the Project.

The CLO will function throughout the life cycle of the Project, in particular, it will be responsible for the implementation of SEP activities. In addition, the CLO is responsible for organizing and holding meetings with stakeholders, their protocols, as well as continuous interaction with the population in the Project area of influence. As the person responsible for interaction with the public, in particular for the reception, registration and work with appeals and complaints of citizens at the stage of project preparation, during construction and at the stage of operation, appointed QA/QC Manager -Galeyeva Nailya.

#### **4.5.1 Special Attention to Vulnerable Groups of the Population**

The elderly and disabled may have difficulty obtaining information about the Project online. This stakeholder group may also be subject to restrictions related to their movement due to the pandemic, which may make it difficult to access paper-based documentation and feedback forms. In this regard, such channels of interaction as makhalla committees are selected, where information materials of the Project will be distributed, a dedicated telephone line is organized to collect comments and/or complaints.

Women living in nearby communities may also be limited in time to participate in consultations and access information. In this regard, information will be available in the makhallas at times convenient for combining with home duties.

The CLO will monitor comments received from vulnerable groups and, if necessary, other methods of involving them in the decision-making process will be suggested. Information about the Project and feedback forms will also be available online so that young people with good access to online resources will be involved in the consultation process.

### **4.6 Consultation Plan and Disclosure Activities**

Table 4.1 below identifies the sequence, timing, and responsibilities for disclosure activities and stakeholder consultations.

Table 4.1 Timing of the SEP activities and responsible parties

Measures	Timing/information	Responsible party	Alternative disclosure methods
<b>1) Defining the ESIA Study Program</b>			
Stakeholder engagement at the defining stage of the ESIA study program	April 2024 (Completed). Meetings to provide information on construction plans, collect opinions and comments regarding the Project from affected communities and other stakeholders	Consultant	No alternative methods are required
Publication of the ESIA and SEP Study Program Report	By May 20, 2024 Documents are published in Russian and English languages. Disclosure on the Client's website within ten days about the publication of the ESIA Study Program Report and indicating posting addresses and links to documents, as well as how and to whom to send comments. The ESIA Study Program Report will be sent to interested parties by email or on paper upon request.	The Consultant will prepare documents in English and Russian languages. The CLO sends documents to stakeholders and publishes the ESIA and SEP Study Program Report on its website (and makes them available on paper upon request)	No alternative methods are required
Receiving comments and suggestions on the ESIA Study Program Report	The collection of comments and suggestions will last until May 30, 2024. The Client will prepare comments and suggestions and send them to the Consultant for review and inclusion in the ESIA documentation. Responses to questions from stakeholders will be provided as soon as possible, depending on the complexity of the issue and the source of information for the response.	CLO and Consultant.	No alternative methods are required
<b>2) Impact assessment stage of the Project - publication of ESIA materials (draft)</b>			
Engagement with key stakeholders of the Project during the impact assessment stage	May - July 2024. Conducting focus group discussions with the population of the settlements closest to the project area to obtain information about the level and sources of income of the population. Conducting in-depth interviews with farmers falling under the Project's land allocation	Consultant	Online consultations. Questionnaires (online or mobile apps, hard copies via makhalla)

Measures	Timing/information	Responsible party	Alternative disclosure methods
Announcements about the publication of ESIA materials (draft) and public presentations of the ESIA results in makhallas in the 1-2 km zone from the project area and the Khokimiyat of the Sharaf-Rashidov district.	10 days before public presentations of the ESIA results (planned presentation dates are August 1-2, 2024). Announcements will be placed in local newspapers, the Client's website, district khokimiyats and makhallas within one week with information about where the ESIA materials are posted, the date, time and location of the presentations, and an explanation of how to submit comments. Announcements will include links and addresses where the ESIA, SEP, and NTS documentation will be available online and in printed form. Separately, invitation letters will be sent to Khokimiyat, makhallas, environmental agencies, NGOs and other Project stakeholders as appropriate.	CLO and Consultant	Within 10 days before publication of the ESIA materials: Announcements will be placed in local newspapers, as well as on the websites of the Client and the district khokimiyat, indicating links through which you can access ESIA materials, and notifying makhallas of Project-affected settlements about the upcoming delivery of information leaflets and feedback forms.
Publication of ESIA materials (draft) – NTS, ESIA Report with annexes, ESMP, SEP and other documents	Posting of ESIA materials (draft) one week prior to public presentations and results of ESIA within 30 days. The NTS and the ESIA will be published in Uzbek on the Client's website and posted in printed form in the same makhallas where the ESIA Study Program Report was posted. Boxes for collecting comments and suggestions will be installed in the makhallas and feedback forms will be provided to allow citizens to comment and give suggestions, including anonymously (completed)	The Consultant will prepare the NTS and draft report of the SEP in Russian and English languages. The Client organizes translation into Uzbek language. The CLO will post the documents on the websites of the Client and khokimiyats of Jizzakh city, Sharaf Rashidov district, as well as post the NTS and the SEP in printed form, boxes and feedback forms in the makhallas where the ESIA Study Program Report was previously posted.	ESIA materials on paper will be posted in public places
Public presentation of the final results of the ESIA	Planned dates are June August 1-2, 2024. Exact dates and times are to be arranged by the Consultant and agreed upon with the Client. The date and location of the presentation are specified in the announcements (see above). Separate invitations will be sent to makhalla women's committees to facilitate their participation in public presentations. The Client, with the assistance of the Consultant, will present information on the Project and the results of the ESIA, as well as proposed mitigation measures to mitigate potential negative impacts. The public presentations will include call boxes and feedback forms to allow	The activity and its informational support will be organized by the CLO with the assistance of the Consultant. Public presentations will be attended by the Client, the Consultant, the Client's representatives including the Project Manager, Environmental Engineer, Occupational Safety Engineer and other relevant specialists as appropriate. The Consultant will take minutes	Within four weeks after the posting of the ESIA materials (NTS, SEP and information flyer are posted, including in the Uzbek language) on the website of the Client and district khokimiyats: Information leaflets and feedback forms in the Uzbek language will be sent to makhallas for distribution to the population. Contact



Measures	Timing/information	Responsible party	Alternative disclosure methods
	participants to comment and provide suggestions, including anonymously.	of the activity, ensure registration of participants, collect suggestions and comments.	information of responsible persons will be published and posted in the makhallas. Boxes to collect feedback forms (including anonymous forms) will be installed in the makhallas. ESIA materials on paper will be posted in public places
Collection of suggestions and comments on the ESIA materials	Mechanism for receiving and reviewing complaints/requests during the information disclosure period (7 days) after the public presentations of the ESIA results. The Client will forward comments received to the Consultant for review by technical specialists and inclusion in the ESIA materials. Responses to stakeholder questions received will be provided as soon as possible, depending on the complexity of the issue and the source of information for the response.	The CLO is responsible for collecting suggestions and comments and forwarding them to the Consultant.	Proposals and comments to the ESIA materials will be accepted via feedback forms which will be sent to residents of the communities affected by the Project. Citizens will be able to leave their comments (including anonymously) by sending a feedback form by mail or e-mail Boxes for appeals will also be installed in makhallas.
Engagement with the media	Upon request, and when it is appropriate to publish a press release	CLO	Interaction with the media will be strengthened to ensure wide coverage of the population. The public will be informed through local radio channels and television in the respective areas.
Publication of ESIA materials (final version)	At the end of the disclosure period (30 days in total): The full package of ESIA materials in Russian and English languages will be posted on the Client's website. The final Uzbek language versions of the NTS and SEP will be delivered to the makhallas of the communities in the Project affected area, where drafts of these documents were previously posted.	Consultant will prepare the final version of the ESIA materials in English and Russian languages and translation of the NTS and SEP into Uzbek language. The project specialist responsible for GRM	

Measures	Timing/information	Responsible party	Alternative disclosure methods
		will post the documents on the Client's website, provide them on request in printed form, and provide the makhalla with the final version of the NTS and SEP in the Uzbek language in printed copy.	
Disclosure of information to creditors.	Final ESIA report and related documents are published by the lenders in English language with a link to the Client's website.	The consultant will prepare the draft and the final version of the ESIA materials in English language.	No alternative methods are required
<b>3) Engagement with stakeholders during the construction stage</b>			
Receiving and reviewing complaints/requests from citizens	Engagement with the population in the area of influence of the Project through the makhallas. Weekly reporting to the Client's management on complaints and appeals received. Before the start and completion of the construction stage, as well as in case of significant changes in the composition of the Project, the population in the zone of influence of the Project will be informed about potential impacts and measures to mitigate them. Informing the population (information leaflets) about the construction schedule.	CLO Contractors	Sending notifications on the progress of the CRC construction to the makhallas via e-mail or Telegram group. Reporting on complaints and appeals received online. Notifying makhallas about the construction schedule via messengers (e.g., Telegram group), by e-mail and on the Client's website.
Regular publication of news on the Client's website, announcing events on television, radio stations and/or in newspapers	Information on changes made to the investment program, completion of important stages of the construction period, etc. Publication of publicly available information as it becomes available, e.g., on impact management activities during the construction stage, publication of monitoring reports and annual reports.	CLO	Posting news on the Client's website and in the Telegram group. Posting of publicly available information through popular local TV channels. Posting monitoring reports and annual reports on the Client's website. A specialist responsible for GRM shall send to the makhalla via e-mail or Telegram group a link to the Client's website, where monitoring reports and annual reports are available.

Measures	Timing/information	Responsible party	Alternative disclosure methods
Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) update.	Regular updating of ESMP during the construction stage	Client Contractors	No alternative methods are required
SEP update	Before the start and completion of the construction stage, as well as in case of changes in schedule, technology, or stakeholder composition. Posting updated versions of the SEP on the Project website.	CLO	The CLO by email or in a Telegram group sends to the makhalla a link to the Client's website, where the updated SEP is posted.
Quarterly meeting with the chairmen of makhallas and residents of the project area to discuss project activities, complaints and suggestions from the population.	Quarterly during the construction period	CLO, Contractors	No alternative methods are required
Annual reporting	Annual reporting during the construction stage on CLO activities, including information on complaints and appeals received, implementation of the SEP and its updates.	Client	No alternative methods are required
<b>4) Stakeholder engagement during the operational stage</b>			
Registration and processing of appeals, preparation of reporting documentation	Semi-annual reporting on incoming complaints and appeals to the Client's management	CLO	No alternative methods are required
SEP update	Annually during the term of the loan agreement	CLO	No alternative methods are required
Annual meeting with chairmen of mahallas and residents of the project area to discuss project activities, complaints and suggestions from the population.	Annually during the term of the loan agreement	CLO	No alternative methods are required
Annual reporting	Preparation of annual reports on the environmental and social aspects of the Project to international lenders	Client	No alternative methods are required

## 5 GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

### 5.1 General Information

The availability of a grievance redress mechanism should be ensured in accordance with the legislation of the RUz and applicable international requirements.

Like all effective systems, the proposed mechanism allows for the acceptance of anonymous complaints, respects the confidentiality of the parties involved, and protects both the complainant and the Project from possible retaliation.

The mechanism is based on the principles of legality, accessibility, predictability, fairness, transparency, equity, continuous learning and dialogue. The mechanism helps to learn lessons and identify areas for continuous improvement.

The basis of an appeal may be an actual problem or a perceived situation that could give rise to a complaint. In general, the Project will take a proactive approach in handling appeals, taking mitigation measures (as defined in the ESMP) and communicating with the public.

Any person may file an appeal or complaint regarding the Project if they believe the practice has an adverse impact on the social or natural environment, or on the quality of life. Comments and suggestions can also be made. The sections below discuss the principles of confidentiality and anonymity, as well as the procedure for handling complaints and appeals received in relation to the Project.

### 5.2 Confidentiality and anonymity

The Client will take measures to ensure confidentiality (upon request) and guarantee anonymity in the preparation of annual reports. Disclosure of personal data of individuals will be carried out only with their consent.

Investigations will be conducted with respect for the injured party and confidentiality. The injured party will have to recognize the need to disclose personal data in certain situations, and the Client representatives will identify such situations and request appropriate consent to continue the investigation and resolve the situation.

### 5.3 Appeals handling and reporting

The Client has its own Internet resource <https://cengizenerji.com.tr/?lang=en/> and a separate link for disclosure of information about the Project <https://cenergo.uz/environment-and-social/>, as well as a tool for the public to file complaints and appeals. Complaints and appeals can also be sent directly to the CLOs. These CLOs are listed in Table 5.2.

The main stages of work with complaints and appeals include: receiving and registering, categorizing, investigating, preparing a response, demands / appeals, providing a response and closing a complaint / appeal.

Receipt/registration: Complaints and appeals will be recorded in a formal complaint registration system maintained by the CLO. Complaints

can be submitted in writing by filling out a special form, (provided in Annex A of the SEP), by contacting the CLO directly, through a local government representative or electronically through the Client's website. Contact information of the CLO will be provided in the Project information materials, e.g., in the non-technical summary.

**Categorization:** all incoming applications will be classified by the CLO in accordance with the criteria as specified in Table 5.1.

**Investigation:** In cases where an investigation is required, the appropriate employees of the Client and external organizations will provide the necessary assistance in this. The CLO in conjunction with the Client's management will form an investigation team to include specific specialists whose qualifications are appropriate to the subject matter of the appeal.

The purpose of the investigation will also be to determine the nature of the event that gave rise to the request, i.e. whether it was an isolated event or whether it may recur. During the investigation, the necessary measures, procedures will be identified and implemented, the necessary equipment will be allocated or training will be conducted in order to eliminate the incident and prevent its recurrence.

**Response:** The CLO shall give the complainant a written (or, if it is difficult for the complainant to understand the written text, verbal) explanation of the complaint procedure, its results, the actions to be taken to address the causes of the complaint, as well as the work being done on the issue to ensure compliance with relevant environmental and social management systems. In certain cases, the CLO will monitor how satisfied the applicant is with the decision or action taken.

*Table 5.1 Classification criteria for the complaint/appeal*

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Level of risk (to health, safety, or the environment)</b>	<b>Resolution</b>
Low	None or low	The complaint may not be related to the Project, the received appeal may be a comment or a request. CLO acknowledges the complaint within 3 days and conducts an investigation, documents its results and responds within 14 days from the date of receipt of the complaint.
Medium	Potential risk and a single incident	The CLO acknowledges the complaint within 3 days. The CLO acknowledges the complaint within 3 days. The Site Manager or Health and Safety Manager, if necessary, may decide to suspend work until the investigation is completed, in order to determine the necessary measures to correct the violation. The CLO responds to the complaint within 14 days from the date of receipt of the complaint. Measures to correct the violation can be simple, quick, such as those involving a change of procedure, and low cost.

Criteria	Level of risk (to health, safety, or the environment)	Resolution
High	Probable risk and possibility of recurrence	The CLO acknowledges the complaint within 3 days and engages the Project Manager to form a task force to promptly investigate and resolve the complaint. The CLO responds to the complaint within 14 days from the date of receipt of the complaint. If the resolution of the complaint requires more time, the CLO informs the complainant within 14 days from the date of receipt of the complaint and sends a response within 30 days. If necessary, the response may be in the form of a press release.

**Closure:** In the logbook, the complaint is closed as follows:

- Settled. Response communicated, agreed to, and/or implemented.
- Not settled. The complainant disagrees with the decision and has applied to other organizations for settlement.
- Denied. Applicant cannot be contacted and cannot be traced.

CLO will report on the activities of the treatment of appeals on a monthly basis in the preparatory stage, weekly during construction and twice a year during the operational phase, excluding personal data of applicants in order to protect confidential information and guarantee anonymity. This procedure will be free of charge and will exclude any harassment of Project-affected persons or other stakeholders. The proposed grievance procedure is shown schematically in the Annex B.

QA/QC Manager- Galejeva Nailya is responsible for reviewing appeals from citizens and other stakeholders. Comments and appeals should be sent to the address below (preferably in writing by filling out the complaint/appeal form provided in Annex A).

*Table 5.2. Community Liaison Officer*

To	Galeyeva Nailya
Phone	+998 88 330 00 20
Email	nailya.galeyeva@cenergo.uz

## 6 MONITORING AND REPORTING

### 6.1 Reporting as a part of the SEP implementation

Successful stakeholder engagement continues throughout the project cycle and requires monitoring, analysis, reporting and disclosure to adapt to changing circumstances and stakeholder information needs.

The CLO will make regular changes and additions to the SEP during Project preparation and implementation, prior to the start and completion of construction activities, during construction, and annually during the operational stage until the expiration of the loan agreement in order to determine:

- the forms of engagement and the means of disclosure with respect to the various stakeholders;
- how often it is necessary to conduct consultations;
- how adequately the incoming appeals and complaints are handled;
- whether the identified stakeholders remain relevant and the extent to which planned activities need to be reduced or expanded.

The SEP will also be adjusted if the Project implementation program changes.

### 6.2 Reporting of complaints and appeals

The CLO will be responsible for preparing the following reports:

- monthly reports on complaints received to the Client's management during the preparation stage of the Project;
- -weekly reports on complaints received to the Client's management during the construction stage;
- -semi-annual reports on complaints received to the Client's management during the operational stage;
- -annually provide information on complaints received to international lenders as part of the annual reporting on the environmental and social aspects of the Project.

### 6.3 Annual reporting

Throughout the term of the loan agreement, the Client will prepare an annual report to international lenders summarizing information on compliance with environmental, health and safety requirements, progress with the ESMP, CLO activities and public complaints received, as well as updates to the SEP.

### 6.4 Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan

As part of the ESIA, an ESMP will be developed that will define detailed requirements for monitoring and reporting of the Project's environmental and social performance.

## 6.5 Assessment of the Activities' Effectiveness

The Client will conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of the activities on engagement with the stakeholders of the Project (CLO and the Client's management) on the purposes and objectives of this SEP. Assessment will be made of the extent to which the planned activities have been implemented, as well as to what extent the achievement of the objectives has been ensured. The results of the assessment, conclusions and lessons learned will be summarized in subsequent editions of the SEP.

The following indicators will be used to monitor and improve the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement in support of Project implementation and to ensure compliance with applicable international requirements and standards:

- number of publications about the Project and its progress in local, regional and national media;
- number and categories of stakeholder groups;
- number and regularity of stakeholder engagement activities;
- number of stakeholder comments and suggestions received through various feedback channels;
- type/category of stakeholder comments and suggestions and communication channels;
- number of stakeholder complaints and grievances regarding the Project;
- public appeals and grievances by category (environmental issues, obstruction of construction stage, etc.);
- number of resolved, unresolved and appealed appeals and grievances from the public;
- received employee complaints by major categories (working conditions, provision of PPE, wage arrears, etc.);
- number of considered, unresolved and appealed appeals and complaints of workers.



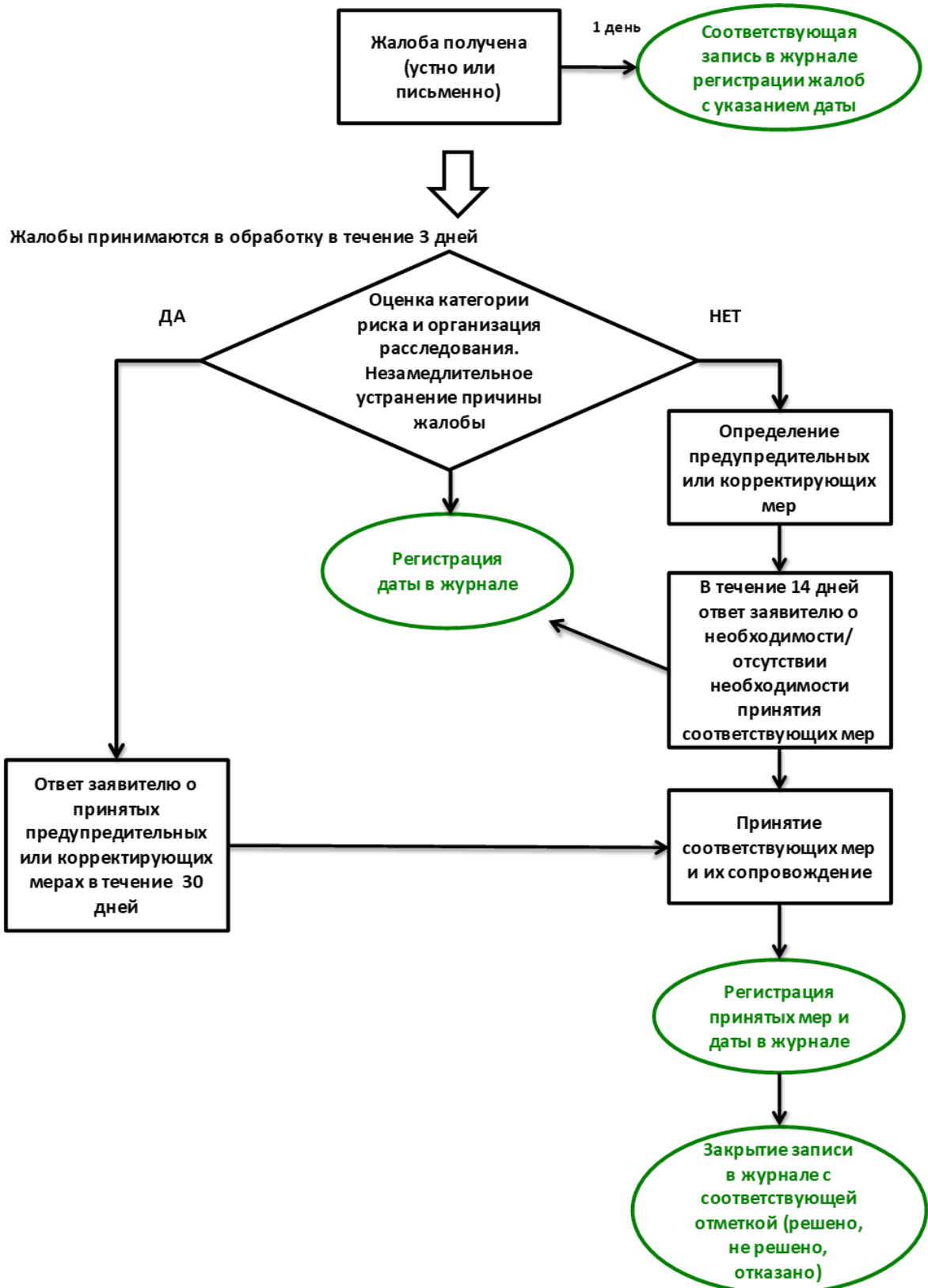
## **ANNEXES**

## ANNEX A – COMPLAINT/APEAL FORM

<b>Complaint/appeal form</b>	
Registration number:	
Please provide your contact information and state the essence of the complaint or other event that was the subject of the appeal. The information provided will be used on the terms of confidentiality. If you want to file a complaint anonymously, write a comment/complaint in the appropriate field without specifying contact information – your comments / complaint will be considered in any case. Please note that explanations and answers to anonymous requests are not provided.	
Surname, first name, patronymic:	
Please, provide your contact information: Please, indicate your preferred method of contact (mail, phone, email):	mailing address: phone: email:
Preferred language of communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Uzbek <input type="checkbox"/> Russian <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): .....
A description of the complaint or other event that is the subject of the appeal: (What happened? Where did it happen? Who did it happen to? What did it lead to?:	
Date of the complaint/event	<input type="checkbox"/> one-time event (date ) <input type="checkbox"/> repeated event (how many times? ) <input type="checkbox"/> continuous problem (currently exists)
How would you like to see the problem solved?	
Please return the form to the CLO:	
_____ _____	
Confidential for internal use	
Appeal accepted:	
(signature) Date:	

## ANNEX B - PROCEDURE FOR RECEIVING AND HANDLING COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS FROM CITIZENS

*Scheme of work with complaints and appeals of the population*



### CHANGE REGISTRATION TABLE

Change	Sheet (page) numbers				Total sheets (pages) in doc.	Doc. number	Signature	Date
	amended	replaced	new	cancelled				