



SPOTLIGHT

Integrated Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD) Framework

How it's framed, what it focuses on, and how it will be implemented

Prepared by SustainEra

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How It's Framed

Climate change in Shariatpur is not only about lost homes and income — it is about lost identity, dignity, and belonging, as the Padma River reshapes lives year after year.

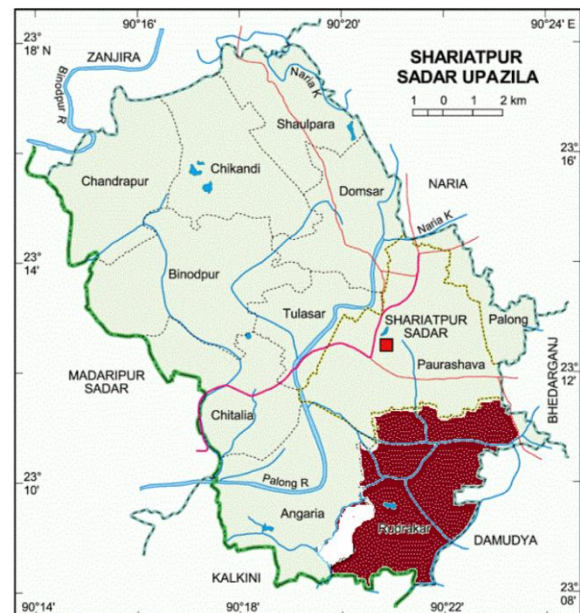
Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD) refers to the invisible impacts of climate change that resist measurement in monetary terms: the erosion of identity and dignity, the fragmentation of communities, the trauma of displacement, the silencing of indigenous knowledge, and the disappearance of cultural practices that give meaning to life.

Global climate policy has increasingly recognised Loss and Damage as the third pillar of climate action, alongside mitigation and adaptation, through the Warsaw International Mechanism, Article 8 of the Paris Agreement, the Santiago Network, and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage established at COP27. Yet global and national responses have remained overwhelmingly focused on economic losses, leaving non-economic harms largely unaddressed.

Why SDS

Shariatpur Development Society is uniquely positioned to close this gap. As a frontline, rights-based organisation working directly with climate-affected char communities for over two decades, SDS has accumulated the evidence, relationships, and operational presence needed to anchor institutional transformation.

This framework converts that positioning into a systematic, organisation-wide commitment to NELD-sensitive programming, governance, and advocacy — with an ambition to establish SDS as a Centre of Excellence on NELD integration in South Asia.



The ARISE Model — Organising Architecture

Five stages that are both a sequence of institutional transformation and a permanent organisational posture.

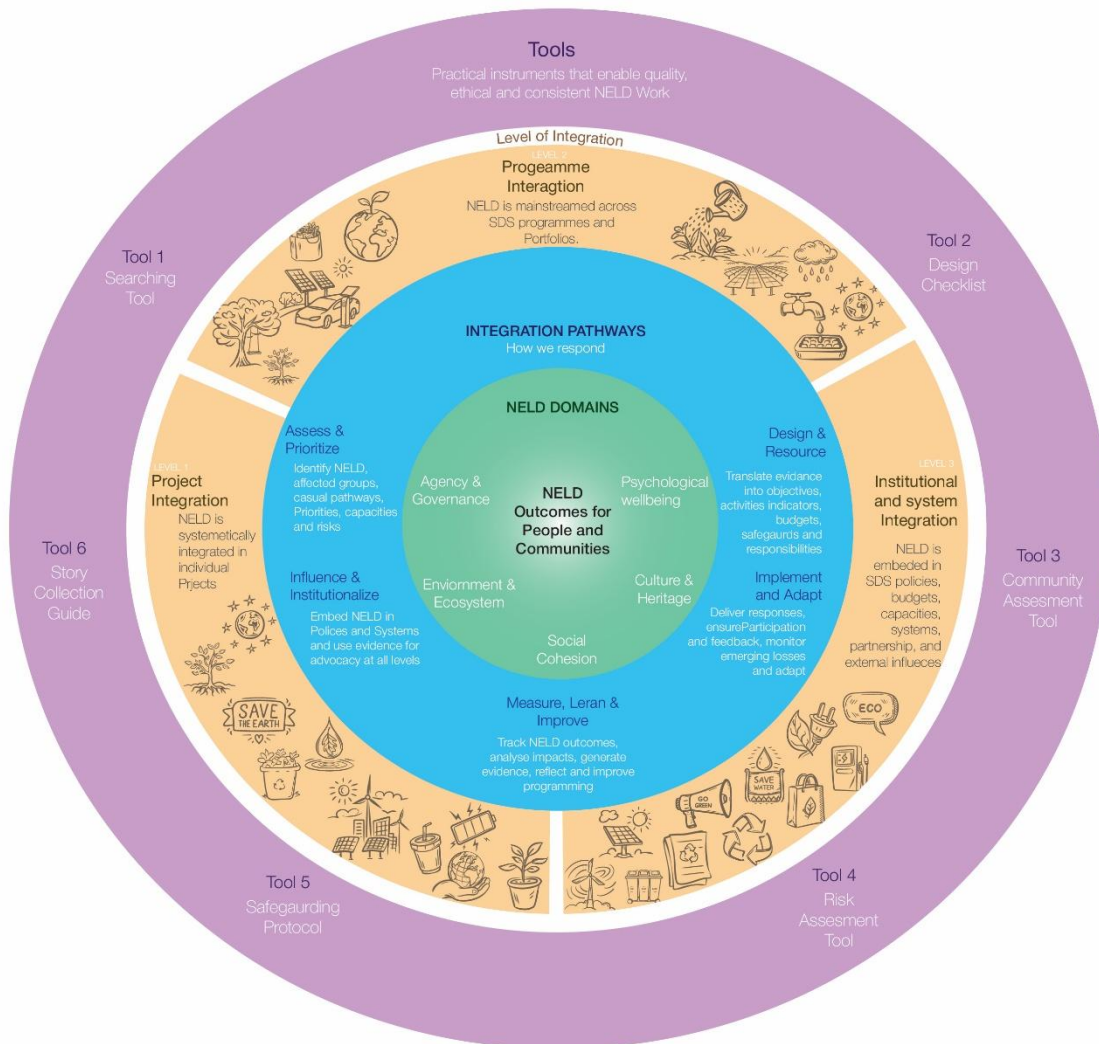
ARISE distinguishes this framework from conventional gender-mainstreaming approaches by giving SDS a repeatable architecture for recognising and responding to non-economic loss across every level of the organisation.

Stage	What It Means for SDS
Assess	Understand institutional readiness, community realities, and NELD-related risks and gaps
Reframe	Shift internal narratives and analysis to make invisible losses visible and legitimate
Integrate	Build NELD into programme design, tools, and delivery across the project cycle
Systematize	Embed NELD in policies, budgets, indicators, and governance structures
Engage	Use evidence to inform advocacy, partnerships, and community accountability

Strategic Priorities

1. Institutionalise NELD across all SDS policies, systems, and governance structures
2. Build staff capacity in NELD concepts, intersectional analysis, and ethical storytelling
3. Develop and pilot NELD-sensitive programming tools, indicators, and assessment instruments
4. Generate evidence from community-level realities to inform national and global policy
5. Position SDS as a Centre of Excellence on NELD integration in South Asia

SDS NELD FRAMEWORK



NELD DOMAINS

The seven dimensions of non-economic loss and damage that define the substantive areas we need to recognise and respond to

INTEGRATION PATHWAYS

Five pathways that guide our actions across the project cycle-from assessment to influence and adaptation

LEVELS OF INTERAGTION

The depth and scale of integration- Project level to institutional and systems level transformation

TOOLS

Six Practical tools and guides that help staff apply standards, collect evidence, manage risks and document stories ethically

How it Works

Tools help us do the work. pathways show how we respond. domains defines what matters. Levels show how deeply NELD is embedded. Together they create meaningful change

Gender, Disability & Intersectionality

Recognise diverse identities, experiences and inequalities, so no one is left behind

Ethics, Safeguarding and Do No Harm

Informed consent, trauma- informed engagement, confidentiality, data protection and safety for all.

Gender, Disability & Intersectionality

Communities and affected people as co-creators, decision-makers and accountability holders.

Spotlight: The Integrated NELD Framework

Embedding Non-Economic Loss and Damage into Development Practice

As climate impacts intensify, communities are losing far more than homes, crops and income. They are losing identity, dignity, culture, mental wellbeing, social cohesion, environmental connections and agency, the dimensions collectively known as Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD).

While these losses are often the most deeply felt, they remain the least visible in development planning.

To address this gap, Shariatpur Development Society (SDS) has developed the Integrated NELD Framework—a practical organizational framework that enables NELD to move beyond awareness and become an integral part of programme design, implementation, monitoring and institutional decision-making.

Why was the framework developed?

Traditional development programmes tend to prioritize measurable economic impacts while overlooking the intangible losses that determine people's wellbeing and resilience.

The SDS Integrated NELD Framework provides a structured approach to:

- i. Recognize hidden and intangible climate impacts.
- ii. Systematically integrate NELD into existing programmes.
- iii. Ensure ethical, trauma-informed and people-centred programming.
- iv. Strengthen evidence generation for advocacy and policy influence.
- v. Build institutional capacity to respond to climate-induced NELD.

Rather than creating a standalone project, the framework helps mainstream NELD across the entire organization.

Four Integrated Components:

The framework is built around four interconnected layers that work together to transform how SDS understands and responds to climate loss and damage.

NELD Domains – What Matters?

The substantive dimensions of loss and damage that SDS commits to recognising and responding to, anchored around NELD outcomes for people and communities.

Domain	What It Captures
Agency & Governance	Loss of voice, representation, and control over decisions affecting one's life
Environment & Ecosystem	Disruption of the natural surroundings that sustain livelihoods and belonging
Social Cohesion	Fragmentation of community bonds, networks, and mutual support
Culture & Heritage	Erosion of traditions, practices, and knowledge passed across generations
Psychological Wellbeing	The emotional and mental health toll of displacement, uncertainty, and grief
Identity, Place & Belonging	Disconnection from ancestral land, home, and a sense of self
Education & Intergenerational Continuity	Interrupted schooling and weakened transfer of knowledge to the next generation

These domains help programmes recognize the human dimensions of climate change that are often overlooked by conventional assessments.

Integration Pathways – How we respond?

1. Assess & Prioritize — identify NELD, affected groups, causal pathways, priorities and risks
2. Design & Resource — translate evidence into objectives, activities, indicators, budgets, safeguards and responsibilities
3. Implement & Adapt — deliver responses, ensure participation and feedback, monitor emerging losses and adapt
4. Influence & Institutionalize — embed NELD in policies and systems, use evidence for advocacy at all levels
5. Measure, Learn & Improve — track NELD outcomes, analyse impacts, generate evidence, reflect and improve programming

These pathways ensure NELD is considered throughout the project cycle rather than only during assessments.

Levels of Integration – How deeply NELD is embedded?

The depth and scale at which NELD becomes embedded — from individual projects to institutional and systems-level transformation.

Level	Scope
Level 1 — Project Integration	NELD is systematically integrated into individual projects
Level 2 — Programme Integration	NELD is mainstreamed across SDS programmes and portfolios
Level 3 — Institutional & System Integration	NELD is embedded in SDS policies, budgets, capacities, systems, partnerships and external influence

This progression allows SDS to move from isolated practice to organizational transformation.

The Six Operational Pillars

Institutional integration is carried by six pillars spanning governance, staff wellbeing, inclusive programme design, MEAL, knowledge management, and advocacy — ensuring NELD is embedded structurally rather than resting on individual initiative.

- Institutional Systems and Governance
- Human Resources and Staff Wellbeing
- Inclusive Programme Design
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL)
- Knowledge Management and Learning
- Advocacy and Policy Influence

How It Will Be Implemented — Practical Tools

Six practical instruments that help staff apply NELD standards consistently, ethically, and with evidence.

Tool	Purpose
1. Screening Tool	Screen projects and contexts for NELD relevance
2. Design Checklist	Build NELD considerations into project design from the outset
3. Community Assessment Tool	Assess NELD priorities and realities at community level
4. Risk Assessment Tool	Identify and manage NELD-related risks across the project cycle
5. Safeguarding Protocol	Ensure ethical, trauma-informed, and confidential engagement
6. Story Collection Guide	Document lived experience ethically to generate evidence and advocacy material

Together, these tools help staff collect consistent evidence, manage ethical risks and document community experiences in a standardized manner.

Cross cutting principles:

The framework is grounded in three principles that guide every stage of implementation:

- i. Gender, Disability and Intersectionality**—ensuring diverse experiences and vulnerabilities are recognized.
- ii. Ethics, Safeguarding and Do No Harm**—through informed consent, trauma-informed approaches, confidentiality and data protection.
- iii. Participation and Accountability**—placing communities at the centre as co-creators and decision-makers rather than passive beneficiaries.

How It Will Be Implemented —Governance

NELD integration doesn't end when a checklist is ticked. Every screening, assessment, or design step feeds into the next stage of the project cycle — and into a standing structure that keeps the whole system accountable.

This section explains what happens immediately after each of the six NELD tools is used, and introduces the body that coordinates, monitors, and supports NELD work across SDS: the NELD Taskforce.

After Every Screening or Integration Step

Each tool hands off to a specific next step and a named owner — nothing sits idle once it's completed.

Tool Used	What Happens Next	Who Takes It Forward
Screening Tool (1)	Result routes the proposal: Low proceeds as-is; Medium or High triggers the Design Checklist and Community Assessment Tool.	Programme Team → NELD Taskforce
Design Checklist (2)	Readiness score feeds into project appraisal; "Ready" proposals move to approval, others return for revision.	Senior Management, NELD Taskforce
Community Assessment (3)	Findings are written into the project design and logged in the knowledge repository.	Programme Team, Knowledge Management
Risk Assessment (4)	Low/Medium risk proceeds with mitigation in place; High risk requires Taskforce sign-off before continuing.	Programme Team → NELD Taskforce
Safeguarding Protocol (5)	Any referral made during fieldwork is documented and reviewed at the next quarterly meeting.	Field Staff, NELD Focal Point
Story Collection Guide (6)	Stories are reviewed for consent and anonymization before entering the repository or advocacy materials.	Communications, Knowledge Management

Forming the NELD Taskforce

A multidisciplinary team, drawn from existing SDS leadership, that gives NELD a permanent seat at the table rather than leaving it to individual projects.

The Taskforce provides strategic leadership, coordinates organizational learning, oversees policy integration, and ensures NELD is embedded in programme design, implementation, monitoring, knowledge management, and advocacy. It is established during the Foundation Phase (2026) and continues as a standing body.

Taskforce Composition

Position	Role on the Taskforce
Executive Director	Strategic leadership and approval of institutional decisions
Deputy Director – Programmes	Leads NELD integration across programme design and delivery
Business Development & Knowledge Management Coordinator	Secretary: coordinates meetings, documentation, and follow-up
Programme Managers	Ensure NELD principles are applied at project level
MEAL Manager	Develops NELD indicators and monitors progress
Finance Manager	Integrates NELD into budgeting and climate finance tracking
HR & Administration Manager	Leads policy revision and staff capacity development
Gender & Safeguarding Focal Person	Ensures gender, disability, and safeguarding considerations are integrated
Communications Officer	Leads storytelling, visibility, and knowledge dissemination
Technical Advisors (as required)	Specialist input on climate adaptation, mental health, policy, or disability inclusion

Monitoring & Supporting Implementation

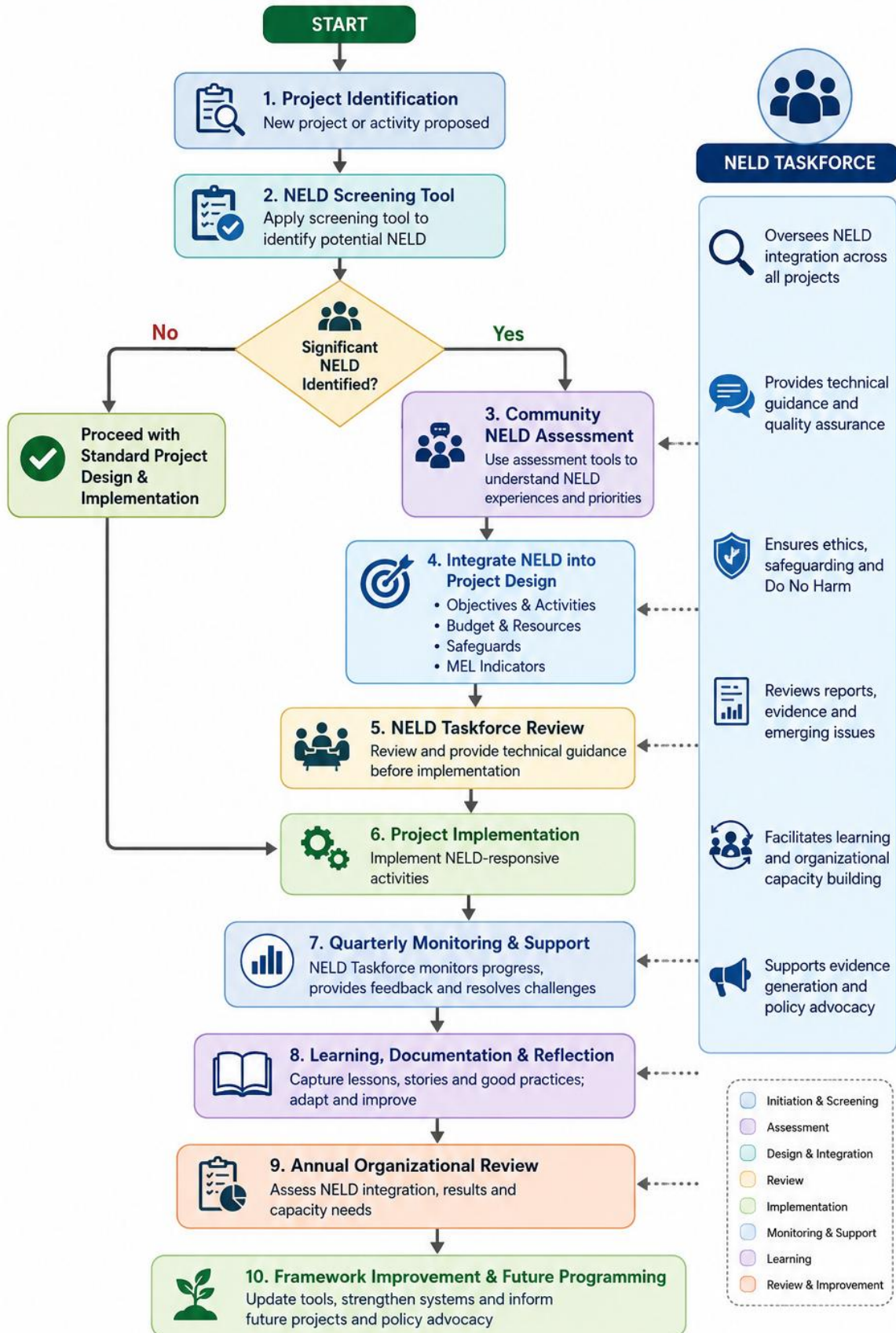
A regular rhythm of meetings and reporting keeps NELD integration on track — and gives staff a clear place to raise challenges or ask for support.

Meeting Schedule

Meeting	Frequency	Purpose
Regular Taskforce Meeting	Quarterly	Review implementation progress, identify challenges, approve work plans
Technical Working Session	Bi-monthly (as required)	Address technical issues, policy revisions, and programme support
Annual Learning & Reflection Meeting	Annually	Review achievements, lessons learned, and priorities for the next year
Emergency Meeting	As required	Respond to emerging climate events, donor requirements, or policy developments

SDS NELD FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION FLOW

From Screening to Learning and Continuous Improvement



A Shift from projects to systems

The SDS Integrated NELD Framework represents more than a set of tools, it offers a new way of thinking about climate resilience. By connecting human wellbeing, programme quality, organizational systems and policy influence, the framework enables SDS to systematically identify, respond to and advocate for Non-Economic Loss and Damage across all areas of its work.

As climate change increasingly affects people's identities, mental health, culture and social fabric, frameworks like this help ensure that these invisible losses are no longer invisible, and that development responses are as comprehensive and people-centred as the challenges communities face.

Roadmap 2026–2030

A three-phase institutional roadmap moving from foundation-setting to full institutionalisation and advocacy leadership.

Phase	Focus
Phase 1 — Foundation (2026)	Establish policy frameworks and deliver staff orientation on NELD
Phase 2 — Integration (2027–2028)	Pilot NELD tools across project cycles and build practical staff capacity
Phase 3 — Institutionalization (2029–2030)	Fully embed NELD into organisational architecture; position SDS for national and global advocacy leadership

How It All Works Together

Tools help SDS do the work. Pathways show how it responds. Domains define what matters. Levels show how deeply NELD becomes embedded. Together, they are designed to drive meaningful, lasting change for Shariatpur's climate-affected communities.

ANNEX 1: NELD Screening Tool

A quick check, done at the start of every project, to see whether — and how — Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD) needs to be built into the design.

Who uses it: the project design team, before a proposal is finalised. Time needed: about 20–30 minutes. What happens next: the screening result tells you which of the other five NELD tools to use.

A. Basic Information

Project / Proposal Name	
Sector / Programme Area	
Location(s)	
Prepared By	
Date	

B. Geographic Exposure to NELD Drivers

Tick Yes, Partially, or No for each question. Use the notes column to explain briefly.

Question	Yes	Partly	No
Is the project area affected by riverbank erosion or land loss?	☐	☐	
Is the area exposed to recurrent flooding or waterlogging?	☐	☐	
Is the area affected by salinity intrusion or cyclones?	☐	☐	
Has the area experienced displacement or forced relocation?	☐	☐	

C. Vulnerability Group Composition

Tick every group present in the project area — this shapes which voices the design needs to centre.

- ☐ Women and girls
- ☐ Children and adolescents
- ☐ Older persons
- ☐ Persons with disabilities
- ☐ Displaced or recently relocated households
- ☐ Indigenous or minority communities
- ☐ Female-headed households

D. Do the Proposed Indicators Capture Non-Economic Loss?

Tick Yes or No. Where the answer is No, note it as a gap to close in the Design Checklist.

- ☐ Psychological wellbeing and mental health
- ☐ Social cohesion and community relationships
- ☐ Cultural heritage and identity
- ☐ Agency, voice, and participation in decisions

E. Where Could NELD Be Built In?

Tick every stage where NELD action is realistic for this project.

- ☐ Project design and objectives
- ☐ Community consultation and participation methods
- ☐ Implementation and delivery activities
- ☐ Monitoring, evaluation, and learning
- ☐ Advocacy and external influencing

F. Screening Outcome

Based on Sections B–E, tick the one result that best fits, then follow the recommended next step.

☐	LOW NELD relevance — proceed with standard project design.
☐	MEDIUM NELD relevance — apply the NELD Design Checklist and Community Assessment Tool before finalising.
☐	HIGH NELD relevance — escalate to the NELD Taskforce; apply all six NELD tools before approval.

G. Sign-Off

Screened By	
Position	
Date	
Reviewed By (NELD Focal Point)	
Approval Date	

ANNEX 2: NELD Project Design Checklist

A 20-point check, done while writing the proposal, to make sure Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD) is built into the project — not added on afterwards.

Who uses it: the proposal writer or project design team, after the Screening Tool (Tool 1) shows Medium or High NELD relevance. Time needed: about 45–60 minutes. What happens next: use the score at the end to decide if the proposal is ready to submit.

A. Needs Assessment Methodology

#	Checklist Item	Yes	No	N/A
1	The needs assessment asked specific questions about non-economic loss (identity, culture, wellbeing, relationships).	☐	☐	☐
2	More than one method was used to gather information (e.g., discussions, interviews, existing reports).	☐	☐	☐
3	Findings are broken down by sex, age, and disability.	☐	☐	☐

B. Vulnerability Analysis

#	Checklist Item	Yes	No	N/A
4	The groups most exposed to non-economic loss are clearly named (e.g., women, elderly, persons with disabilities, displaced households).	☐	☐	☐
5	The proposal explains why these groups are more affected than others.	☐	☐	☐
6	Overlapping vulnerabilities are considered (e.g., a person who is both displaced and living with a disability).	☐	☐	☐

C. Indicator Selection

#	Checklist Item	Yes	No	N/A
7	At least one indicator tracks psychological wellbeing.	☐	☐	☐
8	At least one indicator tracks social cohesion or community relationships.	☐	☐	☐
9	At least one indicator tracks cultural heritage or identity.	☐	☐	☐
10	At least one indicator tracks agency, voice, or participation in decisions.	☐	☐	☐

D. Safeguarding Integration

#	Checklist Item	Yes	No	N/A
11	Informed consent is built into how information and stories are collected.	☐	☐	☐
12	There is a clear referral path for anyone who discloses distress or harm.	☐	☐	☐
13	Confidentiality and data protection steps are written into the proposal.	☐	☐	☐

E. Budget Allocation

#	Checklist Item	Yes	No	N/A
14	A budget line exists for NELD-related activities (e.g., community assessments, psychosocial support).	☐	☐	☐
15	Funds are set aside for staff training on NELD and safeguarding.	☐	☐	☐
16	Funds are set aside for inclusive participation (e.g., transport, accessibility, interpretation).	☐	☐	☐

F. Community Participation Design

#	Checklist Item	Yes	No	N/A
17	Women are able to participate meaningfully — not just be present.	☐	☐	☐
18	Persons with disabilities are specifically consulted in the design process.	☐	☐	☐
19	Local or indigenous knowledge is reflected in the project design.	☐	☐	☐
20	There is a clear way for the community to give feedback once the project starts.	☐	☐	☐

G. Readiness Score

Count the total number of Yes answers across Sections A–F (out of 20), then match it to a band below.

Total "Yes" Answers (out of 20)	
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16–20	Ready — NELD is well integrated. Proceed to submission.
10–15	Needs strengthening — revisit the unchecked items before submitting.
Below 10	Not ready — return to design stage and consult the NELD Focal Point.

H. Sign-Off

Completed By	
Position	
Date	
Reviewed By (NELD Focal Point)	
Approval Date	

ANNEX 3: NELD Community Assessment Tool

A guide for listening sessions with communities — so people can describe, in their own words and their own way, the non-economic losses climate change has caused them.

Who uses it: facilitators with basic community engagement training, running a Focus Group Discussion (FGD). Group size: 6–10 participants works best. Time needed: 60–90 minutes. Before you start, read the Safeguarding Protocol (Tool 5).

A. Session Information

Date	
Location / Community (Char)	
Facilitator	
Note-Taker	

Number of participants, by group:

Women		Men	
Youth		Persons with Disabilities	

B. Before You Begin

Confirm each of these before the session starts.

- ☐ Informed consent has been obtained from all participants
- ☐ The venue is accessible and private
- ☐ A female facilitator is present, if the group includes women
- ☐ Referral contacts are on hand in case someone needs support
- ☐ Participants know they are free to leave or skip any question

C. Facilitation Methods

Use whichever mix of these fits the group — they help people express loss without needing to put it into numbers.

Mapping	Ask participants to draw or describe their community before and after a climate event — what changed?
Ranking	Ask participants to rank which losses feel hardest to live with, and why.
Storytelling	Invite one or two participants to share a personal account of a loss in their own words.

D. Guiding Questions, by NELD Domain

Ask the core question for each domain, then let the conversation flow — you don't need to ask every domain in every session.

NELD Domain	Question to Ask	Notes from Discussion
Environment & Ecosystem	What changes have you seen in the land, water, or weather around you?	
Agency & Governance	Do you feel your community's voice is heard in decisions that affect you?	
Social Cohesion	How have relationships and support within the community changed?	
Culture & Heritage	What traditions, practices, or knowledge feel at risk of being lost?	
Psychological Wellbeing	How has this affected people's peace of mind or emotional wellbeing?	
Identity, Place & Belonging	Do people still feel as connected to this place as before?	
Education & Continuity	Has this affected children's schooling or passing knowledge to the next generation?	

E. Adaptation & Support

1. How has the community responded to these changes so far?

Notes	
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2. What support is still needed?

Notes	
-------	--

F. Reflection for SDS

How can SDS better support the community on these issues?

Notes	
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G. Facilitator's Summary (complete after the session)

Top 3 Losses Raised	
Safeguarding Concerns / Referrals Made	
Recommended Follow-Up	

H. Sign-Off

Facilitator	
Note-Taker	
Date Submitted	
Reviewed By	

ANNEX 4: NELD Risk Assessment Tool

A check, done before engaging communities on NELD topics, to spot possible harms early and put safeguards in place.

Who uses it: the project team, before any fieldwork or programming that touches sensitive NELD topics (loss, trauma, displacement). Time needed: 20–30 minutes. Required for: all programs working with climate-affected communities on NELD.

A. Activity Information

Project / Activity Name	
Location(s)	
Assessed By	
Date	

B. Risk Register

The first five rows are common risks seen in NELD work — review and adjust them for your context, then add any additional risks in the blank rows.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measure	Responsible
Psychological distress among participants	High	High	Referral pathway to support services	
Disclosure of gender-based violence	Medium	High	Safeguarding referral protocol	
Re-traumatization during interviews	Medium	High	Trauma-informed interviewing	
Privacy or confidentiality breach	Low	High	Data anonymization	
Conflict within the community	Low	Medium	Community facilitation	

C. How to Rate Likelihood and Impact

For each risk above, ask: how likely is it to happen (Likelihood), and how serious would it be if it did (Impact)? Use this grid to see what that combination means.

Likelihood ↓ / Impact →	Low	Medium	High
Low			
Medium			
High			



Acceptable — standard precautions are enough.

Manage closely — apply extra mitigation and monitor throughout.

Priority risk — mitigation required before proceeding; escalate if unresolved.

D. Overall Risk Rating

Looking at the register as a whole, tick the one rating that best reflects this activity.

☐
☐
☐

LOW overall risk — proceed as planned; keep standard safeguarding practice.

MEDIUM overall risk — proceed with the additional mitigation measures listed above in place.

HIGH overall risk — do not proceed without sign-off from the NELD Taskforce.

E. Sign-Off

Assessed By	
Position	
Date	
Reviewed By (NELD Focal Point)	
Approval Date	

Annex 5: NELD Safeguarding Protocol

A guide to protecting the people SDS works with — and SDS staff — whenever a conversation touches climate-related loss, trauma, or distress.

Who uses it: every staff member and facilitator engaging communities on NELD topics. When: keep it with you during fieldwork — before, during, and after every session. This protocol adds to, and does not replace, SDS's existing Safeguarding Policy.

A. Core Principles

Do No Harm	Never let data collection or storytelling leave a participant worse off than before.
Trauma-Informed	Let people share at their own pace; never push someone to relive a painful experience.
Confidentiality	Protect identities and personal information unless a participant clearly agrees otherwise.
Community Control	The participant decides what is shared, how, and whether it can be reversed later.

B. Referral Contacts — Fill In Before Every Fieldwork Trip

Complete this before you go into the field, so you're never searching for a number in the moment.

Service	Contact Person	Phone Number	When to Contact
Psychosocial / Mental Health Support			Signs of distress, grief, trauma
GBV Referral Service			Disclosure of gender-based violence
Child Protection Focal Point			Concerns involving a child
Medical / Emergency Services			Immediate health risk
NELD Focal Point (SDS)			Any safeguarding concern, unsure what to do

C. Safeguarding Checklist

Before fieldwork

- ☐ Consent obtained
- ☐ Venue is accessible
- ☐ Female facilitator available, if needed
- ☐ Referral contacts on hand (see Section B)
- ☐ Confidential interview space arranged
- ☐ Child protection measures in place

During fieldwork

- ☐ Participants are free to leave at any time
- ☐ No one is pressured or coerced to speak
- ☐ Facilitator is watching for signs of emotional distress
- ☐ Privacy is maintained throughout

After fieldwork

- ☐ Data anonymized
- ☐ Records stored securely
- ☐ Any referrals made are documented

D. Responding to Distress

If something comes up during a session, use this as a quick guide — then contact the relevant service from Section B.

If You Notice...	What To Do
A participant becomes upset or emotional	Pause the session. Give space, offer water/a break, and ask if they want to continue.
A participant discloses gender-based violence	Do not investigate. Reassure them, and connect them with the GBV referral contact.
A participant mentions self-harm or being in danger	Stay with them, do not leave them alone, and contact the NELD Focal Point immediately.
A child discloses harm or is at risk	Follow SDS's Child Protection procedure and contact the Child Protection Focal Point.
You are unsure what to do	Pause, and contact the NELD Focal Point before continuing.

E. Informed Consent — Quick Reference

Confirm the participant understands each point before starting.

- ☐ The purpose of the assessment
- ☐ Participation is voluntary
- ☐ They may stop at any time
- ☐ Their identity stays confidential unless they say otherwise
- ☐ Their information may be used for research, reports, learning, or advocacy

Permission granted for:

Permission Granted For	Yes	No
Interview	☐	☐
Audio recording	☐	☐
Photography	☐	☐
Video recording	☐	☐
Publication of story	☐	☐
Use of real name	☐	☐

Participant Name	
Signature / Thumbprint	
Date	
Witness (if applicable)	

F. Ethical Storytelling — Quick Reminders

- ☐ Use a real name only with clear, separate permission — anonymize by default
- ☐ Avoid framing loss as pity; let the participant's own words carry the story
- ☐ Where possible, let the participant review their story before it's published
- ☐ Never combine details that could identify someone who asked to stay anonymous

G. Sign-Off

Completed By	
Position	
Date	
Reviewed By (NELD Focal Point)	

Annex 6: NELD Story Collection Guide

A guide for gathering community members' own accounts of climate-related loss — in their own words, at their own pace, and with their dignity and safety protected throughout.

Who uses it: field staff collecting personal stories for reports, advocacy, or learning products. Time needed: 30–45 minutes per story. Before you start: complete the Informed Consent Form in the Safeguarding Protocol (Tool 5).

A. Before You Begin

- ☐ Informed consent form completed (Tool 5)
- ☐ Participant has confirmed what they're comfortable with: interview, recording, photo, video, publication, use of real name
- ☐ Referral contacts are on hand in case the conversation brings up distress
- ☐ A private, comfortable space has been arranged

B. Story Record — Basic Information

Story ID	
Date	
Community	
Interviewer	

C. Participant Profile

Keep this to what's needed for context — nothing that could identify the participant without their clear consent.

Sex		Age	
Disability		Occupation	

D. Interview Questions

Ask these in order, but let the conversation flow naturally — you don't need to rush through them.

1. Describe the climate event that affected you or your community.

2. What losses did you experience, beyond the economic ones?

Prompts if needed: emotional wellbeing, identity, traditions, social networks, education, spiritual life

3. How has your life changed since then?

4. What support has helped you cope?

5. What recommendations would you give to SDS or others trying to help?

E. Trauma-Sensitive Interviewing

Follow Their Lead	Let the participant decide how much to share — never press for more detail than they offer.
Allow Silence	Pauses are normal. Resist the urge to fill silence with another question.
Watch for Distress	If they become upset, pause the interview — see the Safeguarding Protocol (Tool 5) for what to do next.

F. Cultural Sensitivity

- ☐ Use the terms and language the participant uses for their own experience
- ☐ Avoid assumptions about what a loss "should" mean to someone
- ☐ Involve a local-language speaker if the participant is more comfortable in their own dialect

G. Anonymization & Responsible Use

- ☐ A real name is used only where separate, explicit permission was given — anonymized by default
- ☐ Details that could identify the participant indirectly (exact location, family details) are removed unless agreed
- ☐ The participant has had a chance to review the story before it is shared or published
- ☐ The story is used to inform, not to sensationalize — the participant's own words are kept central

H. Sign-Off

Interviewer	
Date Submitted	
Reviewed By	
Consent Form Attached (Y/N)	