

Independent Project Accountability Mechanism

MAP Monitoring Report VI
Monitoring Period: January–June 2022

Southeast Europe Equity Fund II Project EBRD Project Number 34894 Case 2017/05

August 2022

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Note: This case was received under the Project Complaint Mechanism (PCM) - the former accountability mechanism of the EBRD - in accordance with the <u>2014 PCM Rules of Procedure</u> and the Monitoring stage was initially conducted under PCM Rules and Procedures.

Effective 1 July 2020, the Project Complaint Mechanism was replaced with the <u>Independent Project Accountability Mechanism</u>, brought into effect through the <u>2019 Project Accountability Policy</u>. Under the Policy's provisions for case transition, monitoring of the Southeast Europe Equity Fund Management Action Plan from the date above is now undertaken in alignment with the requirements of the <u>2019 Project Accountability Policy</u>.

IPAM is the independent accountability mechanism of the EBRD. It reviews environmental, social, and Project disclosure-related concerns raised by Project-affected people and civil society organisations. IPAM can address concerns through two avenues: i) Problem-solving, which supports dialogue between Complainants and Clients to resolve environmental, social and public disclosure concerns without attributing blame or fault; or ii) Compliance Reviews, which determine whether the EBRD has complied with its Environmental and Social Policy and Access to Information Policy in relation to the Project.

For more information about IPAM, please contact us at ipam@ebrd.com or visit the IPAM webpage.

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How to submit a complaint to the IPAM

Concerns about the environmental and social performance of an EBRD Project can be submitted by email, telephone or in writing, or via the online form at:

https://www.ebrd.com/project-finance/ipam.html

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Unless otherwise indicated capitalised terms used in this report are those as set forth in the 2019 Project Accountability Policy.

List of Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Long Form |
|-------------------|---|
| BCM | Bedminster Capital Management, G.P., LLC (the initial Fund Manager) |
| EP | Environmental Policy 2003 |
| ESD | EBRD's Environment and Sustainability Department |
| ESP | Environmental and Social policy |
| FI | Financial intermediaries |
| IPAM | Independent Project Accountability Mechanism |
| MAP | Management Action Plan |
| PCM | Project Complaint Mechanism |
| Policy | 2019 Project Accountability Policy |
| PR | Performance Requirement |
| SEEF (the "Fund") | Southeast Europe Equity Fund (the Project) |

1 Introduction

This Monitoring Report provides an update on progress made in the implementation of the Management Action Plan related to Case 2017/05 <u>Southeast Europe Equity Fund II</u>. Whenever status of pending actions has not changed during the monitoring period reported this document only includes the table with pending actions and their status to date.

2 Monitoring Update

2.1 Monitoring Activities during the period January – June 2022

IPAM tracks progress on MAP implementation until it has determined that all actions have been completed as agreed; or whenever conditions for completing pending actions no longer exist.

In preparation of this Monitoring Report, IPAM requested written confirmation from Bank Management on its MAP progress.

2.2 Monitoring Findings

As reported at the end of the last monitoring period, there was one outstanding action (action 2.ii.) for Management to complete which, as per Bank Management progress, remains outstanding at the end of June 2022.

Proposed Management Action 2.ii - "2019 PR9 Guidance: A Guidance Note will be finalised by June 2020 for the implementation of ESP PR9, applicable to all new FI Projects approved after January 2020 including funds, where the principle of Continuous Risk Improvement will be a mandatory element of any Environmental and Social Management System established for a Bank Project."

The update was received from the Management that the PR9 Guidance note's draft has been finalised and was to be submitted for internal ESD approval. The Management have not shared a revised timeline for completion of the action.

Status: not completed. Action still pending

Table 1 provides details on pending actions, Management response and IPAM's conclusions.

Table 1: MAP Implementation Progress

| Management Action Plan Commitment Approved by the EBRD Board of Directors | EBRD Management Action Plan Commitment | EBRD Management Im plementation Update | Status of Management Action Plan Commitment | IPAM Feedback | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Procedural / Systemic Recommendations and Management Actions | | | | | | | | |
| Action 2: Include elements of Continuous Risk Improvement in the Environmental and Social Management Plans under which Funds operate, in order to recognise and encourage the development of a 'dynamic' approach to environmental risk management. These requirements are to be featured in: i. the 2019 ESP (completed during the previous monitoring term); and ii. the 2019 ESP PR9 Guidance. | 2019 PR9 Guidance: A Guidance Note will be finalised by June 2020 for the implementation of ESP PR9, applicable to all new FI Projects approved after January 2020 including funds, where the principle of Continuous Risk Improvement will be a mandatory element of any Environmental and Social Management System established for a Bank Project. | The update was received from the Management that the PR9 Guidance note's draft has been finalised and was to be submitted for internal ESD approval. The Management have not shared a revised timeline for completion of the action. | Action 2, il remains pending. | Completion of the outstanding point will be determined once IPAM receives the final version of the note. | | | | |

2.3 Monitoring Conclusions

During this period, Management Action 2.ii remains outstanding.

IPAM shall continue to monitor the implementation of Action 2.ii and update on progress in the seventh monitoring report scheduled for January 2023. If the action is completed earlier, IPAM commits to issuing the completion report before the scheduled date.