

## SCHEDULE 2

### Selection Criteria for Relevant Projects

#### **Location of projects**

2. The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by projects must be considered, with particular regard to—

- (a) the existing and approved land use;
- (b) the relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground;
- (c) the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas—
  - (i) wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;
  - (ii) coastal zones and the marine environment;
  - (iii) mountain and forest areas;
  - (iv) nature reserves and parks;
  - (v) areas classified or protected in accordance with EEA States' legislation; Natura 2000 areas designated by Member States pursuant to [Directive 92/43/EEC](#) and [Directive 2009/147/EC](#);
  - (vi) areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards laid down in Union legislation and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure;
  - (vii) densely populated areas;
  - (viii) landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.