

## **THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK'S (ADB) OUTLINE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT**

Source: ADB, "Safeguard Requirements 1: Environment," in *ADB Safeguard Policy Statement*, p. 41-43, 2009, <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/32056/safeguard-policy-statement-june2009.pdf>.

This outline is part of the Safeguard Requirements 1. An environmental assessment report is required for all environment category A and B projects. Its level of detail and comprehensiveness is commensurate with the significance of potential environmental impacts and risks. A typical [environmental impact assessment (EIA)] report contains the following major elements, and an [initial environmental examination (IEE)] may have a narrower scope depending on the nature of the project. The substantive aspects of this outline will guide the preparation of environmental impact assessment reports, although not necessarily in the order shown.

### **A. Executive Summary**

This section describes concisely the critical facts, significant findings, and recommended actions.

### **B. Policy, Legal, and Administrative Framework**

This section discusses the national and local legal and institutional framework within which the environmental assessment is carried out. It also identifies project-relevant international environmental agreements to which the country is a party.

### **C. Description of the Project**

This section describes the proposed project; its major components; and its geographic, ecological, social, and temporal context, including any associated facility required by and for the project (for example, access roads, power plants, water supply, quarries and borrow pits, and spoil disposal). It normally includes drawings and maps showing the project's layout and components, the project site, and the project's area of influence.

### **D. Description of the Environment (Baseline Data)**

This section describes relevant physical, biological, and socioeconomic conditions within the study area. It also looks at current and proposed development activities within the project's area of influence, including those not directly connected to the project. It indicates the accuracy, reliability, and sources of the data.

### **E. Anticipated Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

This section predicts and assesses the project's likely positive and negative direct and indirect impacts to physical, biological, socioeconomic (including occupational health and safety, community health and safety, vulnerable groups and gender issues, and impacts on livelihoods through environmental media), and physical cultural resources in the project's area of influence, in quantitative terms to the extent possible; identifies mitigation measures and any residual negative impacts that cannot be mitigated; explores opportunities for enhancement; identifies and estimates the extent and quality of available data, key data gaps, and uncertainties associated with predictions and specifies topics that do not require further attention; and examines global, transboundary, and cumulative impacts as appropriate.

## **F. Analysis of Alternatives**

This section examines alternatives to the proposed project site, technology, design, and operation—including the no project alternative—in terms of their potential environmental impacts; the feasibility of mitigating these impacts; their capital and recurrent costs; their suitability under local conditions; and their institutional, training, and monitoring requirements. It also states the basis for selecting the particular project design proposed and, justifies recommended emission levels and approaches to pollution prevention and abatement.

## **G. Information Disclosure, Consultation, and Participation**

This section:

- (i) describes the process undertaken during project design and preparation for engaging stakeholders, including information disclosure and consultation with affected people and other stakeholders;
- (ii) summarizes comments and concerns received from affected people and other stakeholders and how these comments have been addressed in project design and mitigation measures, with special attention paid to the needs and concerns of vulnerable groups, including women, the poor, and Indigenous Peoples; and
- (iii) describes the planned information disclosure measures (including the type of information to be disseminated and the method of dissemination) and the process for carrying out consultation with affected people and facilitating their participation during project implementation.

## **H. Grievance Redress Mechanism**

This section describes the grievance redress framework (both informal and formal channels), setting out the time frame and mechanisms for resolving complaints about environmental performance.

## **I. Environmental Management Plan**

This section deals with the set of mitigation and management measures to be taken during project implementation to avoid, reduce, mitigate, or compensate for adverse environmental impacts (in that order of priority). It may include multiple management plans and actions. It includes the following key components (with the level of detail commensurate with the project's impacts and risks):

(i) Mitigation:

- (a) identifies and summarizes anticipated significant adverse environmental impacts and risks;
- (b) describes each mitigation measure with technical details, including the type of impact to which it relates and the conditions under which it is required (for instance, continuously or in the event of contingencies), together with designs, equipment descriptions, and operating procedures, as appropriate; and

(c) provides links to any other mitigation plans (for example, for involuntary resettlement, Indigenous Peoples, or emergency response) required for the project.

(ii) Monitoring:

(a) describes monitoring measures with technical details, including parameters to be measured, methods to be used, sampling locations, frequency of measurements, detection limits and definition of thresholds that will signal the need for corrective actions; and

(b) describes monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure early detection of conditions that necessitate particular mitigation measures and document the progress and results of mitigation.

(iii) Implementation arrangements:

(a) specifies the implementation schedule showing phasing and coordination with overall project implementation;

(b) describes institutional or organizational arrangements, namely, who is responsible for carrying out the mitigation and monitoring measures, which may include one or more of the following additional topics to strengthen environmental management capability: technical assistance programs, training programs, procurement of equipment and supplies related to environmental management and monitoring, and organizational changes; and

(c) estimates capital and recurrent costs and describes sources of funds for implementing the environmental management plan.

(iv) Performance indicators: describes the desired outcomes as measurable events to the extent possible, such as performance indicators, targets, or acceptance criteria that can be tracked over defined time periods.

## **J. Conclusion and Recommendation**

This section provides the conclusions drawn from the assessment and provides recommendations.