

THE WORLD BANK'S OUTLINE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA) REPORT

Source: World Bank, "Environmental and Social Standards 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts," in *Environmental and Social Framework*, p. 25-26, 2017, <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/837721522762050108/Environmental-and-Social-Framework.pdf>.

Where an environmental and social impact assessment is prepared as part of the environmental and social assessment, it will include the following:

(a) Executive Summary

- Concisely discusses significant findings and recommended actions.

(b) Legal and Institutional Framework

- Analyzes the legal and institutional framework for the project, within which the environmental and social assessment is carried out, including:

(a) the country's applicable policy framework, national laws and regulations, and institutional capabilities (including implementation) relating to environment and social issues; variations in country conditions and project context; country environmental or social studies; national environmental or social action plans; and obligations of the country directly applicable to the project under relevant international treaties and agreements;

(b) applicable requirements under the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs); and

(c) the [World Bank Group Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs)], and other relevant [Good International Industry Practice (GIIP)].

- Compares the Borrower's existing environmental and social framework and the ESSs and identifies the gaps between them.
- Identifies and assesses the environmental and social requirements of any co-financiers.

(c) Project Description

- Concisely describes the proposed project and its geographic, environmental, social, and temporal context, including any offsite investments that may be required (e.g., dedicated pipelines, access roads, power supply, water supply, housing, and raw material and product storage facilities), as well as the project's primary suppliers.

- Through consideration of the details of the project, indicates the need for any plan to meet the requirements of ESS1 through 10.

- Includes a map of sufficient detail, showing the project site and the area that may be affected by the project's direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts.

(d) Baseline Data

- Sets out in detail the baseline data that is relevant to decisions about project location, design, operation, or mitigation measures. This should include a discussion of the accuracy, reliability, and sources of the data as well as information about dates surrounding project identification, planning and implementation.
- Identifies and estimates the extent and quality of available data, key data gaps, and uncertainties associated with predictions.
- Based on current information, assesses the scope of the area to be studied and describes relevant physical, biological, and socioeconomic conditions, including any changes anticipated before the project commences.
- Takes into account current and proposed development activities within the project area but not directly connected to the project.

(e) Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

- Takes into account all relevant environmental and social risks and impacts of the project. This will include the environmental and social risks and impacts specifically identified in ESS2–8, and any other environmental and social risks and impacts arising as a consequence of the specific nature and context of the project.

(a) Environmental risks and impacts, including:

- (i) those defined by the EHSGs;
- (ii) those related to community safety (including dam safety and safe use of pesticides);
- (iii) those related to climate change and other transboundary or global risks and impacts;
- (iv) any material threat to the protection, conservation, maintenance and restoration of natural habitats and biodiversity; and
- (v) those related to ecosystem services and the use of living natural resources, such as fisheries and forests;

(b) Social risks and impacts, including:

- (i) threats to human security through the escalation of personal, communal or inter-state conflict, crime or violence;
- (ii) risks that project impacts fall disproportionately on individuals and groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable;

(iii) any prejudice or discrimination toward individuals or groups in providing access to development resources and project benefits, particularly in the case of those who may be disadvantaged or vulnerable;

(iv) negative economic and social impacts relating to the involuntary taking of land or restrictions on land use;

(v) risks or impacts associated with land and natural resource tenure and use, including (as relevant) potential project impacts on local land use patterns and tenurial arrangements, land access and availability, food security and land values, and any corresponding risks related to conflict or contestation over land and natural resources;

(vi) impacts on the health, safety and well-being of workers and project-affected communities; and

(vii) risks to cultural heritage.

(f) Mitigation Measures

- Identifies mitigation measures and significant residual negative impacts that cannot be mitigated and, to the extent possible, assesses the acceptability of those residual negative impacts.
- Identifies differentiated measures so that adverse impacts do not fall disproportionately on the disadvantaged or vulnerable.
- Assesses the feasibility of mitigating the environmental and social impacts; the capital and recurrent costs of proposed mitigation measures, and their suitability under local conditions; and the institutional, training, and monitoring requirements for the proposed mitigation measures.
- Specifies issues that do not require further attention, providing the basis for this determination.

(g) Analysis of Alternatives

- Systematically compares feasible alternatives to the proposed project site, technology, design, and operation—including the “without project” situation—in terms of their potential environmental and social impacts.
- Assesses the alternatives’ feasibility of mitigating the environmental and social impacts; the capital and recurrent costs of alternative mitigation measures, and their suitability under local conditions; and the institutional, training, and monitoring requirements for the alternative mitigation measures.
- For each of the alternatives, quantifies the environmental and social impacts to the extent possible, and attaches economic values where feasible.

(h) Design Measures

- Sets out the basis for selecting the particular project design proposed and specifies the applicable EHSs or if the EHSs are determined to be inapplicable, justifies recommended emission levels and approaches to pollution prevention and abatement that are consistent with GIIP.

(i) Key Measures and Actions for the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)

- Summarizes key measures and actions and the timeframe required for the project to meet the requirements of the ESSs. This will be used in developing the [ESCP].

(j) Appendices

- List of the individuals or organizations that prepared or contributed to the environmental and social assessment.
- References—setting out the written materials both published and unpublished, that have been used.
- Record of meetings, consultations and surveys with stakeholders, including those with affected people and other interested parties. The record specifies the means of such stakeholder engagement that were used to obtain the views of affected people and other interested parties.
- Tables presenting the relevant data referred to or summarized in the main text.
- List of associated reports or plans.