#

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISK SCREENING**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Operating Unit (Mission):** |  |
| **Geographic Location(s) (Country/Region):** |  |
| **Prepared By:** |  |
| **Date Prepared:** |  |
| **Analysis Type:** | **Environmental and Social Risk Screening** |
| **Additional Analyses Required, (If Any)** | **\_\_Environmental Assessment** **\_\_Environmental Impact Statement****\_\_Biosafety Review****\_\_Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan****\_\_Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **Related Analyses: (If Any)** | **\_\_Climate Risk Management****\_\_Tropical Forest and Biodiversity Analyses****\_\_Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

**Introduction**

This environmental and social risk screening template (Template) is intended to be used when USAID determines the best strategic approach for development assistance in a given country or region, which is articulated in Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) or Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (RDCS) documents in order to adequately plan for scheduling and costs associated with programs, projects and activities.

ADS 204.3.2.1 recommends conducting an environmental and social risk review. This Template is used by the strategy planning team at the Mission to facilitate this review. It identifies program areas, planned projects, and activities that may present significant adverse impacts (Step 1) and defines important considerations, particularly costs and scheduling, that will affect implementation, e.g., if an environmental assessment (EA) is required for a planned construction project (Step 2). The Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) is available to provide technical assistance using the Template and can help identify the potential scheduling and cost requirements. Subsequently, the risk review findings should be considered during project and activity design (Step 3).

This Template serves as one resource available to Agency staff, including Program Officers, MEOs, Bureau Environmental Officers, Regional Environmental Advisors, etc. Other resources are available for more in-depth environmental analyses including the [Sector Environmental Guidelines,](https://www.usaid.gov/environmental-procedures/sectoral-environmental-social-best-practices/sector-environmental-guidelines-resources) and the [Environmental Impact Assessment Tool.](https://www.usaid.gov/documents/1860/usaid-environmental-impact-assessment-tool-word)

Where practicable, the environmental and social risk review should be performed in coordination with the mandatory FAA 118/119 Tropical Forest and Biodiversity Analysis and the climate risk screening, because they complement each other when considering potential impacts and design considerations. (See[FAA 118/119 Best Practices Guide](https://rmportal.net/biodiversityconservation-gateway/gateway-resources/foreign-assistance-act-sections-118-119-tropical-forest-and-biodiversity-analysis-best-practices-guide), [201mav Foreign Assistance Act Sections 118 and 119 Tropical Forests and Biodiversity Analysis](https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/200/201mav), and [201mat Climate Change in USAID Country/Regional Strategies](https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/200/201mat)).

**Step 1: IDENTIFY PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES THAT MAY POSE SIGNIFICANT RISKS**

Review planned programs, projects and activities and identify if any pose significant risks. Note the program or project that may pose a significant risk and the illustrative project or activities in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Identification of Programs, Projects and Activities Having Significant Risks**

| **Classes of Actions Normally Having a Significant Effect on the Environment[[1]](#footnote-1) or Other Situations Requiring Further Analysis** |
| --- |
| 1. **Class of Actions or Other Situations**
 | **B. Program or Project Having Significant Risks** | **C. Illustrative Projects or Activities** |
| 1. Programs of river basin development
 |  |  |
| 1. Irrigation or water management projects, including dams and impoundments
 |  |  |
| 1. Agricultural land leveling
 |  |  |
| 1. Drainage projects
 |  |  |
| 1. Large-scale agricultural mechanization
 |  |  |
| 1. New lands development
 |  |  |
| 1. Resettlement projects or projects with resettlement or displacement
 |  |  |
| 1. Penetration road building or road improvement projects
 |  |  |
| 1. Powerplants
 |  |  |
| 1. Industrial plants
 |  |  |
| 1. Potable water and sewerage projects other than those that are small-scale
 |  |  |
| 1. Affecting endangered or threatened species or critical habitat (22 CFR 216.5) such as those in a conservation area or national park
 |  |  |
| 1. Involve assistance for procurement or use or both of pesticides (22 CFR 216.2(e))[[2]](#footnote-2)
 |  |  |
| 1. Large-scale construction
 |  |  |
| 1. Affects public health or safety
 |  |  |
| 1. Involves a highly uncertain or scientifically controversial effect on the human environment, or a unique or controversial risk
 |  |  |
| 1. Affects wetlands; cultural, historic, or archeological resource; or a hazardous waste site
 |  |  |
| 1. Establishes precedents or makes decisions, for future actions that may have significant effects
 |  |  |
| 1. Threatens a violation of federal, state, local or tribal law, or requirements of those laws, imposed for the protection of the environment
 |  |  |
| 1. Affects Tropical Forests (FAA 118 requirements) (See ADS 204 Mandatory Reference - Situations Requiring Other Considerations)
 |  |  |
| 21. May affect Indigenous People |  |  |
| 22. Genetically engineered organisms (**ADS 204.3.3.3**) |  |  |
| 23. Hazardous waste or toxic materials (See ADS 204 Mandatory Reference - Situations Requiring Other Considerations) |  |  |

**Step 2: CONSIDERATIONS**

For each program, project and activity identified in Table 1, the following considerations should be noted in the CDCS/RDCS and communicated to the appropriate operating unit executing the program, project or activity. Subsequently this document should be retained for use during Project and Activity Design (Step 3).

1. Scheduling: Most of the actions noted in Table 1 will require preparation of an EA (22 CFR 216.3(a)(4) and (5)), other analysis, that could require six to eighteen months to complete, depending on the complexity and geographic distribution of the program, project or activity. These studies should be completed and documented prior to obligation of funding for the program, project or activity. If this is not practicable, preparation of a Deferral of Environmental Analysis is required which needs to be approved by the Mission Director or Washington equivalent (Office Director). (EA, Deferral, and other templates are available [at this link](https://www.usaid.gov/environmental-procedures/environmental-compliance-esdm-program-cycle/environmental-documentation).)
2. Costs: The range of estimated costs varies widely, depending on scope and complexity of the project/activity, could be $200,000 or more.
3. Project and activity design: Describe initial recommended project or activity design adjustments to avoid or minimize the noted potential adverse environmental and social impacts.

**Table 2 - Program, Project or Activity Considerations**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program, Project or Activity Having Potential Significant Effects** | **Scheduling Considerations** | **Cost Considerations** | **Initial Project/Activity Design Recommendations** |
| 1.  |  |  |  |
| 2.  |  |  |  |
| 3.  |  |  |  |
| As more lines, as needed |  |  |  |

**Step 3: PROJECT AND ACTIVITY DESIGN**

As noted above and in **ADS 204.3.2.1**, the findings from this screening should be considered during project and activity design.

1. 22 CFR 216.2(d)(1) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)