

**Guidance Note A: Checklist of Potential Issues for an EA**

1. Where applicable, the environmental assessment should address the following issues, which are subject to applicable IFC policies and applicable guidelines:

- **Agrochemicals.** OP 4.09 promotes the use of integrated pest management and the careful selection, application, and disposal of pesticides. Due to their potential impacts on surface and groundwater quality, the use of fertilizers must also be carefully assessed.
  - **Biological Diversity.** IFC promotes conservation of endangered plant and animal species, critical habitats, and protected areas.
  - **Coastal and Marine Resources Management.** Guidelines are available on the planning and management of coastal marine resources, including coral reefs, mangroves, and wetlands.
  - **Cultural Properties.** IFC is committed to protecting nonreplicable cultural property. Sites, structures, and remains of archaeological, paleontological, historical, religious, cultural, aesthetic, or unique natural value are covered.
  - **Dams and Reservoirs.** Large dams (over 15 meters in height) and dams with special design complexities require review by a panel of independent experts.
  - **Energy Efficiency.** IFC is committed to ensuring that projects are energy efficient. Where appropriate, in the project appraisal process the technical specialist reviews options for improved energy efficiency with the project sponsor.
  - **Environmental Guidelines.** Industrial operations and projects in other sectors where relevant must meet applicable environmental guidelines as set forth in the World Bank Group's "*Pollution Prevention and Abatement Handbook*".
  - **Hazardous and Toxic Materials.** Guidelines are available from the Environment Division on the safe manufacture, use, transport, storage, and disposal of hazardous and toxic materials.
  - **Indigenous Peoples.** An indigenous peoples action plan is required for every project impacting on indigenous peoples. The current World Bank OD 4.20, *Indigenous Peoples* (OP. 4.10 *Indigenous Peoples* is forthcoming) contains the requirements for the action plan.
  - **Induced Development and Other Socio-cultural Aspects.** Secondary growth of settlements and infrastructure, often referred to as "induced development" or "boomtown" effects, can have major indirect environmental and social impacts, which relatively weak local governments may have difficulty addressing. Such impacts should be taken into account in project design.
  - **International Treaties and Agreements on the Environment and Natural Resources.** There are a number of international treaties and agreements on a range of environmental and natural resource issues (e.g. ozone depletion, global warming, sea level rise, ocean dumping, pollution of international waters, marine environmental protection, transport of hazardous wastes and biodiversity). IFC requires these treaties and agreements to be considered in a project's environmental analyses, where relevant and feasible, with a view to minimizing possible adverse impacts on global environmental quality.
  - **International Waterways.** OP 7.50 sets forth obligations upon the project sponsor and IFC for projects located on international waterways. International waterways border on two states but the definition also includes tributaries.
  - **Involuntary Resettlement.** A resettlement plan (see Annex J) is required for every project involving involuntary resettlement and impacts from land acquisition. OP 4.12 (forthcoming) contains the requirements for resettlement plans.
  - **Land Settlement.** The managed process of opening new lands to planned permanent occupancy. Due to the complex physical, biological, socioeconomic, and cultural impacts, land settlement, land use, land title and land acquisition should be carefully reviewed.
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- **Major Hazards.** All projects which involve dangerous materials in sufficient quantities to represent a significant hazard with the potential for an incident of major consequence are required to complete a major hazard assessment and establish a formal plan to prevent and manage hazards. The World Bank document "*Techniques for Assessing Industrial Hazards: A Manual.*" *Technical Paper No. 55, Washington DC, 1988*, should be consulted.
  - **Natural Hazards.** The environmental assessment should review whether the project may be affected by natural hazards (e.g., earthquakes, floods, volcanic activity) and should propose specific measures to address these concerns when appropriate.
  - **Natural Resources.** Exploitation of natural resources must be carried out in an environmentally and socially sound manner and on a sustainable basis.
  - **Occupational Health and Safety.** All industry and energy projects, and projects in other sectors where relevant, should include formal plans to promote occupational health and safety. See World Bank Group's *Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines*.
  - **Ports and Harbors.** Guidelines are available on addressing common environmental and social concerns associated with port and harbor development. See World Bank, "*Environmental Considerations for Port and Harbor Developments,*" *Technical Paper No. 126, Washington, DC, 1990*.
  - **Restoration and Rehabilitation of Disturbed Land.** A comprehensive restoration and rehabilitation plan should be prepared by the project sponsor. The aim of the plan will be to ensure that land is returned to a condition capable of supporting prior land use, equivalent uses or other acceptable uses. The restoration and rehabilitation plan must be submitted to IFC for review and approval (see for instance: "*Base Metal and Iron Ore Mining, Industry Sector Guidelines,*" *Pollution Prevention and Abatement Handbook*).
  - **Tropical Forests.** Commercial logging operations or the purchase of logging equipment for use in primary tropical moist forests are not financed by IFC (OP 4.36).
  - **Watersheds.** IFC promotes the protection and management of watersheds as an element of lending operations for dams, reservoirs, and irrigation systems.
  - **Wetlands.** IFC promotes conservation and management of wetlands (e.g., estuaries, lakes, mangroves, marshes, and swamps) in its project work.
  - **Wildlands.** IFC is committed to protecting wildlands and sponsors must provide for compensatory measures when the project results in adverse impacts.
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