

Module

Overview of Safeguard Best Practices

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Safeguard Policies - What are they?

- Operational policies are vital for poverty reduction and sustainable development.
- A subset of operational policies
- Singled out to stress the importance of
 - environmental and social objectives,
 - enhancing quality of project operations.
- World Bank pioneered; ADB 1987 and 1995.
- Moving from state-centric to people-centric approach

Safeguard Policies

- Environment (Env)
- Involuntary Resettlement (IR)
- Indigenous Peoples (IP)

Safeguard Best Practices/Policies for What?

- prevent and mitigate harm to
 - people
 - Environment in development process
- maximize development opportunities
- build project ownership and accountability among local population
- addresses reputational risk to EA

Example

What is Scope of ADB's Safeguards?

- Public and private sector investments
- Project and associated facilities
- Partial or fully funded by ADB
- Temporary or permanent project impacts
- Planning, implementation and operations

Key Objectives of Resettlement Safeguard Policy

- IR to be avoided, where feasible.
- If unavoidable, compensate & rehabilitate
- Resettlement measures are integrated into project design and dealt with throughout project cycle.
- IR measures to be designed with time-bound actions and sufficient budget

Elements of Effective Safeguards

- Inputs should be timely and front-loaded for better results
- Sufficient resources should be made available
- Institutional capability should be ensured
- Appropriate consultants should be involved
- Affected public and NGOs informed and consulted

Non-compliance of IR Safeguards - Why

- Inadequate consultation and disclosure
- Poorly defined entitlements particularly of the poor and vulnerable groups
- Poor institutional capacity
- Inadequate budget
- Clashes between local laws and international best practices

Challenges

Complaints are mostly related to:

- Lack of consultation with affected people and NGOs
- Failure to disclose project information and plans
- Poor planning and implementation safeguard docs.
- Inadequate financial and institutional resources
- Often not legally binding
- Stand side by side with laws and regulations – not assimilated
- Often limited donor-funded projects