



**ENVIRONMENTAL
AND SOCIAL
FRAMEWORK**

**ESS1: ASSESSMENT
AND MANAGEMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL
RISKS AND IMPACTS**

CONTEXT

In August 2016, the World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors approved the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), which will go into effect in 2018 and progressively replace the Bank’s Safeguards. The ESF protects people and the environment from potential adverse impacts that could arise from Bank-financed projects, and promotes sustainable development. Within the ESF, ten Environmental and Social Standards set out responsibilities for Borrowers. The Standards are designed to help Borrowers manage project risks and impacts as well as improve environmental and social performance, consistent with good international practice and national and international obligations.

Overview

The Borrower is responsible for assessing, managing and monitoring environmental and social risks and impacts associated with each stage of a project. Borrowers must manage those risks throughout the project life cycle in a systematic manner, proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and the potential risks and impacts.

Objectives

The standard on Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts (ESS1) requires Borrowers to:

- Identify, assess, evaluate, and manage environment and social risks and impacts
- Adopt a mitigation hierarchy:
 - Anticipate and avoid risks and impacts;
 - Where avoidance is not possible, minimize or reduce risks and impacts to acceptable levels;
 - Once risks and impacts have been minimized or reduced, mitigate; and

- Where significant residual impacts remain, compensate for or offset them, where technically and financially feasible.
- Adopt differentiated measures so that adverse impacts do not fall disproportionately on the disadvantaged or vulnerable
- Utilize national environmental and social institutions, systems, laws, regulations and procedures where appropriate
- Promote improved environmental and social performance, in ways which recognize and enhance Borrower capacity

Highlights

ESS1 calls for a risk-based, outcomes-focused, tailored, and proportionate approach to project risks and impacts.

Under ESS1, the Borrower must develop an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) setting out material measures and actions for mitigation, monitoring agreements and other follow-up actions. ESS1 considers potential limitations to Borrower control and capacity.

ESS1 includes provisions on the types of risks and impacts that should be considered in the environmental and social assessment. It clarifies what types of activities the term “project” refers to and it defines what “Associated Facilities” are and how they should be treated.

There is, in ESS1, an emphasis on non-discrimination and inclusion.

ESS1 mentions the use of Borrower’s environmental and social framework where appropriate.

ESS1 introduces a common approach, where the Bank is jointly financing a project with other development partners.

More information

The full text of the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) is available at www.worldbank.org/esf

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