

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW FRAMEWORK

1. Environmental Selection Criteria for Subprojects

1. Considering the potential direct and indirect impacts of the Investment Program, additional subprojects will be selected by taking into account the following environmental criterion: Subprojects will be environmentally sound and none will be located within or close to an environmentally sensitive area such as a wildlife sanctuary, national park, or other areas with significant ecological functions that are declared as national parks, sanctuaries, or national/international cultural heritage.

2. Assessment of the environmental impacts of the sample roads reveal that environmental impacts associated with Investment Program subprojects are similar across the 322 km sample roads. The environmental impacts have the following characteristics: (i) occur only during construction or are temporary, (ii) reversible, and (iii) mitigation measures could be easily incorporated into design and construction. Taking into account the IEE findings for these sample roads, standard guidelines for environmental management plans—environmental codes of practice—will be prepared to guide the subprojects in incorporating the environmental management plan.

3. Taking into account the potential impacts related to the sample subprojects and ADB's environmental assessment guidelines, the environmental requirement for the follow-on subprojects is as follows: For each individual subproject, an environmental checklist, which will serve as IEE, will be prepared. However, if the environmental checklist indicates that significant impacts are likely, a standard full IEE in accordance with ADB's *Environmental Assessment Guidelines* (footnote 1) will be prepared.

4. Since the Investment Program is not subject to the Government's Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, the specific procedure to mainstream environmental concerns into Investment Program implementation is formulated in accordance with ADB's *Environmental Assessment Guidelines* (footnote 1).

2. Responsibilities and Authorities

5. **Project Implementation Unit.** The PIU will

- (i) complete the detailed project report (DPR) using the environmental checklist that serves as IEE for construction, and ensure that construction will be along the existing alignment; and
- (ii) obtain necessary statutory environmental clearance prior to commencement of civil works.

6. **State Rural Roads Development Agencies.** The SRRDAs will

- (i) ensure that DPRs for follow-on subprojects are completed with the environmental checklists that serve as IEE;
- (ii) ensure that the environmental checklists are reviewed by the environmental officer of the concerned SRRDA;¹

¹ If the environmental checklist indicates that significant impacts are likely, the SRRDA will report to ADB through MORD for further guidance.

- (iii) ensure that all required statutory environmental clearances are obtained and the conditions noted in the clearances are implemented;
- (iv) ensure that the relevant provisions of the environmental codes of practice are followed as part of the effort to mainstream environmental concerns;
- (v) ensure that bidding documents cover required environmental mitigation measures;
- (vi) ensure that the environmental checklist, which covers recommendations to mitigate the impacts, is made available to the contractors; and
- (vii) undertake routine monitoring of the implementation of the identified mitigation measures.

7. Ministry of Rural Development. MORD will

- (i) ensure that the SRRDAs have environmental officers;
- (ii) ensure that the SRRDAs meet all environmental assessment requirements;
- (iii) undertake random monitoring of the implementation of environmental mitigation measures;
- (iv) review the conditions of environmental clearance for construction of new roads with new alignment, as applicable; and
- (v) undertake environmental due diligence randomly.

3. Environmental Due Diligence and Public Disclosure to Ensure Compliance with ADB's Environment Policy

8. MORD, the Executing Agency, should ensure that ADB is given access to undertake environmental due diligence for all subprojects, if needed. However, MORD has the responsibility for undertaking environmental due diligence and monitoring of the implementation of environmental mitigation measures for all subprojects. The due diligence as well as monitoring of the implementation of the environmental management plan needs to be documented systematically.

4. Public Disclosure and Public Consultation

9. During the preparation of the DPR and filling up the checklist through the transect walk exercise, the PIU has to ensure that consultation with the affected people and their concerns are recorded. Aside from consultations, all environmental assessment documents are subject to public disclosure. These documents should be made available to the public, if requested. In this context the following system will be adopted:

- (i) The SRRDAs are responsible for ensuring that all environmental checklist documentation, including the environmental due diligence and monitoring reports, are properly and systematically kept as part of the Investment Program specific records.
- (ii) MORD must make the IEE report for the new construction road with new alignment available on its website.

5. Staffing Requirements and Budget

10. Environment specialists of the technical support consultants will check and review the environmental checklists, and to monitor and supervise the implementation of environmental mitigation measures. The environment specialists will work closely with the state pollution board

to institutionalize the environmental codes of practice as the environmental guidelines for development of rural roads.

11. The Investment Program costs have incorporated budget and resources needed to (i) implement the environmental assessment and review procedure; (ii) conduct a survey to complete the environmental checklists, and conduct IEE for new roads; and (iii) monitor the implementation of the mitigation measures.