Safeguard Policies: A Quick View

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The World Bank
Europe & Central Asia Region
Why do we have the World Bank Safeguard Policies?

- Do no harm: protect people and environment from adverse impacts
- Reduce and manage risk
- Do good: sound and sustainable
Why do we have the World Bank Safeguard Policies?

- To follow the WB environmental and social due diligence requirements for the Bank financed projects (required to process WB loan)
- **Biodiversity loss:** worldwide concern about rapid, human-caused biodiversity loss
- **Environmental services:** useful functions performed by forests, natural habitats: water supply, flood protection
- **Environmental products:** goods harvested from natural habitats (wood, fish, and many others) are important to the livelihoods of the poor and Indigenous Peoples
Safeguard Policies are:

- Mechanisms for integration of environmental and social issues into decision making
- A set of specialized tools to improve development
- Support participatory approaches and transparency

= Sustainable Development
World Bank Safeguard Policies: Three-Part Format

- **Operational Policies (OP)** – statement of policy objectives and operational principles including the roles and obligations of the Borrower and the Bank
- **Bank Procedures (BP)** – Mandatory procedures to be followed by the Borrower and the Bank
- **Good Practice (GP)** – Non-mandatory advisory material
WB Safeguard Policies

**Environmental Policies**
- OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment
- OP 4.04 Natural Habitats
- OP 4.09 Pest Management
- OP 4.36 Forestry
- OP 4.37 Safety of Dams

**Social Policies**
- OP 4.11 Physical Cultural Resources
- OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement
- OP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples

**Legal Policies**
- OP 7.60 Disputed Areas
- OP 7.50 International Waterways

**BP 17.50 Bank Disclosure Policy**
WB Safeguard Guidelines

Safeguard Intranet Site: (www.worldbank.org/safeguards)

Pollution Prevention and Abatement Handbook-PPAH
Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines - IFC
Environmental Assessment Sourcebook (and updates)
WB Participation Sourcebook
Electronic Resettlement Guidebook
Numerous Technical Notes
Safeguards Policy Basics - Redbook
Key Roles – Who does What?

- **Bank’s Board**, representing donors and **Borrower countries**, sets policies
- **World Bank Staff and Management**: interpret, for each project, if policies are triggered
- **Borrower**: responsible for EA and other safeguards related work
- **Task Teams**: advise and work with Borrower during project preparation; supervise during project implementation
- **Safeguards Staff**: provide technical support, review, clearance and verification
Relationships: An Evolving Vision

Donors  Stakeholders

Bank & Borrower

Civil Society

Media

NGOs
OP/BP 4.01
Environmental Assessment

- To ensure that projects proposed for Bank financing are environmentally and socially sound and sustainable
- To inform decision makers of the nature of environmental and social risks
- To increase transparency and participation of stakeholders in the decision-making process
OP/BP 4.01
Role of Bank and Borrower

**Bank**
- Screens and Sets EA Category
- Advises Borrower on the Bank’s EA requirements
- Reviews and determines adequacy of EA reports
- Makes report available in Info shop
- Supervises implementation of EA/EMP
- Is responsive to changes

**Borrower**
- Assists the bank in proper screening
- Responsible for carrying out EA under Bank rules and national laws
- Consults project-affected groups and local NGOs
- Discloses draft/final documents
- Responds to Bank and public
- Supervises under Bank rules
- Ensures compliance under national laws
The Bank classifies a proposed project depending on the type, location, sensitivity, nature of environmental impacts:

- **Category A** – significant adverse environmental impacts, broad, irreversible, major resettlement or habitat
- **Category B** – its impacts are less adverse than those of Category A projects
- **Category C** – likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental impacts
- **Category FI** – when it involves investments through a financial intermediary, in subprojects undefined by appraisal with adverse impacts
OP 4.04 Natural Habitats

- Safeguard natural habitats and their biodiversity; avoid significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats
- Ensure sustainability of services and products which natural habitats provide to human society
OP 4.09 Pest Management

- Ensure pest management activities follow an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach
- Minimize environmental and health hazards due to pesticide use
- Contribute to developing national capacity to implement IPM and to regulate and monitor the distribution and use of pesticides
OPN 4.11 Physical Cultural Resources

To ensure that:
- Physical Cultural Resources (PCR) are identified and protected in World Bank financed projects
- National laws governing the protection of physical cultural property are complied with
- PCR includes archaeological and historical sites, historic urban areas, sacred sites, graveyards, burial sites, unique natural values

Implemented as an element of the Environmental Assessment
OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement

- Minimize displacement
- Treat resettlement as a development program
- Provide affected people with opportunities for participation
- Assist displaced persons in their efforts to improve their incomes and standards of living, or at least to restore them
- Assist displaced people regardless of legality of tenure
- Pay compensation for affected assets at replacement cost
- The OP Annexes include descriptions of Resettlement Plans and Resettlement Policy Frameworks
OP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples

IP – distinct, vulnerable, social and cultural group attached to geographically distinct habitats or historical territories, with separate culture than the project area, and usually different language

- To foster full respect for human rights, economies, and cultures of IP
- To avoid adverse effects on IP during the project development
OP 4.36 Forestry

- Forests are managed in a sustainable manner
- Significant areas of forest are not encroached upon
- The rights of communities to use their traditional forest areas in a sustainable manner are not compromised
OP 4.37 Safety of Dams

- To ensure due consideration is given to the safety of dams in projects involving construction of new dams, or that may be affected by the safety or performance of an existing dam or dams under construction.

- Important considerations:
  - Dam Height
  - Reservoir Capacity
OP 7.60
Projects in Disputed Areas

The Bank may support a project in a disputed area if governments concerned agree that, pending the settlement of the dispute, the project proposed for one country should go forward without prejudice to the claims of the other country.
OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

- To ensure projects will neither affect the efficient utilization and protection of international waterways, nor adversely affect relations between the Bank and its Borrowers and between riparian states.
BP 17.50 Disclosure Policy

- Supports decision making by the Borrower and Bank by allowing the public access to information on environmental and social aspects of projects.
- Mandated by six safeguard policies that have specific requirements for disclosure.
- In country:
  - Before project appraisal in local language and in English.
- World Bank INFO-Shop:
  - Before project appraisal in English (documents can be in draft but must meet WB standards).
Consultation

- Mandated by Environmental Assessment, Involuntary Resettlement and Indigenous Peoples Policies
- A two-way process in which beneficiaries provide advice and input on the design of proposed projects that affect their lives and environment
- Promotes dialogue between governments, communities, NGOs and implementing agencies to discuss all aspects of the proposed project
- At least 2 consultations for a Category A Project and one consultation for a Category B Project before appraisal