

Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) Checklist

Instructions:

- (i) The project team completes this checklist to support the environmental classification of a project. It is to be attached to the environmental categorization form and submitted to the Environment and Safeguards Division (RSES) for endorsement by the Director, RSES and for approval by the Chief Compliance Officer.
- (ii) This checklist focuses on environmental issues and concerns. To ensure that social dimensions are adequately considered, refer also to ADB's (a) checklists on involuntary resettlement and Indigenous Peoples; (b) poverty reduction handbook; (c) staff guide to consultation and participation; and (d) gender checklists.
- (iii) Answer the questions assuming the "without mitigation" case. The purpose is to identify potential impacts. Use the "remarks" section to discuss any anticipated mitigation measures.

Country/Project Title:

Sector Division:

Screening Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
A. Project Siting Is the Project area adjacent to or within any of the following environmentally sensitive areas?			
▪ Protected Area			
▪ Wetland			
▪ Mangrove			
▪ Estuarine			
▪ Buffer zone of protected area			
▪ Special area for protecting biodiversity			
B. Potential Environmental Impacts Will the Project cause...			
▪ loss of precious ecological values (e.g. result of encroachment into forests/swamplands or historical/cultural buildings/areas, disruption of hydrology of natural waterways, regional flooding, and drainage hazards)?			
▪ conflicts in water supply rights and related social conflicts?			
▪ impediments to movements of people and animals?			
▪ potential ecological problems due to increased soil erosion and siltation, leading to decreased stream capacity?			

Screening Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
▪ Insufficient drainage leading to salinity intrusion?			
▪ over pumping of groundwater, leading to salinization and ground subsidence?			
▪ impairment of downstream water quality and therefore, impairment of downstream beneficial uses of water?			
▪ dislocation or involuntary resettlement of people?			
▪ disproportionate impacts on the poor, women and children, Indigenous Peoples or other vulnerable groups?			
▪ potential social conflicts arising from land tenure and land use issues?			
▪ soil erosion before compaction and lining of canals?			
▪ noise from construction equipment?			
▪ dust during construction?			
▪ waterlogging and soil salinization due to inadequate drainage and farm management?			
▪ leaching of soil nutrients and changes in soil characteristics due to excessive application of irrigation water?			
▪ reduction of downstream water supply during peak seasons?			
▪ soil pollution, polluted farm runoff and groundwater, and public health risks due to excessive application of fertilizers and pesticides?			
▪ soil erosion (furrow, surface)?			
▪ scouring of canals?			
▪ clogging of canals by sediments?			
▪ clogging of canals by weeds?			
▪ seawater intrusion into downstream freshwater systems?			
▪ introduction of increase in incidence of waterborne or water related diseases?			
▪ dangers to a safe and healthy working environment due to physical, chemical and biological hazards during project construction and operation?			
▪ large population influx during project construction and operation that causes increased burden on social infrastructure and services (such as water supply and sanitation systems)?			

Screening Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ social conflicts if workers from other regions or countries are hired? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of materials such as explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ community safety risks due to both accidental and natural hazards, especially where the structural elements or components of the project (e.g., irrigation dams) are accessible to members of the affected community or where their failure could result in injury to the community throughout project construction, operation and decommissioning? 			

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
<p>The following questions are not for environmental categorization. They are included in this checklist to help identify potential climate and disaster risks.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Project area subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, tropical cyclone winds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions and climate changes (see Appendix I) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could changes in temperature, precipitation, or extreme events patterns over the Project lifespan affect technical or financial sustainability (e.g., increased glacial melt affect delivery volumes of irrigated water; sea level rise increases salinity gradient such that source water cannot be used for some or all of the year). 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are there any demographic or socio-economic aspects of the Project area that are already vulnerable (e.g., high incidence of marginalized populations, rural-urban migrants, illegal settlements, ethnic minorities, women or children)? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could the Project potentially increase the climate or disaster vulnerability of the surrounding area (e.g., by diverting water in rivers that further increases salinity upstream, or encouraging settlement in earthquake zones)? 			

Note: Hazards are potentially damaging physical events.

Appendix I: Environments, Hazards and Climate Changes

Environment	Natural Hazards and Climate Change	Example Impact on Irrigation Systems
Arid/Semi-arid & desert environments	Low erratic rainfall of up to 500 mm rainfall per annum with periodic droughts and high rainfall variability. Low vegetative cover. Resilient ecosystems & complex pastoral and systems, but medium certainty that 10–20% of drylands degraded; 10-30% projected decrease in water availability in next 40 years; projected increase in drought duration and severity under climate change. Increased mobilization of sand dunes and other soils as vegetation cover declines; likely overall decrease in agricultural productivity, with rain-fed agriculture yield reduced by 30% or more by 2020. Earthquakes and other geophysical hazards may also occur in these environments.	In cases where water availability may decrease due to reduced precipitation, increased water use may be unsustainable
Humid and sub-humid plains, foothills and hill country	More than 500 mm precipitation/yr. Resilient ecosystems & complex human pastoral and cropping systems. 10-30% projected decrease in water availability in next 40 years; projected increase in droughts, heatwaves and floods; increased erosion of loess-mantled landscapes by wind and water; increased gully erosion; landslides likely on steeper slopes. Likely overall decrease in agricultural productivity & compromised food production from variability, with rain-fed agriculture yield reduced by 30% or more by 2020. Increased incidence of forest and agriculture-based insect infestations. Earthquakes and other geophysical hazards may also occur in these environments.	In many cases, climate change is expected to result in more intense but less frequent rainfall events and longer dry seasons and water capture systems may not be designed to accommodate these changes.
River valleys/ deltas and estuaries and other low-lying coastal areas	River basins, deltas and estuaries in low-lying areas are vulnerable to riverine floods, storm surges associated with tropical cyclones/typhoons and sea level rise; natural (and human-induced) subsidence resulting from sediment compaction and ground water extraction; liquefaction of soft sediments as result of earthquake ground shaking. Tsunami possible/likely on some coasts. Lowland agri-business and subsistence farming in these regions at significant risk.	As temperature increases, the spread of vector and water borne diseases may spread, standing water created by irrigation systems may promote their spread by creating habitats for their transmission.
Small islands	Small islands generally have land areas of less than 10,000km ² in area, though Papua New Guinea and Timor with much larger land areas are commonly included in lists of small island developing states. Low-lying islands are especially vulnerable to storm surge, tsunami and sea-level rise and, frequently, coastal erosion, with coral reefs threatened by ocean warming in some areas. Sea level rise is likely to threaten the limited ground water resources. High islands often experience high rainfall intensities, frequent landslides and tectonic environments in which landslides and earthquakes are not uncommon with (occasional) volcanic eruptions. Small islands may have low adaptive capacity and high adaptation costs relative to GDP.	Areas previously suitable for agriculture may become less so as sea-level rise causes salt water intrusion and soil salinity. Planned agricultural areas may no longer be viable and therefore irrigation systems that feed them.
Mountain ecosystems	Accelerated glacial melting, rockfalls/landslides and glacial lake outburst floods, leading to increased debris flows, river bank erosion and floods and more extensive outwash plains and, possibly, more frequent wind erosion in intermontane valleys. Enhanced snow melt and fluctuating stream flows may produce seasonal floods and droughts. Melting of	Irrigation infrastructure may be damaged and blocked by glacial lake outbursts and mudflows. Water resources supplied by mountain systems may increase or diminish as rates of glacial

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	permafrost in some environments. Faunal and floral species migration. Earthquakes, landslides and other geophysical hazards may also occur in these environments.	melt change.
Volcanic environments	Recently active volcanoes (erupted in last 10,000 years – see www.volcano.si.edu). Often fertile soils with intensive agriculture and landslides on steep slopes. Subject to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions including pyroclastic flows and mudflows/lahars and/or gas emissions and occasionally widespread ashfall.	Irrigation infrastructure may be lost during volcanic eruptions.