

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 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?			
▪ Cultural heritage site			
▪ Protected Area			
▪ Wetland			
▪ Mangrove			
▪ Estuarine			
▪ Buffer zone of protected area			
▪ Special area for protecting biodiversity			
B. Potential Environmental Impacts Will the Project cause...			
▪ encroachment on historical/cultural areas; disfiguration of landscape by road embankments, cuts, fills, and quarries?			
▪ encroachment on precious ecology (e.g. sensitive or protected areas)?			

Screening Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ alteration of surface water hydrology of waterways crossed by roads, resulting in increased sediment in streams affected by increased soil erosion at construction site? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ deterioration of surface water quality due to silt runoff and sanitary wastes from worker-based camps and chemicals used in construction? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ increased local air pollution due to rock crushing, cutting and filling works, and chemicals from asphalt processing? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during project construction and operation during project construction and operation? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ noise and vibration due to blasting and other civil works? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ dislocation or involuntary resettlement of people? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ dislocation and compulsory resettlement of people living in right-of-way? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ disproportionate impacts on the poor, women and children, Indigenous Peoples or other vulnerable groups? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ other social concerns relating to inconveniences in living conditions in the project areas that may trigger cases of upper respiratory problems and stress? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ hazardous driving conditions where construction interferes with pre-existing roads? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ poor sanitation and solid waste disposal in construction camps and work sites, and possible transmission of communicable diseases (such as STI's and HIV/AIDS) from workers to local populations? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ creation of temporary breeding habitats for diseases such as those transmitted by mosquitoes and rodents? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ accident risks associated with increased vehicular traffic, leading to accidental spills of toxic materials? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ increased noise and air pollution resulting from traffic volume? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ increased risk of water pollution from oil, grease and fuel spills, and other materials from vehicles using the road? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ social conflicts if workers from other regions or countries are hired? 			

Screening Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ large population influx during project construction and operation that causes increased burden on social infrastructure and services (such as water supply and sanitation systems)? 			
<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 causes, especially where the structural elements or components of the project 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 The following questions are not for environmental categorization. They are included in this checklist to help identify potential climate and disaster risks.	Yes	No	REMARKS
<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 (eg., increased erosion or landslides could increase maintenance costs, permafrost melting or increased soil moisture content could affect sub0-grade). 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are there any demographic or socio-economic aspects of the Project area that are already vulnerable (eg., 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 encouraging settlement in areas that will be more affected by floods in the future, 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 Roads and Highways
Arid/Semi-arid and desert environment	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.	Reduced availability of water for compaction during construction, increased sand on carriageways reduce road safety, road alignment may need to be reviewed where, for example, agriculturally productive zones are shifting.
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.	Increased landslides and mudflows disrupt road networks, Increased moisture content in the subsurface can result in increased penetration of water into the fill, which may also collapse, Reduced effectiveness of drainage which results in a reduction in the bearing capacity of the soils which become saturated
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.	Same as above
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.	Increased salinity increases corrosion of materials which can break-down, Road is eroded by increased wave action, Increased flooding from overtopping of sea-water over road or salt-water intrusion in to groundwater,
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 permafrost in some environments. Faunal and floral species migration. Earthquakes, landslides and other geophysical hazards may also occur in these environments.	Damage to infrastructure from landslides and mudflows, permafrost melting causes damage to roads, glacial lake outbursts wash out river-crossings.

Environment	Natural Hazards and Climate Change	Example Impact on Roads and Highways
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.	Damage and loss of roads, insecurity for roadworks crew and maintenance