

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...			
▪ Densely populated?			
▪ Heavy with development activities?			
▪ Adjacent to or within any environmentally sensitive areas?			
• Cultural heritage site			
• Protected Area			
• Wetland			
• Mangrove			
• Estuarine			
• Buffer zone of protected area			
• Special area for protecting biodiversity			
• Bay			
B. Potential Environmental Impacts Will the Project cause...			
▪ pollution of raw water supply from upstream wastewater discharge from communities, industries, agriculture, and soil erosion runoff?			

Screening Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
▪ impairment of historical/cultural monuments/areas and loss/damage to these sites?			
▪ hazard of land subsidence caused by excessive ground water pumping?			
▪ social conflicts arising from displacement of communities ?			
▪ conflicts in abstraction of raw water for water supply with other beneficial water uses for surface and ground waters?			
▪ unsatisfactory raw water supply (e.g. excessive pathogens or mineral constituents)?			
▪ delivery of unsafe water to distribution system?			
▪ inadequate protection of intake works or wells, leading to pollution of water supply?			
▪ over pumping of ground water, leading to salinization and ground subsidence?			
▪ excessive algal growth in storage reservoir?			
▪ increase in production of sewage beyond capabilities of community facilities?			
▪ inadequate disposal of sludge from water treatment plants?			
▪ inadequate buffer zone around pumping and treatment plants to alleviate noise and other possible nuisances and protect facilities?			
▪ impairments associated with transmission lines and access roads?			
▪ health hazards arising from inadequate design of facilities for receiving, storing, and handling of chlorine and other hazardous chemicals.			
▪ health and safety hazards to workers from handling and management of chlorine used for disinfection, other contaminants, and biological and physical hazards during project construction and operation?			
▪ dislocation or involuntary resettlement of people?			
▪ disproportionate impacts on the poor, women and children, Indigenous Peoples or other vulnerable groups?			
▪ noise and dust from construction activities?			
▪ increased road traffic due to interference of construction activities?			
▪ continuing soil erosion/silt runoff from construction operations?			

Screening Questions	Yes	No	Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ delivery of unsafe water due to poor O&M treatment processes (especially mud accumulations in filters) and inadequate chlorination due to lack of adequate monitoring of chlorine residuals in distribution systems? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ delivery of water to distribution system, which is corrosive due to inadequate attention to feeding of corrective chemicals? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ accidental leakage of chlorine gas? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ excessive abstraction of water affecting downstream water users? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ competing uses of water? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ increased sewage flow due to increased water supply 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ increased volume of sillage (wastewater from cooking and washing) and sludge from wastewater treatment plant 			
<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"> ▪ 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 operation and construction? 			
<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 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 (e.g., changes in rainfall patterns disrupt reliability of water supply; sea level rise creates salinity intrusion into proposed water supply source)? 			
<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 using water from a vulnerable source that is relied upon by many user groups, or encouraging settlement in earthquake zones)? 			

* Hazards are potentially damaging physical events.

Appendix I: Environments, Hazards and Climate Changes

Environment	Natural Hazards and Climate Change	Example Impact on Water Supply
Arid/Semi-arid and 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.	Reduced availability of water due to reduced precipitation, increased temperatures, increased water demand and evaporation
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 water supply networks, water seepage into storage tanks during floods, increased sedimentation and runoff reduce storage capacity and increase maintenance costs
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.	Increased salinity of ground and surface water supplied caused in part by salt water intrusion, contamination of water supplies, physical damage to infrastructure caused by earthquakes
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.	Same as above
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.	Erratic water supply caused by glacial melting, loss of infrastructure investment resulting from rockfalls

Environment	Natural Hazards and Climate Change	Example Impact on Water Supply
	Earthquakes, landslides and other geophysical hazards may also occur in these environments.	
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 infrastructure, insecurity for local communities and settlements.