Concept Note

ADB will launch Phase 2 starting with a series of regional consultation events on key thematic areas related to environment and social safeguards. These areas are being examined through technical and analytical studies that look at implementation challenges and good practices, and recommendations to strengthen the safeguard policy. Based on feedback from regional consultations, subsequent country-level dialogue and focus group discussions on key technical areas will be designed. Together, these series of consultations will help ADB design its new safeguards policy.

Purpose. The objective of Phase 2 consultations is to obtain a better understanding of the views of stakeholders on safeguards implementation challenges and good practices, as well as recommended policy directions.

Target audience: Stakeholders include ADB developing member countries (DMCs) and other ADB regional and non-regional members, as well as civil society organizations, private sector representatives and clients, and other international organizations. Special sessions targeting project-affected people will also be organized.

Scope of Phase 2 Consultations. In Phase 2, regional consultations will be undertaken for a wide range of topics that are being examined through analytical studies. Regional events will take place for each study, sharing the general approach and scope, as well as initial findings of the analytical study. Discussion sessions will be organized around key guiding questions, as well as open sessions for sharing broader stakeholder views. Stakeholder feedback will provide inputs to the analytical studies, which will then be finalized for public disclosure and comments.

Consultation Approach. Given the constraints imposed by COVID-19, regional consultations will, for the time being, take place online through videoconferencing. Background materials prepared for each event will be released two weeks prior to the actual consultation date. Invitations with registration links will be emailed to pre-registered stakeholders. Simultaneous interpretation facilities will be provided for each event for selected languages.

Proceedings. Key issues, feedback, comments, discussions and recommendations received during consultations will be reviewed and a summary will be prepared. The summary will be shared here upon conclusion of these regional consultations.

Consultation timing: The regional consultations will take place from November 2021 until March 2022. The consultation topics and indicative schedule for the regional consultations will be posted. Each regional consultation will be organized for two to three time zones to allow more flexible participation. The timing of additional consultations and focus groups sessions will be scheduled separately.