

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW FRAMEWORK

**Supplementary Appendix to the
Report and Recommendation of the President
To the Board of Directors**

on the

NATIONAL HIGHWAY SECTOR II PROJECT

INDIA

April 2005

This report was prepared by the Borrower and is not an ADB document
The report is available on request.

A. Background

1. The proposed Project involves upgrading of about 600–700 kilometers (km) of North-South Corridor along NH26 and NH7 under an ADB's sector loan modality. An initial environmental examination (IEE) and environmental management plan (EMP) were prepared for the sample road (Sagar – Rajmarg Chouraha, 98 km) as it represents typical technical, environmental, and social conditions along the Project roads. For each subsequent subproject, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) will prepare an environmental assessment in accordance with the following procedures.

B. Environmental Criteria for Selection of Subprojects

2. The Project is classified as a category B Project in accordance with ADB's Environmental Assessment Requirements of 2003. Therefore, no category A and B sensitive subprojects will be included or funded under the Project.¹ This category B project will need IEE report and environmental management plan.

C. Procedure for Environmental Assessment of Subprojects, Responsibilities and Authorities

3. NHAI will be responsible for the following:

- (a) hire qualified consultant to conduct feasibility study for the selected subproject;
- (b) submit the environmental screening to the ADB for review and determine the environmental classification of the subproject;
- (c) if the subproject is found to be category A or B sensitive, NHAI will be given a chance to modify the Project to meet the selection criteria and re-submit the environmental screening check list of the modified sub-projects to the ADB;
- (d) prepare an IEE and summary IEE
- (e) undertake an initial review of the IEE and summary IEE and ensure that necessary permits (e.g., environmental clearance, forest clearance, and water board clearance) for executing the subproject are undertaken and that the subproject will not be executed unless necessary permits have been obtained;

¹ Category "A" project generates significant adverse environmental impacts, or located within or pass through: (a) wildlife sanctuaries, (b) national parks, (c) other sanctuaries, (d) areas declared by the Government of India as environmentally sensitive, (e) areas of international significance (e.g., protected wetland as designated by the Ramsar Convention), or (f) areas designated by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization as cultural heritage sites; while Category "B sensitive" project is (i) likely to have an adverse impacts, but of lesser degree or significance than those for category A projects and all the mitigation measures to handle the impact are manageable; and (ii) located near any sensitive areas, or involve loss of biodiversity, project that involve resettlement issues; or (iii) may be of concern to wide group of external stakeholder.

- (f) identify environmental mitigation measures that need to be included into the contractor's contract document;
 - (g) ensure that the environmental monitoring and management plan, including all proposed mitigation measures will be properly implemented;
 - (h) submit the IEE and summary IEE to ADB for environmental confirmation;
 - (i) monitor the implementation of environmental management plan;
 - (j) undertake remedial action in close consultation with ADB to handle unexpected environmental impacts; and
 - (k) submit the environmental monitoring report as part of project performance report.
4. ADB's South Asia Transport and Communications Division will be responsible for the following:
- (a) classify the subproject based on environmental screening checklist submitted by NHAI;
 - (b) determine environmental classification of the sub-project and advise NHAI on environmental classification and environmental requirements of the subprojects;
 - (c) review the IEE and summary IEE;
 - (d) review the conditions of all clearance certificates on environmental related issues
 - (e) issue an environmental confirmation in close consultation with the ADB's Regional and Sustainable Development Department; and
 - (f) undertake environmental monitoring randomly.

D. Environmental Due Diligence and Public Disclosure

5. NHAI should ensure that ADB is given access to undertake environmental monitoring for all subprojects, if needed. However, NHAI has the responsibility for environmental monitoring of the implementation of environmental mitigation measures for all subprojects. The environmental monitoring needs to be systematically documented.

6. NHAI is responsible for ensuring that all environmental assessment documentation, including the environmental monitoring reports, is properly and systematically kept as part of NHAI project-specific records.

7. All environmental documents are subject to public disclosure and documents must be made available to public, if requested.