



Resource Conservation and Pollution Prevention

Environmental and Social Standard 3 (ESS3)*

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED STANDARD ABOUT?

The proposed standard requires measures to improve resource conservation, minimize the intensity of resource use such as energy, water, soil, and all types of raw materials. The proposed ESS3 builds on the Pollution Prevention, Resource Conservation and Energy Efficiency requirements under the Safeguard Policy Statement (2009).

* The full text of ESS3 is at [Safeguard Policy Review: Draft Policy | Asian Development Bank \(adb.org\)](https://www.adb.org/who-we-are/safeguards/safeguard-policy-review/draft-policy). <https://www.adb.org/who-we-are/safeguards/safeguard-policy-review/draft-policy>. This information brochure was prepared based on the consultation draft of the proposed Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) for information purpose only. Guidance from the ADB Board of Directors will be sought on the full text of the proposed ESF as part of the Working Paper, scheduled in Q4 2023. The final ESF will be considered for approval by the ADB Board of Directors in 2024.



**SAFEGUARD
POLICY REVIEW
AND UPDATE**





The objectives of this standard are to:

- promote the sustainable use of resources, including energy, water, soil, and raw materials;
- avoid and, where avoidance is not possible, minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment from all types of pollution generated from project activities;
- avoid and, where avoidance is not possible, minimize project-related emissions and discharges which cause pollution to environmental media, including air, water, and soil;
- avoid and, where avoidance is not possible, minimize generation of all types of hazardous and non-hazardous waste and when such waste is generated, manage it appropriately;
- avoid, minimize, and manage the risks and impacts associated with the use, storage, haulage, application, and production of hazardous chemicals, substances, and materials; and
- avoid, minimize, and manage the risks and impacts associated with pesticide use.



WHAT ARE THE NEW AND IMPROVED POLICY PROVISIONS?

1



Resource conservation

The proposed ESS3 emphasizes safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, and soil ecosystems and promotes the sustainable use of resources, including energy, water, soil, and raw materials. The borrower/client will implement technically and financially feasible measures for improving resource conservation, minimizing the intensity of resource use, and ensuring efficient consumption of energy, water, soil, and raw materials, as well as other resources.

2



Waste and chemicals

The proposed standard clarify requirements for borrowers/clients around the direct or indirect generation of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, and on the manufacture, trade, and use of hazardous chemicals, substances and materials.

3



Pesticides

The proposed standard includes improved requirements to ensure pesticide use minimization and management including preference for methods that will have the least risks to any environmental and social receptors, based on internationally peer-reviewed evidence.

4



Pollution prevention guidelines

The borrower/client will continue to apply the relevant requirements of the host country's applicable laws and the applicable internationally recognized standards such as the World Bank Group Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines or good international practice. Where the requirements under the host country's applicable laws differ from such internationally recognized standards, the borrower/client will achieve whichever is more stringent or more protective for project-affected persons or the environment.

