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SESSION 4A:

Importance of Environmental Safeguards in Good Project Design and Implementation

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SESSION 4A:

Environmental and Social Safeguards



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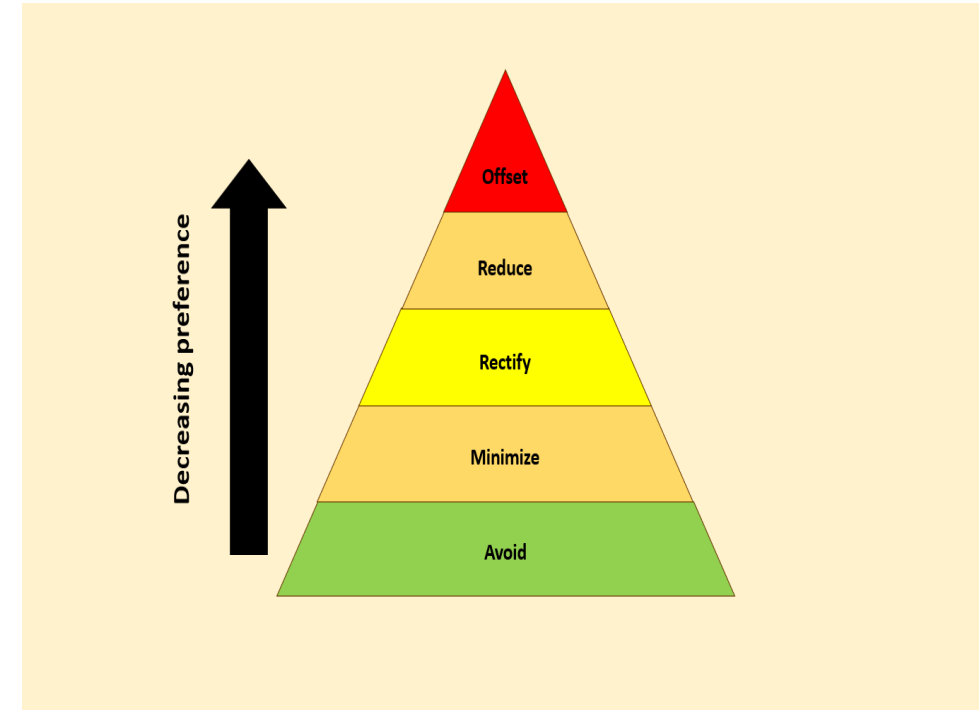
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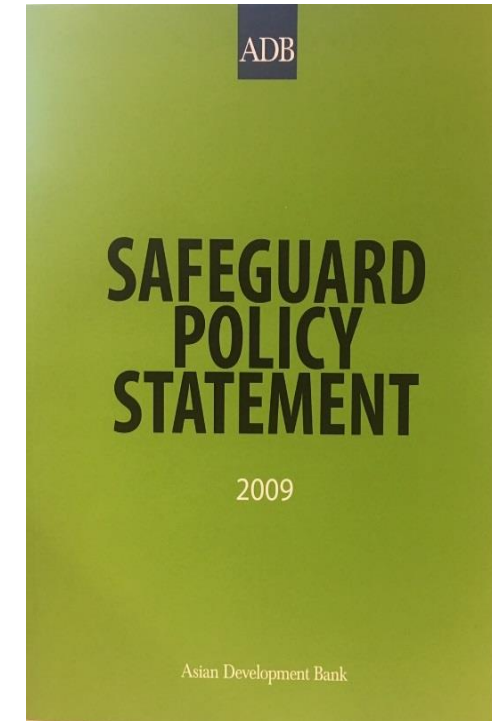
Overarching Objectives of the Safeguards Policy Statement (SPS)

- Avoid adverse impacts of projects on the environment and people, where possible;
- Minimize, mitigate, and/or compensate for impacts when avoidance is not possible; and
- Help borrowers/clients to **strengthen systems and capacity** to manage environmental and social risks.



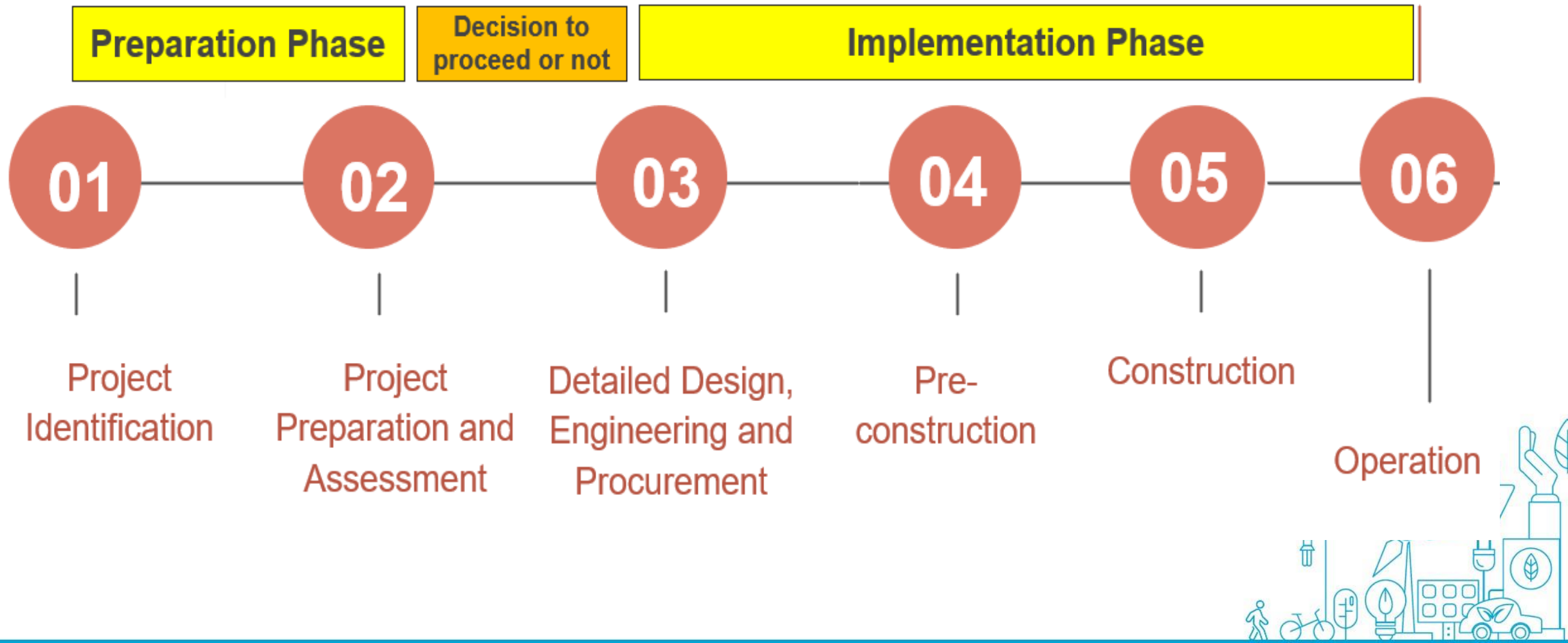
Safeguards Policy Principles for Environmental Safeguards

1. Project screening and categorization
2. Environmental assessment
3. Alternatives examination
4. Environmental management plan
5. Consultation and grievance redress mechanism
6. Information disclosure
7. Monitoring and reporting
8. Biodiversity protection and natural resources management
9. Pollution prevention and abatement
10. Occupational and community health and safety
11. Physical cultural resources



Environmental Safeguards Policy Requirements

As applied in the ADB Project Cycle



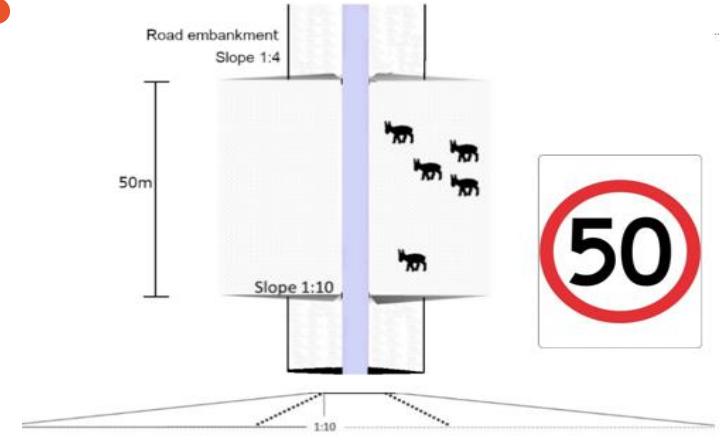
Key Challenges during Project Design and Implementation

- Environmental, health and safety considerations as determined through Environmental Assessments (IEE or EIA) not incorporated into project design;
- Lack of commitment from higher management;
- Differences in ADB SPS-2009 and national environmental regulations / standards;
- Environmental Management Costs not reflected in the bidding documents / BOQ's;
- High staff turnover in Implementation Agencies (IA's), Consultants and Contractors;
- Low knowledge / capacity of staff;
- Inadequate environmental monitoring;
- Lack of meaningful stakeholder consultations especially during project implementation phase; and
- Ineffective Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) at project level.



Some Solutions to Address Challenges

- Environmental, health and safety considerations need to be incorporated at an early stage into the project design to ensure no harm to people or environment;
- Ensure legal agreements include covenants to address implementation of ADB safeguard policy and applicable government regulations, environmental management plan, and submission of monitoring reports;
- Environmental Management Costs need to be provided as a separate BoQ item in the bidding documents;
- Details of environmental staff with personal months need to be clearly indicated in various project documents (EIA's, IEE's and PAM);
- Frequent capacity building sessions / on the job trainings to enhance capacity of environmental safeguards staff in various organizations;
- External environmental monitoring of category 'A' projects to validate internal monitoring;
- Sensitization of local communities about project level GRM;
- Meaningful stakeholder consultation through out project cycle; and
- Reward / penalty system for good and bad environmental, health and safety compliances.





SESSION 4A:

Challenges and Approaches to Achieving Safeguards Readiness

Jose Tiburcio Nicolas, Principal Social Development Specialist

Why is Safeguards Readiness Important?

1. Avoids project start up delays and facilitates timely project completion
2. Helps identify and address risks related to securing project sites and reduce safeguard-related complaints during project implementation
3. Helps reduce risk of price escalation and contractor claims for idle time



Levels of Safeguards Readiness

HIGH

- Sites required for the Project are available allowing immediate implementation upon loan approval. If land acquisition is involved, land acquisition and resettlement plan (LARP) approved by ADB has been fully implemented, monitored and verified, and there are no involuntary resettlement (IR) legacy issues or unresolved compensation claims. Grievance redress mechanism (GRM) is in place.

MEDIUM

- At least 50% of Project sites are available allowing part of the project activities to commence upon approval. If land acquisition is involved, legal and administrative process in advance stage, funds for land acquisition available/transferred to relevant unit/agency, final DP list available, valuation acceptable to ADB completed, and implementation-ready LARP approved by ADB. In case of IR legacy issues, an implementation-ready corrective action plan (CAP) approved by ADB is prepared. Units involved in LARP implementation have been mobilized. GRM is in place.

LOW

- Project sites are not final or unknown. Only draft LARP based on conceptual design or preliminary alignment is prepared. There are legacy issues that remain unaddressed. Units involved in LARP implementation not yet formed/mobilized. No GRM in place.



Challenges to Achieving Safeguards Readiness

Heavily dependent on the support and capacity of mandated agencies/units (i.e. hokimyat, revenue districts) and their understanding of international financing institutions (IFIs) standards and requirements that are not required under national legislation

Requires sites to be fixed/finalized and availability of detailed design

Requires advance planning and approval for obtaining funds for land acquisition prior to loan signing.

Sites that were acquired previously or existing facilities that have unresolved IR legacy issues

Incomplete/outdated land records that affect finalization of actual DPs

Requires early mobilization of staff/experts needed to prepare the LARP and undertake meaningful consultations

Gaps between ADB SPS requirement and the government procedures/requirements



Approaches to Achieving Social Safeguards Readiness

Use of project readiness financing to allow completion of detailed design and initiate process of land acquisition planning and implementation prior to main project approval.

Early engagement and orientation of mandated agencies to start initial process of land acquisition and facilitate compensation payments to entitled DPs including those with legal and administrative impediments.

Obtaining early approval for release of funds for land acquisition

Allowing the use of loan proceeds to cover the land acquisition costs up front through retroactive financing of LARP-preparation/implementation costs.

