

Written Submission on Asian Development Bank's (ADB) September 2023 Draft Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)

Submission from Urgewald
Received on January 23, 2024

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this document are the views of the author/s and and/or their organizations and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank, or its Board of Governors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this document and accepts no responsibility for any consequence of their use.

From: Asian Development Bank webunit@adb.org
Subject: Webform submission from: Feedback Form: ADB Draft Environmental and Social Framework
Date: January 23, 2024 at 5:49 PM
To: Safeguards Policy Update safeguardsupdate@adb.org

AB

WARNING: This email originated from outside the organization. If you suspect malicious intent, use the Phish Alert Report button in the message toolbar.

Submitted on Tue, 01/23/2024 - 17:48

Submitted values are:

Draft ESS 5: Land Acquisition and Land Use Restriction

As already recommended in 2022 we again reiterate the following points (please consult https://www.urgewald.org/sites/default/files/media-files/Submission_urgewald_ADB_safeguards_Dec22.pdf): § The resettlement policy must enshrine the right of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) unambiguously as the fundamental prerequisite for any resettlement activities.

§ The newly updated Resettlement Policy should require upfront due diligence incorporating a thorough baseline assessment of possible impacts.

§ The asset measurement for compensation should happen upfront, be based on values at the time of relocation, include and entitle all affected people and be based on uniform standards.

§ The scope of the policy has to be extended to up- and downstream displacement effects regarding economic and physical displacement. The area of scrutiny must not be limited to the project area, but encompass the full range of affected areas and people.

§ Any Project involving resettlement should be categorized as A.

§ All indirect lending instruments like FI or TA have to be scrutinized regarding possible displacement effects. Especially with FI financing resettlement has to be handled by the project sponsor in the same way as a direct ADB project.

§ ADB needs to be much more diligent and consistent in reporting. An up-to-date 'resettlement inventory' is needed to make management and board aware of the extent of resettlement in ADB's financing.

§ A consistent Reporting Standard should be introduced which requires counting of individuals throughout the project cycle.

§ Due to the massive impact of resettlement and the poor performance of multilateral banks over the last decades, we question the benefits of projects involving resettlement. We recommend not to support any projects that require resettlement of 5,000 or more persons.

Draft ESS 9: Climate Change

We again insert here the specific topics raised by NGO Forum on behalf of the coalition, in the "Open Statement Re: ADB's Climate Change Action Plan": It is critical that the ADB proactively screen all current and pipeline financing to sever complicity and partnerships with entities that define their primary business as that of extracting, burning or transporting fossil fuels. Such a commitment would have ruled out ADB support for the agroforestry initiative, "Investment in New Forests Tropical Asia Forest Fund 2 L.P." which despite being labeled as a 'nature based solution', consists of blended finance partnership with oil & gas major TotalEnergies. FI sub-projects must also be disclosed.

Commit to ensuring that climate-demarcated sub-projects supported via financial intermediary arrangements as well as investments in trade and global supply chains are screened to avoid exposure to coal, oil, gas and petrochemicals (for instance, by cross-checking against the Global Coal Exit List (<https://www.coalexit.org>) and the Global Oil and Gas Exit List). Global insurers like AXA as well as over 600 online users from the finance industry use GCEL and has helped shape the coal policies of many financial institutions across the globe.

Name*

Dr. Nora Sausmikat

Organization*

Urgewald e.V. Germany

Email address*

nora.sausmikat@urgewald.org

Country*

Germany

I agree to have my comments disclosed on the ADB website?

yes