



Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Environmental and Social Standard 10 (ESS10)*

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED STANDARD ABOUT?

Effective stakeholder engagement and information disclosure proportionate to the nature and scale of the project can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and lead to improved social, environmental, and financial outcomes. The proposed standard recognizes the importance of open, transparent, and safe engagement between the borrower/client, and the persons affected by a project including local communities, host communities, project workers and worker representatives, and other project stakeholders throughout the project cycle. The proposed ESS10 consolidates requirements for meaningful consultations, information disclosure and grievance mechanisms in the Safeguard Policy Statement (2009).

* The full text of ESS10 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:

- establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help borrowers/clients develop and maintain a constructive and responsive relationship with their stakeholders;
- assess levels of stakeholder interest and support for a project through meaningful consultation, and enable stakeholders' views to be taken into account in the project development process, and in the implementation and monitoring of environmental and social (E&S) performance;
- promote and provide the means for effective and inclusive engagement with stakeholders on issues that could potentially affect them throughout the preparation, and implementation phases of a project cycle;
- ensure appropriate project information on E&S risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, and accessible manner and format;
- ensure the needs and concerns of disadvantaged or vulnerable project-affected persons are recognized and accounted for in the stakeholder engagement and information disclosure process; and
- provide stakeholders with safe, accessible, and inclusive means to raise questions, proposals, concerns, and grievances, without threat of reprisal, and ensure that the borrower/client responds and manages them effectively.



WHAT ARE THE NEW AND IMPROVED POLICY PROVISIONS?

1



Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The proposed standard outlines requirements and process for meaningful consultation, promoting participation in a manner that is safe and accessible for all stakeholders. It requires the borrower/client to prepare a stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) proportionate to the nature and scale of the project. The SEP can be a stand-alone document, or a part of another environmental and social document prepared for a project.

2



Disadvantaged or vulnerable groups

The borrower/client will ensure that disadvantaged or vulnerable groups will be identified through stakeholder engagement and ensure their needs and concerns are recognized and accounted for in the stakeholder engagement and information disclosure process and in the design of the grievance mechanism.

3



Establish accessible grievance mechanisms

The borrower/client will establish grievance mechanisms at the earliest stages to ensure timely response and management of grievances. The grievance mechanism will have clear requirements to address allegations of reprisal, abuse, intimidation, or discrimination, and take appropriate remedial measures, and will have a provision for handling anonymous complaints.



4



Disclosure of project information

The proposed standard requires two way communication channels to disclose project information for all High Risk, Substantial Risk, and Moderate Risk projects, as early as possible in project preparation and in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders on project design, but no later than ADB's project appraisal for sovereign project and final credit approval for private sector operations. This approach is aligned with other multilateral development banks (MDBs). Disclosure to project-affected persons should be in a manner that is understandable, accessible, and culturally appropriate, taking into account any specific needs of groups that may be differentially or disproportionately affected by a project.

5



Allocate sufficient financial and human resources

The borrower/client will allocate sufficient financial and human resources to ensure the implementation of the SEP, including information disclosure and grievance mechanisms. Qualified third-party experts may be engaged based on the complexity of the project to monitor and report on the implementation and recommendations to resolve identified gaps and concerns.

