



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL FRAMEWORK

ESS3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

CONTEXT

In August 2016, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), which will go into effect in 2018 and progressively replace the Bank's Safeguards. The ESF protects people and the environment from potential adverse impacts that could arise from Bank-financed projects, and promotes sustainable development. Within the ESF, ten Environmental and Social Standards set out responsibilities for Borrowers. The Standards are designed to help Borrowers manage project risks and impacts as well as improve environmental and social performance, consistent with good international practice and national and international obligations.

Overview

Economic activity and urbanization often generate pollution to air, water, and land, and consume finite resources that may threaten people, ecosystem services and the environment at the local, regional, and global levels. The current and projected atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) threatens the welfare of current and future generations.

Objectives

The Environmental and Social Standard on Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management (ESS3), requires Borrowers to:

- Promote the sustainable use of resources, including energy, water, and raw materials
- Avoid or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment caused by pollution from project activities
- Avoid or minimize project-related emissions of short and long-lived climate pollutants

- Avoid or minimize generation of hazardous and non-hazardous waste
- Minimize and manage the risks and impacts associated with pesticide use

Highlights

Under ESS3, Borrowers must implement technically and financially feasible measures to improve efficient consumption of energy.

ESS3 also includes a requirement on management of wastes, chemical and hazardous materials. And ESS3 requires Borrowers to estimate gross GHG emissions, where technically and financially feasible.

Where the project involves historical pollution, the Borrower must establish a process to identify the responsible party.

ESS3 lists specific requirements where a project is a potentially significant user of water or will have potentially significant impacts on water quality.

ESS3 puts an emphasis on the World Bank Group's Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines and on other Good International Industry Practice.

More information

The full text of the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) is available at www.worldbank.org/esf

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