



**ENVIRONMENTAL
AND SOCIAL
FRAMEWORK**

**ESS7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES /
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN
HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED
TRADITIONAL LOCAL
COMMUNITIES**

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

Indigenous Peoples and Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities have identities and aspirations that are distinct from mainstream groups in national societies and often are disadvantaged by traditional models of development. In many instances, they are among the most economically marginalized and vulnerable segments of the population. Their economic, social, and legal status frequently limits their capacity to defend their rights to, and interests in, land, territories and natural and cultural resources, and may restrict their ability to participate in and benefit from development

projects. Equally, the roles of men and women in indigenous cultures are often different from those in the mainstream groups, and women and children, who have frequently been marginalized both within their own communities and as a result of external developments, may have specific needs.

Objectives

The Environmental and Social Standard Indigenous Peoples / Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (ESS7) requires Borrowers to:

- Ensure that the development process fosters full respect for affected parties’ human rights,

dignity, aspirations, identity, culture, and natural resource-based livelihoods

- Promote sustainable development benefits and opportunities in a manner that is accessible, culturally appropriate and inclusive
- Establish and maintain an ongoing relationship based on meaningful consultation with project-affected parties
- Obtain the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of affected parties
- Recognize, respect and preserve the culture, knowledge, and practices of Indigenous Peoples, and to provide them with an opportunity to adapt to changing conditions in a manner and in a timeframe acceptable to them

Highlights

ESS7 recognizes that the terminology used for Indigenous Peoples/ Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities varies from country to country, and often reflects national considerations.

Under ESS7, the World Bank may follow national processes during project screening for the identification, of Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities.

ESS7 also applies to forest dwellers, hunter-gathers, pastoralists and other nomadic groups.

It includes measures for the protection for affected parties in voluntary isolation.

It requires Borrowers to conduct meaningful consultation tailored to affected parties.

ESS7 includes specifications on the FPIC process and outcome, the nature of consent, and specifies that unanimity is not required.

More information

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

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