ADB Safeguard Policy Review and Update: Phase 2 Regional Consultations on Environmental and Social Impacts and Risk Assessment

Description

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is conducting a comprehensive review and update of the 2009 Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS, or the policy). Stakeholder engagement is a critical element in the update process and will be guided by a **Stakeholder Engagement Plan** (SEP). The SPS review and update will be implemented over three phases. Phase 1 was recently concluded with initial stakeholder outreach. During the second phase, ADB will conduct a series of stakeholder consultations based on key analytical studies, and their implications on policy revision. The final stage of consultations will seek to solicit comments on the working paper for revision and finalization of the safeguard policy.

ADB is launching Phase 2 with a series of consultations on key thematic areas related to environmental and social safeguards. Based on feedback from these consultations, subsequent country-level dialogues and focus group discussions on key technical areas will be conducted.

Regional consultations on Environmental and Social Impacts, and Risk Assessment

ADB is considering adopting an integrated impact and risk assessment approach in projects as an overarching standard in its new policy. Participants are encouraged to share experiences and expertise on the advantages and disadvantages of an integrated approach to impact assessments, and also look at practical ways in screening projects to identify not only impacts but also contextual and institutional risks. Discussions will also cover climate change and vulnerability risks. Recommendations from the consultations will input into the analytical study on the same topic.

Purpose

The objective of these consultations is to obtain a better understanding of the views of stakeholders on the safeguards implementation challenges, good practices on environmental and social impacts, and risk assessment, and recommended future policy directions.

Target Participants

The regional consultations will involve developing member countries, civil society organizations, and other non-government stakeholders.

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