



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# I. INTRO TO USAID ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES & WHY ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MATTERS

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Location · Month Year

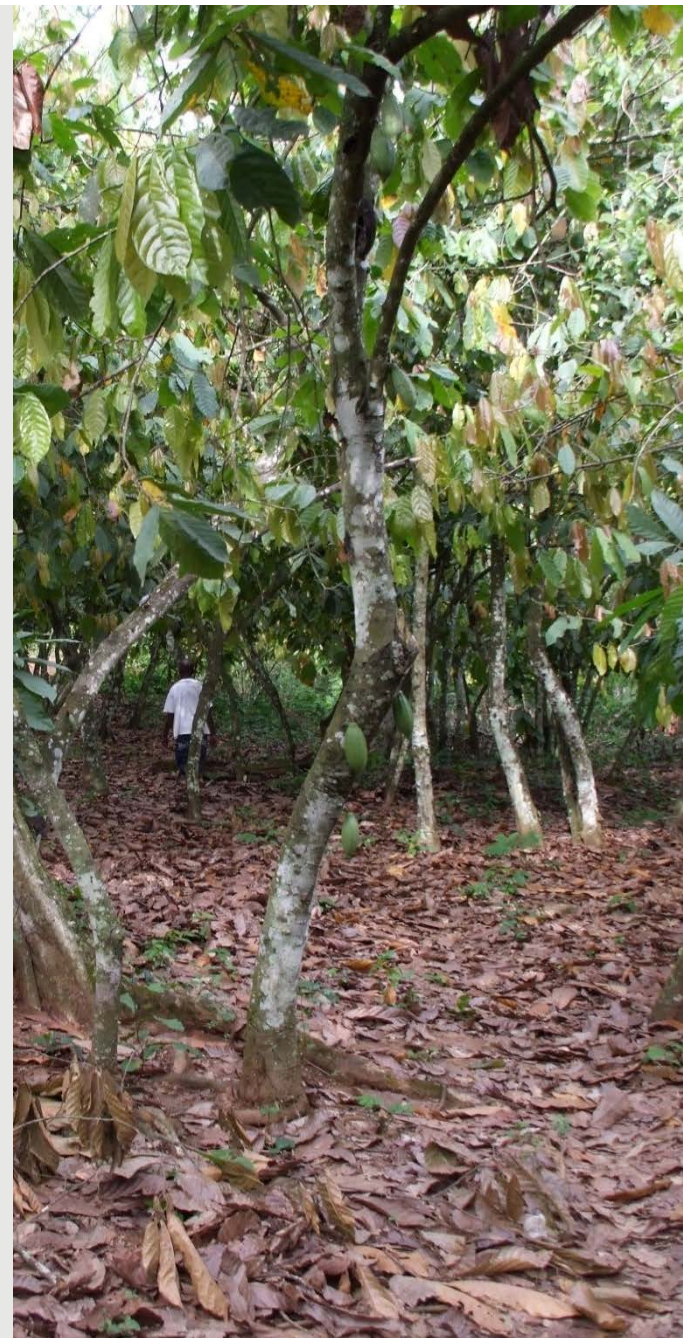


GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

# SESSION I OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, you will be familiar with:

1. The core concepts that underlie USAID's approach to environmental compliance
2. The basics of USAID's environmental procedures



# INTRO: GROUP INTRODUCTIONS AND ICE BREAKER





# CORE CONCEPT: USAID'S DEFINITION OF **ENVIRONMENT**

The complex of **physical, chemical, and biotic** factors that affect and influence the growth, development, and survival of an organism or an ecological community

*and*

The complex of **social and cultural** conditions affecting the nature of an individual or community



# USAID'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES: ORIGINS & MANDATES

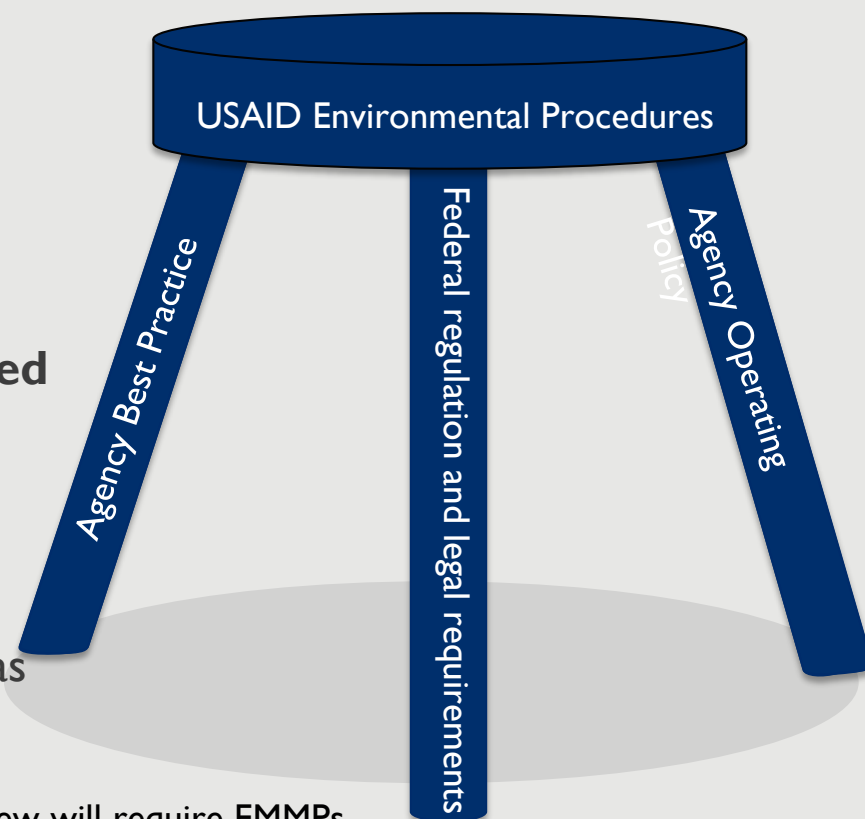
- 1970: NEPA
  - Requires United States Government (USG) agencies to assess the potential environmental and social impacts of their actions
- Early 1970s: Malathion
  - Unsafe use of the pesticide malathion by USAID/Pakistan project — 5 dead, 100s poisoned
  - Consortium of US Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) sued USAID to force it to comply with NEPA
- 1975: Settlement and Development
  - In court settlement, USAID agreed to develop procedures for NEPA implementation that became 22 CFR 216
- 2014: Executive Order 13677
  - Agencies must factor climate-resilience considerations systematically into international development work and promote a similar approach with multilateral entities



# USAID'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES: 3 KEY COMPONENTS

- **Federal statute, regulation and executive order**
  - 22 CFR 216, underpinned by NEPA
  - FAA Sections 117, 118, 119
- **Agency Operating Policy**
  - Automated Directives System (ADS)
- **Best Practices Required via approved Reg 216 documentation\***
  - Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plans (EMMPs)
  - Including environmental compliance as part of regular project reporting

\*draft revised ADS204 now entering agency review will require EMMPs, environmental compliance reporting & other best practices



# USAID'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES: APPLICABILITY

- Environmental compliance procedures apply to all\* USAID and USAID-managed programs and activities, including:
  - Substantive amendments or extensions to ongoing activities
  - Non-project assistance





# USAID'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES: APPLICABILITY

- Exemptions to full procedures are possible in extreme (and rare!) circumstances
- Exemptions are very limited, principally disaster assistance. (216.2(b); ADS 204.3.10)





# OVERVIEW: ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

## USAID

Assures approved Reg. 216 documentation in place.

Establishes/approves environmental mitigation & monitoring conditions.

Oversees compliance with these conditions, a core part of AOR/COR responsibilities.

## Implementing Partners

Implement environmental management conditions established in Reg. 216 documentation.

Report on implementation to USAID.

# RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN USAID

**Project Design Team Lead;**  
**AOR/COR if designated:** assures approved Reg. 216 documentation is in place prior to obligation/implementation.

**MEO, REA:** Advice; quality gatekeepers

**Mission Director.** Approves Reg. 216 documents. Ultimately responsible for compliance

**BEO.** Concurs on Reg. 216 documents;

**AOR/COR or AM.** Oversees compliance with IEE/EA conditions; makes sure activities stay within the scope of approved Reg. 216 documentation.



# USAID IS NOT ALONE ...

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IS DONE BY EVERYONE

- Most countries & almost all donors (including USAID) have impact assessment requirements (like NEPA)
- In many developing countries, environmental and social impact assessment is the core of national environmental regulation





# EIA = ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- A formal process for identifying:
  - Likely effects of activities or projects on the environment, and on human health and welfare
  - Means and measures to mitigate and monitor adverse effects
- Internationally relatively standardized, good practices well-understood
- For USAID, defined by 22 CFR 216 *and* consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)





# GETTING IT RIGHT: THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Environmental compliance avoids development mistakes by assuring

**A systematic and system-based approach**

with respect to environmental aspects of the activity,  
incorporating

**Prevention-orientation**

**Technical best practices  
for development**

# CORE CONCEPT: THE GOAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Environmental compliance is NOT just paperwork;  
it is a framework to assure that:

- Environmental and social risks are minimized (i.e., prevention)
- Projects are designed to maximize economic, social, and environmental benefits via application of best practices



**The Goal is Environmentally Sound  
Design and Management**



# THE BOTTOM LINE

USAID IS A DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ARE INSEPARABLE.

Good development *does not* simply respond to external environmental challenges

GETTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RIGHT MEANS:

**Being AWARE**  
of potential adverse impacts on ecosystems, environmental resources, and environmental quality

**PROACTIVELY seeking to limit** adverse impacts, *particularly* where they affect health and livelihoods



# WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MISTAKES MADE?

Environmental and social mistakes are usually a function of incomplete planning and design

- Sometimes obvious
- But may be challenging to foresee, predict

To account for this, it is important to:

- Remain aware of potential adverse impacts from projects on ecosystems, environmental resources, and environmental quality
- Proactively seek to limit adverse impacts, *particularly where they affect health and livelihoods.*

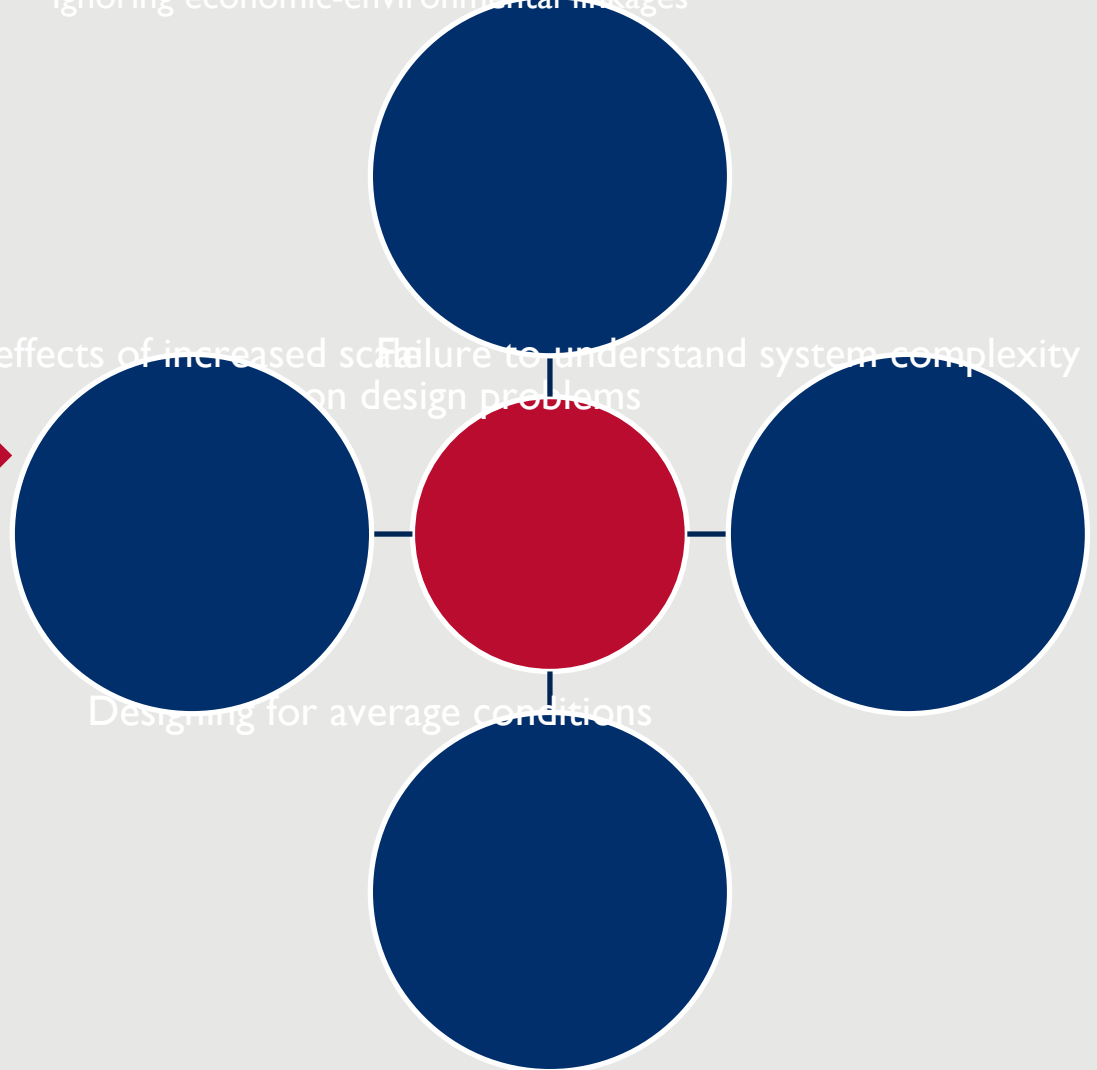
# GETTING IT WRONG: PATHWAYS TO ENVIRONMENTAL FAILURE

Ignoring economic-environmental linkages

As the previous slides show, there are many ways to get things wrong

Failure to plan for the effects of increased scale on design problems

But most can be traced to common design problems





# GETTING THINGS RIGHT ISN'T SO EASY, EVEN WHEN THE ISSUES ARE CLEAR



An open pile of mixed medical waste behind Juba hospital drains to on-site agricultural fields behind the mortuary.



# GETTING THINGS RIGHT ISN'T SO EASY, EVEN WHEN THE ISSUES ARE CLEAR





# WHY ARE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MISTAKES MADE?

- Sometimes obvious
- Other times, may be challenging to foresee

THEREFORE

1. Remain aware
2. Be proactive



# Getting things right is even harder when cause and effect are complicated



Photo: Stephen Lamm MD  
, Harvard Arsenic Project



Photo: UNESCO-IHE

Ponds excavated for fill to build-up ground level in villages for flood protection

Ponds provided a source of organic carbon which settles to bottom of pond, seeps underground and is metabolized by microbes

Created conditions for mass arsenic poisoning when villages switched from surface water to "cleaner" tube wells.

creates chemical conditions that cause naturally occurring arsenic to dissolve out of the sediments and soils and move into groundwater

Today ~3000 Bangladeshis die each year of **As**-induced cancer; 2 mn live with chronic **As** poisoning