

ACE Impact
Pre-identified Regional Development Challenge
Social Risk Management

Terms of Reference

Guidance

Proposals that respond to the Social Risk Management Pre-identified Regional Development Challenge should address the following Terms of Reference (ToRs) in the appropriate section of the proposal. While it is unlikely that a single proposal can address all of the ToRs, the proposal should make a substantial, credible effort to respond in a way that presents a cohesive, integrated program of education, research and partnership activities that aligns both with the ToRs and with the goals of the ACE Impact project.

Background

For the purposes of this Terms of Reference document for a Center focused on Social Risk Management, "Social" is broadly defined to include social conditions and potential impacts on humans and environment.

The nexus between natural resources, environment, social conditions, livelihoods, poverty, food security and vulnerability to climate change is very strong across the Africa continent in general and West Africa in particular. The economy of the West Africa region is significantly tied to natural resource stocks including climate-sensitive renewable resources as well as non-renewable mineral resources. The region also faces significant infrastructure deficit to which resources are being channeled. Large scale infrastructural construction poses major impacts to the natural environment, community health, cultural heritage, gender and power balance in communities and their livelihoods that are at risk of externalities from large scale resource development projects.

Development projects can compound the broader contextual risks present in a society, community or relationship. Such project related risks - e.g., labor influx/road workers' sexual relations with minor girls and resulting pregnancies, presence of sex workers in the community, the spread of HIV/AIDS, sexual harassment of female employees, child labor and abuse, increased dropout rates from school, inadequate resettlement practices, fear of retaliation, failure to ensure community participation, poor labor practice, and lack of road safety – require careful consideration to improve social and environmental sustainability, resilience and social cohesion. Further, weak regional capacity in the environmental and social risk assessment and management has led to poor performance in resettlement planning and implementation, and weak environmental and social mitigation measures for upstream and downstream activities causing bottlenecks in infrastructure development. Therefore, scientific and systematic attention – through, for example the new World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) - is required to address the possible significant project related risk and impacts, whether intended or unintended, on the natural and social environments.

Environmental and Social Safeguard policies - including environmental, climate and social assessments, management plans, and monitoring action plans - are important tools to: predict and address project impacts on the people and the environment; consider the impact of climate change on the project; and to propose remediation management frameworks so that project related risks are identified and managed to

achieve positive and sustainable outcomes. However, environmental and social development specialists and safeguards compliance professionals are generally few in West Africa. This is due to a lack of academic programmes/curricula tailored to specifically address the interdisciplinary nature of environmental and social safeguards. A significant number of people in the environment and the social sciences are discipline-trained and disciplinary-focused in the natural sciences and humanities. However, they lack the inter-disciplinary orientation, skills and training required to carry out sound environmental and social assessment and safeguards due diligence. Due to the lack of local capacity for environmental and social assessments and safeguards, most development partners often bring experts from other regions to West Africa to conduct environmental assessments and safeguards for funded projects. For many local projects, environment and social impact assessment (often without the required management and monitoring plans) are conducted using a stand-alone multi-disciplinary approach which is less focused and less robust than the interdisciplinary approach of full environmental and social assessment and safeguards. Of the many impacts that might occur, social impacts and risks are of key concern for these Terms of Reference because of extreme weak institutional capacity in Africa in conducting meaningful consultation and soliciting the informed participation of affected groups.

This ACE Impact center is expected to strengthen capacity through: i) creating a regional network in social safeguards risk management; ii) conducting training for agencies of infrastructure and natural resources projects; and iii) facilitating regional sharing of experiences and learning in safeguards risk management, GRM and benefit-sharing. Graduates will be equipped with comprehensive and interdisciplinary knowledge of environmental and social sustainability problems, and will deepen their understanding of the role of environmental and social assessment and safeguards in project development and implementation.

Terms of Reference

- I. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Social Risk Management will consider the following skills related aspects of the Development Challenge
 - 1. Interdisciplinary training in the physical and humanities areas related to Environmental and Social Risk Assessment and Management
 - 2. Specific training in the areas of social conflict resolution and grievance redress mechanisms
 - 3. Specific training in social surveys, environmental and social assessments, agriculture and land tenure systems, environment and climate change assessment (including community adaptation and resilience)
 - 4. Specific training in conducting social assessment and audits on labor and working conditions and management of supply chains
 - 5. Specific training in Stakeholder Engagement & Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) techniques and assessment of gender issues including Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)
 - 6. Formulation of Environmental and Social Management Plans and monitoring plans
 - 7. Community Health, Occupation Safety and Labor and Working conditions

- II. To address the skills needs, long-term degree programs available through the Center should include:

Master’s Degree Programs
1. M.S. in Social Risk & Impact Assessment and Management
2. M.S. in Livelihood Restoration and Grievance Redress Management
3. M.S. in Environmental Risk Assessment and Management
4. M.S. in Geographic and Environmental Information Science
Ph.D. Programs
1. Ph.D. in Environmental Assessment

2. Ph.D. in Social Risk Analysis
3. Ph.D. in Community, Occupational Health and Safety

III. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Social Risk Management will undertake an applied research program to address the following themes associated with the Development Challenge:

Applied Research
1. Curricula Development in: Environmental Assessment; Social Assessment; Climate Assessment
2. Framework for Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (including benefit-sharing mechanism, livelihood restoration, grievance redress mechanism, cultural heritage)
3. Environmental and Social Assessment and safeguards for the water sector– designed for dams and large-scale infrastructure, including water impoundments for agriculture, transport and energy sectors
4. Environmental and Social Assessment and safeguards for the Agricultural sectors – designed for environmental and social impacts in agricultural value chain projects, environmental and forestry sectors
5. Social Risk Assessment for Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration – designed for small and large Infrastructure projects (Transport, Energy, Irrigation etc.)
6. Project risk assessment methodology to be used in assessing risks of Gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA/GBV) and risks of labor influx, and the extent to which a community has capacity to absorb labor influx

IV. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Social Risk Management will have an established network of core industry/sectoral partners identified in the proposal, including:

1. Ministries, Departments and Agencies including Project Management Units (PMUs)
2. Private project implementers
3. Development partners

V. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Social Risk Management will have an established network of academic and/or research institute partners identified in the proposal, including:

1. Regional and pan-African universities that maintain active education and/or research activities focused on risk assessment and risk mitigation
2. Recognized global universities and research centers that maintain active international research collaborations focused on risk assessment and mitigation.