



Technical Assistance Consultant's Report

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TA 7566-REG: Strengthening and Use of Country Safeguard Systems

Subproject: Training and Knowledge Sharing for
CSS Strengthening in the Pacific (Regional)

ACCESSING LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT: INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES AND COUNTRY SYSTEMS TRAINING PROJECT READING MATERIAL VI

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Asian Development Bank

Accessing Land for Development

International Best Practices and Country Systems

Social Impact Assessment (vi)

The objective of resettlement planning was to avoid or at least, minimize harmful socioeconomic impacts of development interventions. For this, it is necessary to identify future consequences of a current or proposed action on affected individuals, their economic organization and social system. SIA focuses on a broad range of potential social and economic consequences of a proposed project. Through a SIA, the project planners could identify individuals and groups who may be affected by the project. Based on the findings of SIA, the project authorities could plan mitigation measures to address such impacts. It also helps identify differentially or disproportionately affected persons because of their disadvantaged or vulnerable status. If such individuals or groups are found in the project area, the project owner could implement special measures so that they are not disadvantaged in sharing development project benefits and opportunities. During project implementation, SIA helps the project owner to benchmark and assess how well PAPs are coping with project risks including impoverishment risks that have been triggered by the loss of income sources and livelihoods.

The primary task in planning LAR is to identify the project-affected population and the project's adverse impacts on them. This task is to be done by specialists with local knowledge, appropriate training and experience in social impact assessment (SIA) and resettlement planning. A SIA is to be planned carefully to cover all relevant social aspects of land acquisition and resettlement and it exceed the remit of a simple cadastral survey or preparing an inventory of project-affected assets.

The SIA identifies all people affected by the proposed project including host communities, and all adverse impacts on their livelihoods associated with the project's land acquisition and resettlement. Typical effects include breakup of communities and social support networks, loss of dwellings, farm buildings, trees and standing crops; lost of access to community resources such as water resources, pasture, loss of access to public infrastructure and services, and reduced income resulting from these losses.

Consultations with officials of local government, community leaders, and other representatives of the affected population and the host communities are essential to gaining a comprehensive understanding of the types and degrees of adverse project impacts. Project sponsors must discuss plans for a census and registration program with local leaders and community representatives of community-based organizations. The census and asset inventory enumerators may be the first project-related personnel that affected people will encounter. They therefore must be thoroughly briefed on the objectives and timetable of the project and what is being planned in terms of physical relocation, compensation for lost assets, and restoration of livelihood.

Identification of Project Impacts and Affected Population

- ✓ Thematic maps that identify population settlement, infrastructure, land use patterns, and natural resources
- ✓ A census of the affected persons and registers them according to their residence and work location
- ✓ An inventory of lost and affected assets of persons, households and communities
- ✓ Socioeconomic surveys and studies
- ✓ Analysis of surveys and studies to establish compensation parameters, design income restoration programs, identify baseline monitoring indicators
- ✓ Sharing information and consultations with affected populations

Mapping

Project maps are powerful tools to be used in SIAs. They indicate the areas that will be affected by land acquisition, disturbances to livelihood, relocation sites, if any, and physical locations of project infrastructure. Aerial photography, land use maps, location of common property resources are also useful in resettlement planning. Such maps provide a baseline of all assets in the project area before the project and to check to know who has moved into project area after the cut-off date.

Census of Affected Persons and households

For LARP implementation, a census of all APs is required. As part of the census, an inventory of land and assets to be affected by the project can be conducted. A census provides a comprehensive coverage of project impacts.

A Census of All Affected Persons

- ✓ Identify the persons who will be affected
- ✓ Prepare an inventory of land and assets to be affected
- ✓ Determine who is eligible for compensation and assistance
- ✓ Discourage illegible persons entering into project areas
- ✓ Check the impact of land acquisition on livelihoods
- ✓ Determine compensation types and rates, assistance
- ✓ Record claims of persons and communities not present
- ✓ Record seasonal land users and their interests.

The SIA will also address the claims of communities who, for valid reasons, may not be present in the project area during the time of the census, such as seasonal resource users. In conjunction with the census, the project authorities establish a cut-off date for eligibility for compensation and resettlement assistance. Information regarding the cut-off date will be well documented and disseminated throughout the project area during the census.

If an urgent LARP is required, a sample of 20-30 percent of potential APs can be chosen for SIA. If a sample is studied, a census will be done once the detailed design of the project are completed.