

SESSION I

INTRODUCTION TO USAID'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES (AND WHY THEY MATTER!)

SESSION SUMMARY.

The overall goal of this workshop is to provide participants with a firm understanding of USAID Environmental Procedures and the processes, resources, and tools that are in place to support environmental compliance and the environmentally sound management of Agency programming. At the conclusion of this training, participants will:

- Understand environmental compliance requirements over USAID's program cycle, including roles and responsibilities;
- Appreciate why these requirements are important to development outcomes; and
- Learn key concepts, practice key skills, and become acquainted with key resources needed for compliance over the project cycle.

To provide a holistic perspective of the coming sessions, the instructor will provide an overview of USAID life-of-program environmental compliance, i.e. the inclusion of environmental factors in USAID projects from design to close-out. USAID Environmental Procedures are rooted in federal legislation that requires USAID to factor environmental considerations into the design and implementation of development activities. The "heart and soul" of this legislative foundation is Title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 216 (22 CFR 216)—often referred to simply as "Reg. 216," which provides a practical framework for mandatory environmental assessment and oversight. The origins of the review and management process lie with Sections 117-119 of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA), which provide the enabling legislation for Reg. 216, requiring that USAID "take fully into account" environmental sustainability, including biodiversity conservation, in designing and carrying out its development programs.

This session will provide participants with a basic understanding of the context and motivation for environmental compliance at USAID. The session will focus on a group discussion addressing the intersection between development programs and objectives, and the role of the environment.

The session will begin with an excerpt of a short (15-minute) video produced by USAID: *Environmental Considerations: Toward a Sustainable Future*. The video excerpt is intended to spur discussion about the types of development-environment failures and successes that can occur in the design and implementation of Agency activities. Participants will be asked to share any personal accounts or first-hand experiences they might have with development-environment challenges.

This session will also illustrate how we can be compliant and avoid environmental mistakes—and maximize benefits—by using three principles of sound environmental management:

1. Be prevention-oriented
2. Apply best management practices (BMPs)
3. Be systematic

Environmental compliance and management are directly related to successful development outcomes. This session will establish linkages between environmental compliance and improved development

outcomes, and illustrate how environmental compliance is integral to USAID programming. We will introduce examples showing how the environment affects development needs and USAID projects and, as a result, how development affects the environment.

With a foundation in the origins and background of environmental compliance processes at USAID, participants will move on to a deeper discussion throughout the day of each of the concepts introduced in this first session.