

SESSION I

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF USAID'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES

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.

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.