

## SESSION 2

### WHY ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MATTERS

#### SESSION SUMMARY.

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.