

Session 16.

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State of Environmental Compliance in AFR Missions: Results of BPRs to Date

Objective

Survey the Mission and team compliance processes and capacities required for compliance. Review typical gaps and shortfalls and examples of mission good practices identified by Mission Environmental Procedures Best Practices Reviews (BPRs) conducted across the region.

Format

Presentation and participant reactions

Summary

This workshop has set out LOP environmental compliance requirements, and how the responsibilities for fulfilling these requirements are allocated among IPs, C/AOTRs and MEOs.

In practice, significant compliance gaps and shortfalls exist. Many of these gaps and shortfalls are rooted in inadequate compliance *systems and processes*:

That is, for compliance to be achieved in practice, it is not enough that individual USAID staff understand their roles and responsibilities and master key skills; mission and team processes must be in place that support (and require) the exercise of these responsibilities.

This is well-illustrated by the results of 10 Environmental Procedures Best Practices Reviews (BPRs) conducted in AFR missions over the past 3 years.³ The BPR is a voluntary audit that examines both environmental compliance status AND the policies, procedures, and capacities that support LOP compliance. Specifically, the BPR assesses the mission and its portfolio against the Africa Bureau *Environmental Compliance Best Practice Standard* (included in this section).

In this session, we will:

- Examine the *AFR Best Practice Standard* to better understand the mission processes and capacities required for LOP environmental compliance;
- Review the results of BPRs to date and take a straw poll to compare these findings to participant's views of their own missions.; and
- Highlight mission good practices.

With this information, we will be ready to begin Session 17's discussion on ways forward: how to strengthen mission and team compliance processes and capacities to improve LOP environmental compliance and better achieve ESDM.

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³ In addition, USAID's Office of the Inspector General conducted formal Environmental Compliance audits of the Kenya and DRC missions as part of a global effort.

Key Resources

ENCAP BPR Factsheet
AFR Environmental Compliance Best Practice Standard
Synthesis of BPR Findings