

## Session 2.

(1:00)

# What is Environment? & Why Environmentally Sound Design & Management (ESDM)?

### Objectives

- Achieve a common understanding of "environment."
- Understand Environmentally Sound Design & Management as a necessary and explicit objective for effective development.
- Establish the basic principles for achieving ESDM.

### Format

Presentation, solicitation of participant experiences, and a segment from a recently produced ESDM video.

### Summary

This session will:

- Develop a common understanding of the term “environment.”
- Highlight some of the “big picture” environmental trends affecting human health and livelihoods in Eastern and sub-Saharan Africa, including Global Climate Change; and show that much of USAID’s portfolio in the region is a direct response to—or directly affected by—these trends.
- By example, demonstrate that “environment” and “development” are concepts further linked by the need to be:

AWARE of the potential adverse impacts of development activities on ecosystems, environmental resources and environmental quality; and the need to

PROACTIVELY seek to limit these adverse impacts, particularly where they affect health and livelihoods.

This is **Environmentally Sound Design and Management (ESDM)**.

- Highlight the most common root causes of ESDM failures or lapses.
- Set out the basic rules or principles for achieving ESDM.
- Establish that ESDM is a necessary and explicit objective for effective development, and that ESDM requires systematic and explicit attention over life-of-project.

### Key resource

“I.02 Environmentally Sound Design” in *Environmental Guidelines for Small Scale Activities in Africa*. (USAID/AFR/SD; available at [www.encapafrika.org/egssaa.htm](http://www.encapafrika.org/egssaa.htm)).