

Session 2.

Environmentally Sound Design & Management (ESDM) as a Foundation for Environmental Compliance

Technical presentation and dialogue

Summary

This session will explain ESDM and illustrate its vital role in achieving and maintaining environmental compliance over the project lifecycle. In order to establish this important relationship, we will:

- Develop a common understanding of the term “environment”
- Highlight some of the “big picture” environmental trends affecting human health and livelihoods in East 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 & Management (ESDM)**!

- Consider specific examples from Rwanda of the linkage between ESDM and successful project outcomes

This session will also highlight the most common root causes of ESDM failures or lapses and set out the basic rules or principles for achieving ESDM.

While the session will introduce the concept and practice of environmental compliance, specific USAID regulations and requirements will be addressed in finer detail in Session 6.

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