Module

Review of Social Best Practices

Jayantha Perera, PhD
Safeguard Policies - What are they?

- Operational policies are vital for poverty reduction and sustainable development.
- A subset of operational policies
- Singled out to stress the importance of
  - environmental and social objectives,
  - enhancing quality of project operations.
- Moving from state-centric to people-centric approach
- Accountability and sustainable development
Key Safeguard Policies

- Environment (Env)
- Involuntary Resettlement (IR)
- Indigenous Peoples (IP)
Safeguard Best Practices/Policies for What?

- prevent and mitigate harm to
  - people
  - Environment in development process
- maximize development opportunities
- build project ownership and accountability among local population
- addresses reputational risk to EA & donors
What is the Scope of Safeguards?

- Public and private sector investments
- Project and associated facilities
- Partial or fully funded by a donor
- Temporary or permanent project impacts
- Planning, implementation and monitoring
Triggers

- Land Acquisition and Resettlement (LAR) in anticipation of the project
- Permanent and temporary land acquisition
- Physical and economic displacement
- Restricted use or access denied to customary land and communal land
Trigger Activities

- Compulsory acquisition of land rights/land-use rights
- Failed negotiated settlement - compulsory procedures
- Relocation of people without formal, traditional, or recognizable usage rights - cut-off date
- Restriction on access to or use of natural resources marine and aquatic resources, timber and non-timber forest products, water sources, medicinal plants
Non-trigger Activities

- Voluntary and market transactions
- Indirect Land Acquisition and Resettlement (LAR) impacts on incomes or livelihoods
- Land titling/regularization activities
- Land use planning to promote sustainability
- Regulation or planning of natural resources
Key Objectives of Land Acquisition and Resettlement (LAR)

- LAR to be avoided, where feasible.
- If unavoidable, compensate & rehabilitate
- Integrate LAR measures into project design
- Address throughout project cycle
- LAR measures designed with time-bound actions and a sufficient budget
Elements of Effective Safeguards

- Inputs timely and front-loaded for better results
- Sufficient financial resources available
- Adequate institutional capability
- Robust social impact assessment
- Appropriate planning and instruments
- Affected public and NGOs informed and consulted
Non-compliance of Involuntary Resettlement Safeguards - Why

- Inadequate consultation and disclosure
- Poorly defined entitlements particularly of the poor and vulnerable groups
- Poor institutional capacity
- Inadequate budget
- Clashes between local laws and international best practices
Challenges

Complaints are mostly related to:

- Lack of consultation with affected people and NGOs
- Failure to disclose project information and plans
- Poor planning and implementation safeguard docs.
- Inadequate financial and institutional resources
- Often not legally binding
- Stand side by side with laws and regulations – not assimilated
- Often limited donor-funded projects