

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARD POLICY

Contents

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARD POLICY	1
REVISION HISTORY.....	1
POLICY STATEMENT.....	2
PURPOSE	2
SCOPE	3
DEFINITIONS	3
POLICY DETAILS	4
Safeguarding Principles	4
Five Safeguards.....	5
Monitoring and Reporting Process.....	6
RELATED DOCUMENTS	6
COMPLIANCE STRATEGY	6
ATTACHMENT 1: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL AUDIT TOOL.....	7

REVISION HISTORY

Latest update July 2026

POLICY STATEMENT

Family Planning Australia (FPA) is committed to responsible management of all our operations to achieve the least possible environmental and social impact. Social impact also incorporates the displacement and resettlement of people and the rights of indigenous peoples. Our Protection and Safeguarding Policy outlines our approach regarding children, vulnerable, and disadvantaged groups. It also outlines broadly our approach to health and safety in our work. This policy provides a structured approach to assessing and managing environmental and social impacts. It requires early identification of environmental and social risks impacts during the project planning stage and the continued management of risks through the project lifecycle.

PURPOSE

FPA is committed to promoting sustainable economic development. We recognise the imperative of developing strategies that integrate the conservation of nature and development of natural resources with human centred, rights based and sustainable development. We subscribe to a broad definition of 'environment' in which human beings are central.

FPA recognises that environmental degradation, poverty, corruption, the abrogation of the rule of law, the inequitable distribution of wealth, waste and population growth are inextricably related and none can be successfully addressed in isolation.

Our overall objective is to

- reduce any adverse impact on the environment arising from the activities of our business by aiming to prevent environmental damage and minimise pollution.
- reduce any adverse social impact arising from the activities of our business by preventing the displacement or resettlement of people and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples avoid negative impacts on the health and safety of people from the activities in our business, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
- work with our partners to ensure their activities maintain the standards set out in this policy

Our commitment extends to all our activities, wherever they take place, which has the potential to adversely affect the environment. We aim to prevent environmental damage, minimise pollution, energy and resource usage and ensure that the principles of sustainable development are operated throughout all FPA operations.

FPA is committed to mitigating the physical and economic displacement of people due to its development activities. We recognise the generational impacts of displacement particularly for indigenous populations and aim to design programs that don't contribute to the displacement of people.

SCOPE

FPA International Programme

DEFINITIONS

Term	Meaning
Displacement	Displacement refers to both physical and economic impacts occurring because of development-induced land acquisition or restrictions on access to land or other resources that is imposed by a partner government on individuals, families or communities. Displacement can include both physical and economic displacement.
Ecologically sustainable development	Using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased.
Environment	'Environment' is defined as: a. ecosystems and their constituent parts including people and communities b. natural and physical resources c. qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas d. heritage values of places e. the social, economic and cultural aspects of a, b or c.
Impact	An impact is a change to the environment, including people and communities, whether negative or positive, or wholly or partly resulting from an investment's actions. An investment can have direct and indirect impacts on the environment. Impacts may be cumulative (over time) or combined (more than one impact in one place).
Vulnerable or disadvantaged	Vulnerable or disadvantaged refers to those who may be more likely to be adversely affected by the investment impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of an investment's benefits.

POLICY DETAILS

Safeguarding Principles

FPA has adopted the DFAT environmental and social impacts principles as guiding principles to ensure environmental and social risks are properly managed.

Principle 1: Do no harm

FPA seeks to protect the rights, health, safety, and livelihoods of people including children, women, indigenous people and other vulnerable or disadvantage groups and maintain the health, diversity and productivity of the environment.

Principle 2: Identify, assess and manage environmental and social impacts

In the development and implementation of international development, FPA will:

- identify potential environmental and social risks and impacts early in the design process, to ensure project activities are adequately assessed and managed throughout implementation
- avoid, or where avoidance is not possible, minimise, mitigate or as a last resort, offset or compensate for negative impacts
- assess and manage direct and indirect environmental and social impacts of project activities in a way that is proportional to potential impacts
- manage risks and impacts through management plans and monitor and report on their delivery.
- consider how the environment or different people groups are affected, including children, people of different genders, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable or disadvantaged groups.

Principle 3: Engage effectively with stakeholders

FPA will effectively engage with all stakeholders to ensure potential and real impacts are identified and mitigated, by:

- being transparent about the project, its risks and impacts in a way that is timely, accessible, and culturally and socially suitable for the affected people
- engaging with affected parties and other stakeholders early in identifying and managing risks and impacts and continue this throughout the project life cycle
- ensuring consultations include affected parties, are inclusive, free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, or intimidation, and enable meaningful participation
- providing accessible and culturally appropriate grievance redress mechanisms and ensure that grievances are handled promptly, transparently, and without retribution or cost to the party that raised the concern
- disclosing information about the social and environmental performance of projects in accordance with DFAT's aid transparency commitments.

Principle 4: Work effectively with partners

FPA works with partners to manage safeguard risks and will:

- comply with partner country safeguard laws and policies and where possible build partners' capacity to develop and implement environmental and social governance systems
- work with in-country partners to ensure environmental and social impacts are managed in a way that is consistent with this policy
- work with in-country partners to manage safeguard risks to maximise the use of country systems and avoid duplication or unnecessary safeguard assessment and management planning requirements.

Principle 5: Promote improved environmental and social outcomes

FPA will work to improve outcomes in all our international projects by:

- promoting improved environmental and social outcomes by integrating ecologically sustainable development into project activities, where possible
- improving the implementation and outcomes by effectively identifying and managing risks in the project.

Five Safeguards

FPA will consider the following five safeguards when identifying and managing the potential environmental and social impacts of international projects.

1. Environmental Protection

FPA believes that protecting and conserving natural resources and maintaining ecosystems is fundamental to sustainable development and integral to the economic prosperity of many developing countries. In addition, environmental degradation can increase the vulnerability of communities to disasters and the impacts of climate change.

2. Children, vulnerable, and disadvantaged groups

The development needs of people including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups will be considered in the project, with the aim to protect people, especially the most vulnerable, from any forms of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

Please see our Protection and Safeguarding Policy for more detail.

3. Displacement and Resettlement

FPA acknowledges that some project activities such as the building of economic or social infrastructure, may require the use of occupied land. FPA commits to working with government or NGOs in the planning and implementation of our projects to ensure that our activities do not result in displacement or resettlement.

4. Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous peoples often experience disproportionate rates of poverty, and increased risk of exclusion and marginalisation. FPA are committed to providing opportunities to assist indigenous peoples, both in Australia and overseas, to overcome social and economic disadvantages.

Social, economic and political power imbalances as well as spoken language may prevent indigenous peoples' equitable participation and access to benefits resulting from aid investments. In addition,

indigenous peoples may have diverse concepts of development based on traditional values, visions, needs and priorities.

5. Health and Safety

FPA aims to avoid negative impacts on the health and safety of people from project activities, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Project activities can expose communities and people, including children, people of different gender, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable or disadvantaged groups to risks on their health and safety. These can exacerbate underlying environmental and/or social vulnerabilities experienced by communities.

Monitoring and Reporting Process

During project design, environmental and social risks are identified as part of project assessment. . In-country partner compliance to this policy is assessed through the Partner Capacity and Financial Checklist, with documentation of any gaps identified.

The International Implementation Plan and Tools include risk and issues registers for the project and also includes an Environmental and Social Safeguarding Audit Tool which is used to understand the risks in the project. These tools are aligned with DFAT Environmental and Social Safeguarding Procedure. Environmental and social safeguarding is included as a standing item in monthly project meeting, and on the quarterly report template. Any risks or potential harm stemming from project activities are escalated to the Manager International Programme, who will take necessary action. These are also included in the project's Issue Register to ensure the outcome can be tracked.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Environmental Management Policy

Protection and Safeguarding Policy

International Implementation Plan and Tools

Partner Capacity and Financial Checklist

DFAT, [Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy](#), 2019 Environmental and Social Safeguarding Procedure

UNIDO GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies and Procedures

COMPLIANCE STRATEGY

Item	Audit frequency /evidence	Person responsible
Project reviews using the Environmental and Social Audit tool	Annually	Manager International Programme
Ensure partners are adhering to the policy through reports and capacity building plan	Quarterly reports Partner Capacity Assessment (3-5 years)	Manager International Programme

ATTACHMENT 1: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL AUDIT TOOL

"The environmental and social audit tool seeks to ensure that projects consider whether it will have potential negative environmental and/or social impacts, taking into account:

- both direct and indirect impacts
- impacts of activities associated with the project
- impacts that are reasonably foreseeable, given the nature of the proposed investment, and any activities"

Question	Answer
How have the following environmental issue been addressed in the project design and implementation?	
• Biodiversity and natural resources: possible degradation of natural habitats; introduction of invasive alien species; forest harvesting or plantation development; production or harvesting of aquatic species; extractive activities (oil, gas, mining); rural development and agriculture; water support and irrigation	
• Infrastructure development: construction/renovation/refurbishment/demolition of buildings such as schools, hospitals, and health facilities; sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities; waste management; telecommunications; energy production and distribution facilities; urban development	
• Pollution: release of pollutants due to routine or non-routine circumstances; generation of waste disposed of in an environmentally and socially sound manner; manufacturing and trade of materials, including hazardous materials; potential for release of harmful materials into the environment	
How have climate change environmental and social mitigations been addressed, including:	
• increasing emissions of greenhouse gases (e.g. energy intensive process will lead to an increase in Green House Gas production)	
• reducing incentives to adapt (e.g. change in social norm away from responsible water conservation to increased consumption)	
• increasing the vulnerability of people (particularly the most vulnerable) or the environment to climate change (e.g. pesticides, used to eradicate mosquitoes that carry dengue fever, damage native insect populations which reduces agricultural productivity, leading to food insecurity)	
• increasing the impact of disasters, e.g. will infrastructure building codes and specifications be adequate for the intensity of disasters/hazards experienced in the investment area (e.g. floods, earthquakes, cyclones), will the investment impact the food security of a vulnerable population	

Question	Answer
setting paths that limit future choices (e.g. large capital and institutional commitment reduces portfolio of future adaptation options).	
What has the project done to ensure project activities do not negatively impact:	
displace people, either physically or economically	
people's access to land they live on or used to generate livelihoods	
indigenous people and other vulnerable groups	
How will the project mitigate the risks of the project adversely impacting the:	
dignity, human rights, livelihood systems or culture of indigenous people	
cultural traditions or resources of affected communities	
livelihoods of beneficiaries, including changing to living and working conditions	
Are there any secondary or consequential developments which could lead to environmental or social impacts that has not been addressed above?	

Assessment Tool (Manager to complete)	Comment	Action Required
Based on the answers above:		
The project has strong measures in place that seek to minimise harm to the environment?		
The project has strong measures in place that seek to minimise harm to displaced, indigenous, and vulnerable groups?		
Are sufficient mitigations in place to reduce the risk that the project will adversely impact the environment or social structures?		