

Environmental Checklist: 23. River and Channel Projects (1)

Category	Environmental Item	Main Check Items	Confirmation of Environmental and Social Considerations
	Outline of the Project	(Example) - Outline of production/operation process and main facilities/infrastructure - Overview of the project site - Project schedule - Results of alternatives analyses - Environmental legal framework applicable to the project	
1. Permits and Approvals, Explanations/ consultations	(1) ESIA and Environmental Permits	① Have ESIA reports been officially completed? Have ESIA reports been written in the official language or a language widely used in the host country? ② Have ESIA reports been approved by the government of the host country? ③ Are the conditions for approval of the ESIA reports satisfied by appropriate actions? ④ In addition to the above approvals, will the project obtain or have obtained other required environmental permits from the appropriate regulatory authorities of the host country's government?	
	(2) Consultation with the Public	① Is the project accepted in a manner that is socially appropriate to the country and locality throughout the preparation and implementation stages of the project based on sufficient consultations with stakeholders, such as local residents, conducted via disclosure of project information and potential impacts? ② Are consultations with affected people held in a two-way process free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, or intimidation? ③ Are the records of such consultations with the stakeholders, such as local residents, prepared? ④ Are the written materials for the disclosure prepared in a language and form understandable to the local residents? ⑤ Are ESIA reports available at all times for perusal by stakeholder such as local residents, and copying of the reports permitted? ⑥ Are proper responses made to comments from the public and regulatory authorities? ⑦ Have the project proponents established a point of contact for complaints in order to receive complaints from the third parties at an early stage and to promote their resolution?	

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2. Anti-pollution Measures	(1) Air Quality	① Throughout construction period, are air pollutants, such as sulfur oxides (SO _x), nitrogen oxides (NO _x), and particulate matter (PM) emitted from the project adequately controlled?	
	(2) Water Quality	① Throughout construction period, are adequate measures taken to control pollutants such as BOD, COD, SS and other chemicals discharged in industrial wastewater, sanitary wastewater and stormwater? ② Is there a possibility that changes in river flow downstream (mainly water level drawdown) due to the project will cause areas that do not comply with the host country's ambient water quality standards, or do not meet the international water quality standards?	
	(3) Waste	① Throughout construction and operation period, are adequate measures taken to reduce the amount of waste as much as possible, and recycle if feasible? ② Throughout construction and operation period, are municipal waste, hazardous wastes and other industrial wastes generated from various facilities, especially excavated or dredged materials in case a large volume of material is generated, properly treated and disposed of in accordance with the laws and regulations of the host country? ③ When hazardous waste disposal is conducted by third parties, will the client use contractors that are reputable and legitimate enterprises licensed by the relevant government regulatory agencies and obtain chain of custody documentation to the final destination?	
	(4) Soil Contamination	① Has the soil at the project site been contaminated in the past by previous users? If so, are adequate measures taken to prevent health hazard by contaminated soil and groundwater? ② Is soil survey carried out before the construction of landfill or embankment in order to prevent bringing in contaminated soil? ③ In case waste soil is generated by construction activities such as excavation and dredging, is soil survey carried out before the shipment of surplus soil generated from construction activities?	
	(5) Noise and Vibration	① Are adequate measures taken to control noise and vibration during construction and operation at site by soundproofing and vibration damping that comply with the host country's standard and comply with the international regulation?	

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		<p>② In order to prevent noise pollution generated by the traffic of heavy-duty trucks that transport construction materials are adequate measures taken such as strict routing to avoid residential areas, speed limit, and load monitoring?</p>	
	(6) Subsidence	<p>① Is the land at the project site designated for subsidence monitoring due to groundwater overdraft?</p> <p>② Throughout construction and operation period, if any incident of lowering of groundwater level and subsidence arises by the excavation of waterways, would adequate measures be taken to minimize the effects of subsidence by engineering measures such as raising the river banks and installation of cut-off walls?</p> <p>③ In case of drilling tunnels or creating large underground cavity, are adequate measures taken to prevent subsidence caused by the lowering of groundwater level, such as soft ground stabilization or application of other proper engineering method?</p>	
3. Natural Environment	(1) Protected Areas	<p>① Is the land used for the project located in the protected areas designated for biodiversity conservation by the host country's laws or international treaties? Is it located in the habitat of protected species?</p> <p>② Throughout construction and operation period, is there a possibility that the project will significantly affect the protected areas or the habitat of protected species?</p>	
	(2) Ecosystem and Biota	<p>① Does the project cause significant conversion or significant degradation of ecologically important habitats including habitats for endangered species, endemic species, and important migratory species?</p> <p>② Does the project involve significant conversion or degradation of natural habitats? If so, is it prioritized to avoid the impact? If the impact is unavoidable, will the appropriate mitigation measures be taken?</p> <p>③ Will the evaluation of the impacts on natural habitats by the project and consideration for the offset measures be carried out based on expert opinion?</p> <p>④ Is the illegal logging of the forest avoided?</p> <p>⑤ Is there a possibility that hydrologic changes, such as reduction of the river flow, and seawater intrusion up the river will adversely affect downstream aquatic organisms, animals, vegetation, and ecosystems?</p>	

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		<p>⑥ Is there a possibility that the changes in water flows due to the project will adversely affect aquatic environments in the water system including rivers and lakes? Are adequate measures taken to reduce the impacts on aquatic environments, such as aquatic organisms?</p> <p>⑦ Throughout construction and operation period, if any adverse impact on ecosystem is expected, will adequate measures be taken to reduce the impacts on ecosystem?</p>	
	(3) Hydrology	<p>① Is there a possibility that hydrological changes due to the project will adversely affect surface water and groundwater flows? If negative impacts are expected, are adequate mitigation measures taken?</p>	
	(4) Topography and Geology	<p>① Is there a possibility that the installation of structures will cause a large-scale alteration of topographic features and geological structures around the project site?</p>	
4. Social Environment	(1) Resettlement	<p>① Are involuntary resettlement and loss of means of livelihoods caused by project implementation avoidable? Where involuntary resettlement is unavoidable, have appropriate measures been taken to mitigate and minimize adverse impacts on displaced persons and host communities?</p> <p>② Are the people affected by the project provided with sufficient compensation and support to improve their standard of living, income opportunities, and production levels or at least to restore them to pre-project levels? Also, is prior compensation at full replacement cost provided as much as possible? Also, is the compensation standard for the affected people applied with transparency and consistency?</p> <p>③ Is appropriate participation by the people affected and their communities promoted in planning, implementing, and monitoring involuntary resettlement action plans and measures against the loss of their means of livelihood? In addition, have appropriate and accessible grievance mechanisms been established for the people affected and their communities?</p> <p>④ For projects that will result in large-scale involuntary resettlement or large-scale loss of means of livelihood, have resettlement action plans or livelihood restoration plans respectively been prepared and made available to the public? Does the resettlement action plan or the livelihood restoration plan include elements required in the standard of the international financial institution, which JBIC benchmarks in its environmental review?</p> <p>⑤ When preparing a resettlement action plan or a livelihood restoration plan, have consultations made with the affected people and their communities based on sufficient information made available to them</p>	

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		<p>in advance? When consultations are held, are explanations given in a form, manner, and language that are understandable to the affected people?</p> <p>⑥ Has appropriate consideration been given to vulnerable social groups, such as women, children, the elderly, the poor, and indigenous peoples in the resettlement action plan?</p> <p>⑦ Are agreements with the affected people obtained prior to the resettlement?</p> <p>⑧ Is the organizational structure established to properly implement resettlement? Are the capacity and budget secured to implement the resettlement action plan?</p> <p>⑨ Is there any plan developed to monitor the impacts of resettlement? Are the people affected and their communities properly encouraged to participate in the monitoring process?</p>	
	(2) Living and Livelihood	<p>① Is there a possibility that the project will adversely affect the living conditions and the livelihood of inhabitants in the neighborhood? Are adequate measures taken to mitigate the potential negative impacts?</p> <p>② Is there a possibility that the amount of water used (e.g. surface water, groundwater) by the project will adversely affect the existing water uses including fisheries and water area uses in surrounding and downstream of the project site? If so, are adequate measures taken to mitigate the potential negative impacts?</p> <p>③ Does the project affect the baseline ecosystem services that support the foundation of local community's livelihood? If so, are adequate measures taken to mitigate the potential negative impacts?</p> <p>④ Has appropriate consideration been implemented to vulnerable social groups, such as women, children, the elderly, the poor and indigenous peoples?</p>	
	(3) Heritage	<p>① Is there a possibility that the project will damage the local archeological, historical, cultural, and religious heritage sites? Are adequate measures considered to protect these sites in accordance with the host country's laws?</p>	
	(4) Landscape	<p>① Is there a possibility that the project will adversely affect the local landscape? Are necessary measures taken?</p>	
	(5) Ethnic Minorities and	<p>① Are the impacts to indigenous peoples avoidable by project implementation? If unavoidable, are efforts made to minimize the impacts and to compensate for their losses?</p>	

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	Indigenous Peoples	<p>② If the project has adverse impacts on indigenous peoples' various rights in relation to land and natural resources, is such rights respected?</p> <p>③ Is the indigenous peoples plan prepared and made public? Does the indigenous peoples plan include elements required in the standard of the international financial institution benchmarked in its environmental reviews?</p> <p>④ In preparing the indigenous peoples plan, is consultation made with the affected indigenous peoples based on sufficient information made available to them in advance and are explanations given in a form, manner, and language that are understandable to them?</p> <p>⑤ Are the free, prior, and informed consents of the indigenous peoples obtained?</p>	
	(6) Working Conditions (including occupational safety)	<p>① Is the project proponent not violating any laws and regulations at the host country associated with the working conditions of the direct employees of the project?</p> <p>② Are appropriate human rights considerations in place for the direct employees of the project, such as banning child labor and/or forced labor, implementing anti-discrimination measures and providing equal opportunities?</p> <p>③ In terms of workplace safety and health, are tangible measures taken to prevent occupational hazards of the direct employees such as installation of safety equipment, proper management of hazardous substances, etc.?</p> <p>④ In terms of workplace safety and health, are intangible measures taken to provide the direct employees of the project with safety training program on traffic safety and public health?</p> <p>⑤ Is a proper internal grievance mechanism established for the direct employees?</p> <p>⑥ Is it confirmed beforehand that a proper internal grievance mechanism and human rights consideration in place for the third parties contracting indirect employees, such as temporary construction workers? Also, is a proper monitoring and management system in place for the third parties to guarantee the human rights of the indirect employees during the terms of contract?</p> <p>⑦ Is there a consistent communication between the project proponent and the primary suppliers to monitor the working conditions of supply chain workers to avoid the risk of child labor and/or forced labor and occupational health and safety issues? In case of aforementioned risk, will the project proponent request supplier to adopt corrective measures? If there is no reasonable prospect for</p>	

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		improvement, will the project proponent consider to shift the contract to another supplier that adheres to proper human rights consideration?	
	(7) Community Health, Safety and Security	<p>① Is there a possibility that outbreaks of diseases, including communicable diseases, such as HIV and deterioration of public safety will arise due to influx of workers associated with the project? If negative impacts are expected, are adequate mitigation measures taken to protect public health?</p> <p>② Is there possibility of diseases related to water or caused by water such as schistosomiasis, malaria, filariasis will be introduced? If negative impacts are expected, are adequate mitigation measures taken?</p> <p>③ Is there a possibility that large vehicle traffic for transportation of materials, such as construction materials will cause impacts on traffic in the surrounding areas and impede the movement of inhabitants, and cause risks to pedestrians? If negative impacts are expected, are adequate mitigation measures taken?</p> <p>④ Are appropriate measures including the implementation of education and training being taken to ensure that security guards involved in the project do not violate safety of other individuals involved, or local residents?</p> <p>⑤ Throughout construction and operation period, is there any prospect for negative impacts over the safety and health of the local community? If so, are adequate mitigation measures taken?</p>	
5. Other	(1) Impacts during Construction	① During construction period, if any negative impact is expected over the natural and social environment besides those already mentioned in the categories in 2. Anti-pollution measures; 3. Natural environment; and 4. Social environment, will adequate measures be implemented?	
	(2) Accident Prevention Measures	<p>① Based on the analysis and identification of potential risk of accident in the project, are adequate accident prevention measures in place, such as designing safe environment (eliminating risk of hazards at work places, introducing alternative safer practice); installation of safety equipment and facilities; preparation of safety procedures; installation of safety signs; designating emergency exits and evacuation spaces, etc.? Are those safety procedures periodically reviewed and updated?</p> <p>② Are adequate accident prevention measures in place, including assignment of safety and health manager, establishing monitoring system, periodical maintenance of facilities, provision of safety education and training to workers?</p>	

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		③ Is there a comprehensive mitigation plan developed, based on the analysis and identification of potential risk of accidents at the project site and the surrounding area that may be caused by emergency such as flooding, drought, earthquake, tsunami and any other climate related hazards?	
	(3) Monitoring	① Do the monitoring programs and environmental management plans of the project include appropriate quantitative/qualitative indicators, which serve as the basis for periodical performance evaluation? ② Does the project proponent properly follow the legal requirements when reporting to the regulatory authority? ③ Does the project proponent plan to disclose the monitoring results to the stakeholders of the project?	
6. Notes	(1) Reference to Checklists of Other Sectors	① Where necessary, pertinent items described in the Ports and Harbors checklist should also be checked (e.g. projects including access roads to the ports).	
	(2) Notes on Using Environmental Checklists	① If necessary, the impacts to transboundary or global issues should be evaluated (e.g. In case the project causes problems, such as negative effects on international river basin, transboundary waste shipments, acid rain, destruction of the ozone layer, and global warming).	

1) Regarding the Standards for Confirmation of Appropriateness of Environmental and Social Considerations, confirm the background and rationale for deviation and the measures to rectify it if necessary, when the environmental and social considerations of the project substantially deviate from the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards or IFC Performance Standards and a relevant section of EHS Guidelines, and also where appropriate compare with the standards established by other international financial institutions, other internationally recognized standards, and/or standards or good practices established by developed countries such as Japan, in addition to environmental laws and standards of the host country and local governments concerned. For standards that current regulations in the host country has not been established, examine by comparison with the international standards such as the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards and the standards of developed countries such as Japan.

2) Environmental checklist provides general environmental items to be checked. It may be necessary to add or delete items taking into account the characteristics of the project and the particular circumstances of the country and locality, including the direct and immediate impact of projects, derivative, secondary, cumulative impact and impact of associated facilities, and the impact throughout the life cycle of the project.