



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Environmental Procedures Best Practices Review

**STRENGTHENING MISSION
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE &
PROJECT OUTCOMES**

USAID Environmental Procedures

- Set out in **Federal regulations** (22 CFR 216, or “Reg. 216”) and in the **ADS** (esp. ADS 201.3.12.2.b & ADS 204)
- **Compliance is mandatory**; they apply to every program, project, activity, and amendment supported with USAID funds.
- In general, they:
 - Specify an **environmental review process** that must be applied to all activities **before** implementation.
 - This process may result in **environmental conditions** (mitigation measures) that must be:
 - integrated into procurement instruments;
 - translated into activity-specific environmental mitigation and monitoring plans; and
 - implemented and monitored over the life of the activity.



COMPLIANCE does not end with an approved IEE, but extends over life-of-project.

Consistent application of these Procedures over LOP should assure **environmentally sound design and management** of USAID activities, thereby:

- ✓ preventing adverse impacts on the environment, and on the health and livelihoods of beneficiaries and other groups.
- ✓ improving economic sustainability;
- ✓ reducing unforeseen costs; and
- ✓ protecting USAID's reputation

What is a Best Practice Review (BPR)?

- **Objective:**

Identifies gaps in a Mission's application of USAID's Environmental Procedures

- **Method:**

Assesses Mission performance against a set of *Best Practice Standards*

Conducted by an external facilitator in close collaboration with Mission staff

Uses tools such as: a field-tested questionnaire for Mission staff interviews; partner interviews; and site visits

- **Product:**

In an Environmental Compliance Action Plan, recommends measures to address gaps

The Best Practice Standards address

Compliance.

- ✓ Required environmental compliance documentation is in place or in the “pipeline”;
- ✓ Procurement instruments reflect IEE and EA conditions;
- ✓ Environmental mitigation and monitoring is implemented in conformity with IEE and EA conditions; and
- ✓ Environmental compliance is integrated into project reporting.

Compliance capacity.

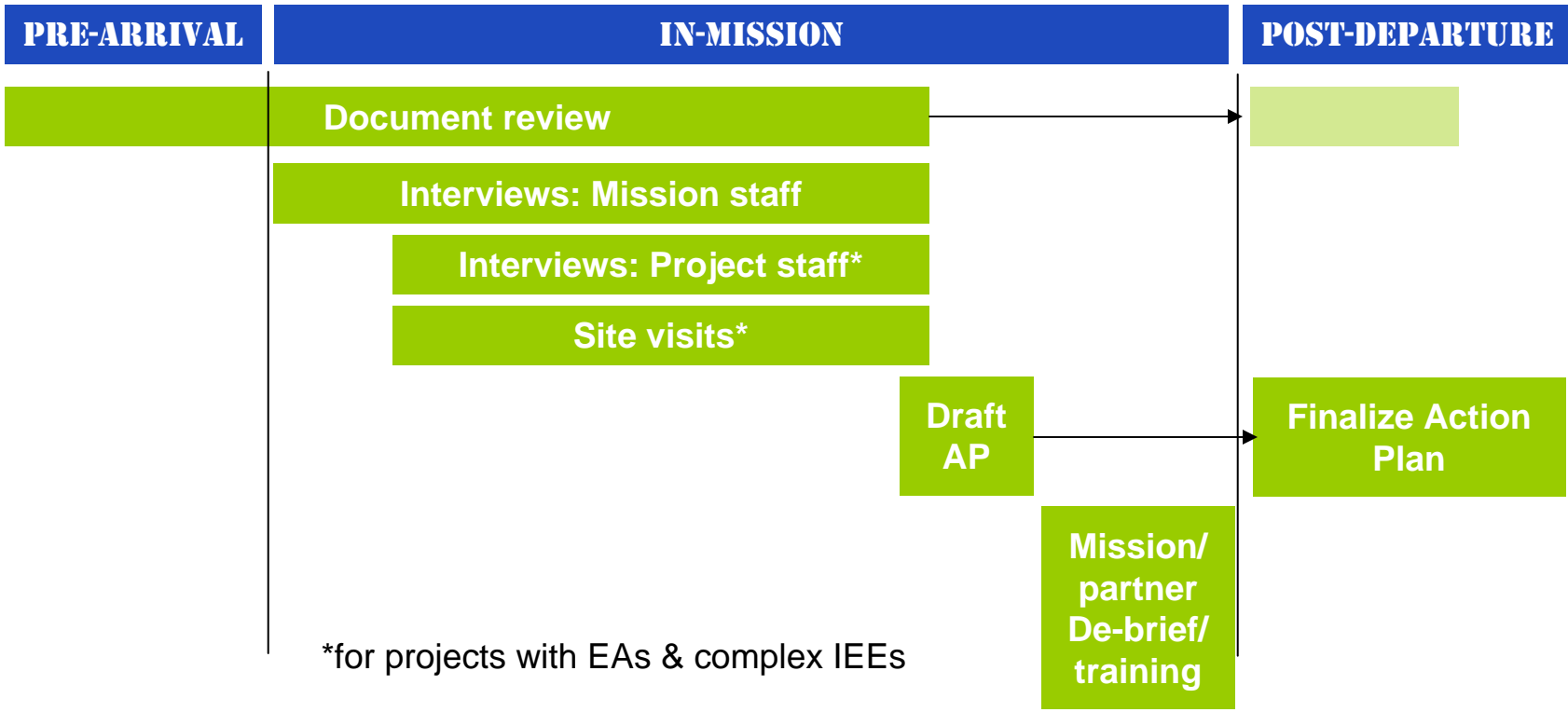
- ✓ Mission and project staff understand their roles and responsibilities related to the Procedures;
- ✓ Mission and project staff have adequate capacity to implement the Procedures (or training is planned to strengthen capacity)



These standards were field-tested and refined during the initial pilot of the BPR process

HOW IS A BPR CONDUCTED?

(Activities of the BPR Facilitator. . .)



Timeframe: About 10-15 days of facilitator LOE; (Includes 3-4 days desk review before arrival; with site visits, add 2-3 days)

Mission & Partner Participation/Contributions

Mission counterpart (MEO or Designee)

- ✓ Collects documents
- ✓ Helps arrange staff interviews
- ✓ Makes contacts with partners & helps arrange site visits (in coordination with CTO/Activity Manager)
- ✓ Participates in interviews and site visits

Mission staff

- ✓ Are interviewed (20–45 minutes each, includes SO Teams, Program Officer, Contracting Officer, Legal Advisor, other appropriate staff.)
- ✓ Accompany facilitator & counterpart on site visits, if necessary
- ✓ Attend final de-brief/training

Partners

- ✓ Interviews
- ✓ Site visits, if necessary
- ✓ Final de-brief/training

The **Environmental Compliance Action Plan**. . .

Provides:

- ✓ **Status** of Mission environmental documentation & implementation of IEE/EA conditions
- ✓ **Status** of integration of Environmental Procedures into Mission processes
- ✓ **Recommendations** to strengthen Mission environmental compliance
- ✓ **Options** for Action Plan implementation

Environmental Compliance Action Plan: Support for Implementation

- **REA/regional support:**
East, West, or Southern Africa Regional Environmental Advisors (no cost to Mission)
- **Africa Bureau resources:**
Africa/Bureau's ENCAP program (no cost to Mission)
- **External resources:**
The Mission, with assistance from the BPR facilitator, identifies a local consultant to assist in implementation (Mission responsible for costs)

Is the Mission Required to Implement the Action Plan?

- ! **IEE and EA gaps** must be corrected by the Mission, as all USAID activities must have an approved IEE.
- ! **Failures to implement IEE conditions** must also be corrected.

☑ The Mission is not obligated to implement other Action Plan recommendations.

However, the recommendations are intended to be practical, and to strengthen project outcomes.