Early Warning System

ADB-56366-001

Improving Safeguard Planning and Implementation in Mongolia

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Quick Facts

Countries	Mongolia
Financial Institutions	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Status	Active
Bank Risk Rating	U
Voting Date	2022-12-15
Sectors	Technical Cooperation
Investment Amount (USD)	$ 0.23 million

Project Description

The project includes a TA which is intended to improve environment and social risks management in the ongoing and future portfolio in Mongolia, through capacity building and project preparation and implementation support.

PROJECT RATIONALE AND LINKAGE TO COUNTRY/REGIONAL STRATEGY

The present portfolio in Mongolia of $1.6 billion comprises 36 projects of which (i) 1 is categorized A and 22 are categorized B for environment, and (ii) 3 are categorized A and 7 categorized B for resettlement. There are no category A or B projects for indigenous peoples. Implementation performance of safeguards varies across the portfolio. In recent years, there has been an increase in complaints received by ADB's Office of the Special Project Facilitator on alleged lack of compliance with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS)._Issues raised included inadequate consultation, impacts on livelihood, concerns on compensation, valuation, and inadequate environmental mitigation. Lack of understanding on ADB's SPS requirements, gaps between Mongolia's and ADB's safeguard requirements, and relatively weak capacity among executing agencies, implementing agencies, consultants, and contractors have led to the increase in complaints.

ADB's country partnership strategy for Mongolia has identified the need for selectivity, with a move to support fewer, larger, and more programmatic operations._The proposed Indicative Country Pipeline and Monitoring Report (2023-2025) includes major projects in transport, renewable energy, urban, and agriculture and rural development sectors. The shift towards larger projects will invariably result in more complex safeguards, requiring stronger safeguard planning and implementation.

Given the challenges faced in implementing safeguards in current portfolio and the proposed move toward larger projects, it is imperative that the capacity of executing and implementing agencies to plan and implement safeguards is strengthened. The TA will (i) support capacity building of project teams, through hands-on support and tailored training programs and workshops; and (ii) support project preparatory activities and implementation._ The support will cover the entire project cycle, preparation and updating of due diligence reports, impact assessment and mitigation plans, monitoring, consultation, grievance redress and safeguard assessments at project completion. Specifically, the TA will support the updating of environment and social assessments of two projects that have planned scope changes._Some of the proposed scope changes require in depth studies and analysis which are beyond the capacity of the executing agency. This TA will also complement other TAs supporting improved social safeguards.

Investment Description

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Contact Information

No contact information was provided at the time of the disclosure.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

You can submit an information request for project information at: https://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form

ADB has a two-stage appeals process for requesters who believe that ADB has denied their request for information in violation of its Access to Information Policy. You can learn more about filing an appeal at: https://www.adb.org/site/disclosure/appeals

ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF ADB

The Accountability Mechanism is an independent complaint mechanism and fact-finding body for people who believe they are likely to be, or have been, adversely affected by an Asian Development Bank-financed project. If you submit a complaint to the Accountability Mechanism, they may investigate to assess whether the Asian Development Bank is following its own policies and procedures for preventing harm to people or the environment. You can learn more about the Accountability Mechanism and how to file a complaint at: http://www.adb.org/site/accountability-mechanism/main.

Bank Documents

- Project Disclosure PDF [Original Source]