Chapter 1
About these Guidelines

Contents

USAID increasingly relies on two types of partner organizations to implement its development programs: private voluntary organizations (PVOs) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).[1]

USAID's mission is to create "sustainable development." Assuring that USAID projects and activities are environmentally sound is vital to their sustainability. This is more than just a desirable development outcome; USAID is legally required by Chapter 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 216 ("Regulation 216) to apply its environmental review procedures to *all* projects, programs or activities.

As the involvement of partner organizations in the work of USAID increases, assuring the environmental soundness of small-scale activities poses particular challenges:

- Partner PVOs and NGOs must satisfy USAID environmental requirements which are often unfamiliar and can be confusing.

- USAID personnel must adapt environmental procedures designed for larger-scale activities and contractors, who are familiar with USAID procedures, to smaller-scale activities and indigenous organizations.

- Institutional procedures alone do not guarantee environmentally sound design. Shared basic knowledge about environmentally sound design is equally necessary.

Purpose and intended audience

These guidelines were developed to help USAID and its partners meet the challenges posed by the need for environmentally sound design (ESD) in small-scale activities. Specifically, this book is:

- An introduction to ESD, both in general and specific sector activities. The guidelines set out ESD's basic principles and should assist PVOs and NGOs in integrating environmental concerns into activities and programs.

About these guidelines

Using these guidelines will help you:

- Take steps to ensure projects in sectors from agriculture to construction and road building are environmentally sound

- Understand and meet USAID requirements

- Learn about environmentally sound design principles and practices

- Find references and information on design, implementation, monitoring, mitigation and evaluation of small-scale development projects

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[1] In these guidelines, PVO is used to refer to organizations whose headquarters are outside Africa. NGO refers to indigenous national or regional institutions in Africa.

- A reference for PVOs and NGOs operating in Africa on USAID environmental procedures and requirements. These guidelines should help PVOs and NGOs write concept papers and creating proposals, as well as implementation plans and associated mitigation, monitoring and evaluation plans, that conform to USAID's environmental procedures.

- A reference for USAID staff for evaluating and classifying project concept papers,;proposals, implementation plans,;and mitigation, monitoring and evaluation plans.

What types of activities are covered?

- Small-scale activities at the community level. (Small-scale activities are defined here as being under $100,000 in total project size.)[2]

- Longer-term development activities, including agriculture, rural development and natural resources management.

- Integrated conservation and development activities, which require careful balancing of needs for biodiversity and ecosystem protection with the economic and social development needs of human populations.

- Emergency relief and disaster rehabilitation activities (including food-for-work programs).
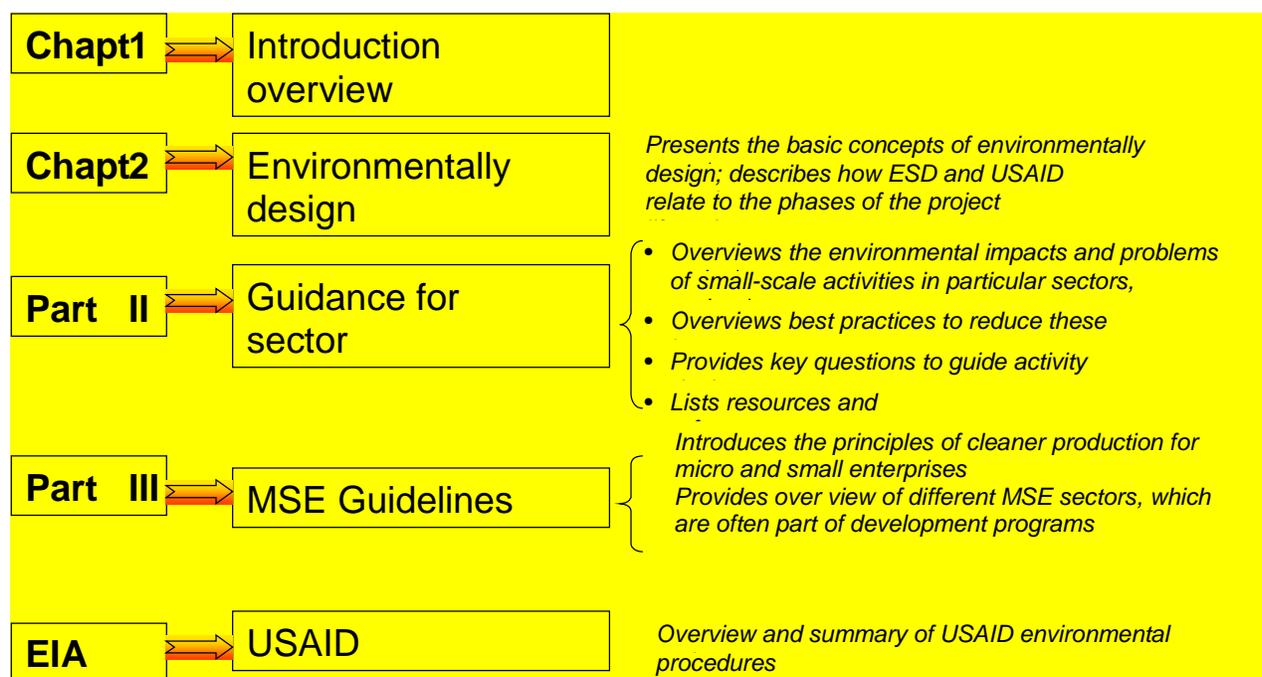
How to use these guidelines

Figure 1-1 depicts the basic structure of the guidelines.

- All users are encouraged to read chapter 2, which introduces ESD concepts and terminology.

- Part II serves as a reference and resource for environmental issues associated with particular sector activities.

- Part III discusses cleaner production and micro- and small enterprises, with a more detailed look at several subsectors of MSEs.

- A separate booklet provides stand-alone references and information on environmental impact assessment (EIA) and USAID environmental review procedures, respectively. These serve as key references for the ESD process presented in Chapter 4. They may also be consulted independently.

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[2] However, such small-scale activities are often within umbrella projects for which total funding may exceed $1 million.

Figure 1-1: Overview of the Small-Scale Guidelines

Chapt1 →	Introduction overview	
Chapt2 →	Environmentally design	*Presents the basic concepts of environmentally design; describes how ESD and USAID relate to the phases of the project*
Part II →	Guidance for sector	• *Overviews the environmental impacts and problems of small-scale activities in particular sectors,* • *Overviews best practices to reduce these* • *Provides key questions to guide activity* • *Lists resources and*
Part III →	MSE Guidelines	*Introduces the principles of cleaner production for micro and small enterprises* *Provides over view of different MSE sectors, which are often part of development programs*
EIA →	USAID	*Overview and summary of USAID environmental procedures*

Limitations

The guidelines are a summary for experienced development professionals. They are not a substitute for detailed sources of technical information or design manuals for projects implemented by PVOs and NGOs. Users are assumed to have background and experience in the technical aspects of project design.

Please refer to the accompanying list of references for additional information.

These are guidelines only and have no legal standing. Please refer to the separate Environmental Impact Assessment booklet for a fuller description of USAID environmental procedures and for the actual text of USAID's Regulation 216.