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Acknowledgments

The first edition of the *Environmental Guidelines for Small-Scale Activities in Africa* was published in June 1996 by the Bureau for Africa's Office of Sustainable Development. Distributed widely, and reprinted many times for USAID and the Agency's implementing partners over the years, it served as a useful and basic reference for development professionals engaged in environmentally sound design and management of small-scale development activities.

This second edition of the *Guidelines* represents a collaborative effort involving over 20 compilers, editors and reviewers. The materials were drawn from the work of many highly knowledgeable, field-oriented authors and organizations. It is our hope that this combined effort now provides in one location some of the most up-to-date and useful resources currently available.

Both the original guidelines and this expanded and updated version owe their existence to the dedication and foresight of Dr. Walter Knausenberger, currently USAID's Senior Regional Environmental Officer for East and Southern Africa. For over a decade Walter championed the need for USAID, and the Africa Bureau in particular, to widely disseminate and apply the best available materials on environmentally sound design, best management practices, environmental assessment, and environmental mitigation and monitoring to USAID and the Agency's partners.

While it is impossible to thank all contributors, the following deserve special mention:

Authorship: *Chapters 1 and 2*—Mark Stoughton of Tellus Institute (Tellus). *Agriculture, Soil and Water Resources*—early drafts by Tom Catterson, consultant to the International Resources Group, Ltd. (IRG), with subsequent drafting by Stephanie Rosch of Tellus. *Community-Based Natural Resource Management*—Wes Fisher with Steve Bickel, both of Tellus. *Small-Scale Construction*—Mark Stoughton. *Ecotourism*—Walter Knausenberger with Ephantus Wahome of USAID's REDSO/ESA, and Wes Fisher. *Energy Sources*—Wes Fisher and Steve Bickel. *Fisheries*—Stephanie Rosch. *Forestry* (including forest management, plantations and agroforestry)—early drafts by Tom Catterson, consultant to IRG, with subsequent drafting by George Taylor of IRG and Stephanie Rosch. *Health Care Waste: Generation, Handling, Treatment and Disposal*—Steve Bickel. *Housing*—Mark Stoughton. *Humanitarian Response Programs and Natural Disasters*—early drafts by Tom Catterson, with subsequent drafting by Nancy Odeh of Tellus. *Integrated Pest Management/Pesticides*—Alan Schroeder, consultant to IRG. *Livestock*—Steve Bickel. *Rural Roads*—Wes Fisher with Steve Bickel. *Solid Waste*—Steve Bickel. *Water Supply and Sanitation*—Steve Bickel.

Editorial review: *Agriculture, Soil and Water Resources*—Mark Stoughton of Tellus, Jonathan Greenham and Philip Decosse of IRG. *Community-Based Natural Resource Management*—Candace Buzzard of USAID and Polly Ericksen, Catholic Relief Services and FAM/EWG Co-chair. *Energy Sources*—Dave Sood, Independent Consultant. *Fisheries*—Emma Kambewa, Dr. Daniel Jamu and Dr. Aggry Ambali, all of the WorldFish Center (formerly known as the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources—ICLARM). *Humanitarian Response Programs and Natural Disasters*—Mario Pareja, independent consultant, and John Acree of IRG. *Integrated Pest Management/Pesticides*—Walter Knausenberger and Brian Hirsch of the Office of Sustainable Development in USAID's Africa Bureau. *Rural Roads*—Gordon Keller, PE, Geotechnical Engineer for U.S. Forest Service International Programs. *Water Supply and Sanitation*—Annette Huber-Lee of Tellus.

The chapters on *Micro and Small Enterprises* were authored by Michael Crow, with contributions from Steve Bickel, Jeff Rosenblum, Stephanie Rosch, Melissa Brown, and Nancy Odeh (all of Tellus). Walter Knausenberger was the driving force behind the creation of this new section of the *Guidelines*, recognizing early on the importance of Cleaner Production and its value to MSEs. Also, Brian Hirsch provided significant feedback and clarification of USAID policies throughout the editing process.

Final copy edit for each chapter, layout, and insertion of graphics was performed by Peg Hausman and Jeffrey Reed of The Mitchell Group (TMG), which provides support services to USAID Bureau for Africa's Office of Sustainable Development. The attention to detail in editing the guidelines went far beyond simple editing for grammar and sentence structure. The careful reading of text for content, especially by Peg, provided a critical non-technical perspective on the draft guidelines, removing many ambiguities and clarifying meaning.

Brian Hirsch has been instrumental in coordinating the second edition of these *Guidelines*. He has taken a close, personal interest in directing this endeavor, and helped as a reviewer and collaborator to ensure the quality of each chapter. His continuing availability has been truly appreciated.

Credit for overall coordination and support of this effort goes to Carl Gallegos, who was USAID Bureau for Africa's Bureau Environmental Officer for many years, and to Philip Decosse and Bob Winterbottom, both of IRG.

Special appreciation must go to Stephanie Rosch, whose coordination of editorial refinements and the revision process kept us all from being drowned in a river of multiple edits and re-edits.

Finally, these acknowledgements would not be complete without recognizing Mark Stoughton's contribution. Mark's ability to organize, consolidate, and clearly communicate environmental impact assessment and environmentally sound design principles has been central to this revision.

Foreword

Experience has shown that following environmentally sound design (ESD) principles in planning and carrying out new small-scale projects and programs helps people to avoid potentially costly mistakes and often makes development activities more sustainable over the long run.

Since the first edition of USAID's *Environmental Guidelines for Small-Scale Activities in Africa* appeared in June 1996, the literature on environmental impacts associated with small-scale development activities, ESD, and "best management practices" for mitigating potential impacts has grown dramatically.

This updated and expanded version of the *Guidelines* is intended to capture this past decade of experience. Each sector module draws on literature and materials developed and applied by a number of leading *field-based* practitioners and institutions.

However, like the first edition, this edition of the *Guidelines* cannot provide a comprehensive treatment of best management practices in each sector. Rather, it focuses on key issues, impacts and mitigation measures and guides users to more detailed sources.

To this end, this version of the *Guidelines* includes annotated bibliographies of the most useful source materials. In each case, we have emphasized materials available via the Internet. The online version of the *Guidelines* at www.encapafrika.org contains HTML links to these sources, while the CD-ROM version of the Web site contains both the *Guidelines* and much of this source material. We therefore hope that development practitioners will be able to quickly find and consult extensive practical sources on specific sectors.

Because ESD for small-scale activities requires the people responsible to understand ESD principles and integrate them into project design and implementation, it cannot and should not be the exclusive concern of environmental professionals. We have therefore worked to keep the language of the *Guidelines* as straightforward and as free of technical jargon as possible.

The development of the *Guidelines* was funded by USAID to meet the needs of its staff and its partner organizations. However, they are broadly applicable to other donors, community-based and non-governmental organizations, local governments, and others engaged in small-scale activities.

We encourage suggestions and comments. We hope users will point us to materials we may have overlooked and to new materials that advance the state of the art in this critical area. Note that the online version of the guidelines at www.encapafrika.org will always contain the most recent versions of all materials and bibliographies.

Finally, we encourage broad dissemination of these materials, including photocopying and electronic distribution. However, we do request that all such excerpted or copied materials be properly attributed.

The *Guidelines* Core Team
encap@afr-sd.org
March 2003

