

Session 2.

Environmentally Sound Design & Management (ESDM) as a Foundation for Environmental Compliance

Video presentation and dialogue

Summary

This session will define the concept **Environmentally Sound Design and Management (ESDM)** and illustrate its vital role in achieving and maintaining environmental compliance in project implementation.

After an introductory presentation in which a GEMS facilitator will introduce and define key terms and concepts, participants will watch a video on Environmental Considerations for USAID-funded projects. In order to establish the important relationship between ESDM and successful project outcomes, we will:

- Develop a common understanding of the terms “environment” and “environmentally sound design and management (ESDM).”
- Via the presentation of a video, highlight examples of USAID-funded projects from across the globe that successfully or unsuccessfully incorporated environmental considerations into project design and implementation.
- Discuss the most common root causes of ESDM failures or lapses and set out the basic rules or principles for achieving ESDM.
- By example, demonstrate that “environment” and “development” are linked by the need to be:
 - AWARE of the potential adverse impacts of development activities on ecosystems, environmental resources and environmental quality; and the need to
 - PROACTIVELY seek to limit these adverse impacts, particularly where they affect health and livelihoods
 - **This is Environmentally Sound Design & Management (ESDM)!**

Objectives

- Achieve a common understanding of “environment”
- Understand ESDM as a necessary and explicit objective for effective development
- Establish the basic principles for achieving ESDM
- Consider real-world examples of ESDM successes and failures in Ghana and West Africa

While the session will introduce the concept and practice of environmental compliance, specific USAID regulations and requirements will be addressed in finer detail in a subsequent session.

Discussion

In small groups, participants will discuss and document key take-away messages, concepts and best practices identified in the video. We will then ask small groups to discuss specific examples of ESDM in an international development context, drawing from their own personal and professional experience.

Each group should prepare to answer questions in plenary based on the findings from their discussion.