

(6) The Philippines: Comparison with International EIA Procedures

In 2012, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, drew up performance standards on environmental and social sustainability, and requires clients to meet eight performance standards throughout the life of the IFC business investment. Table 1 gives a comparison between IFC performance standards and the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (PEISS).

Table 1 Comparison of IFC performance standards and PEISS

IFC performance standards	PEISS
1. Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts	PEISS is prescribed in PD 1978-1586, and EIAs and EMPs cover processes from the project planning stage, through construction and operation, to closure.
2. Labor and working conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish, maintain, and improve the worker-management relationship.• Promote compliance with national labor and employment laws, including prohibiting discrimination and providing equal opportunity for workers.• Tackle issues such as child labor and forced labor.• Promote safe and healthy working conditions.	<p>The fundamental rights of all workers are protected under the Department of Labor and Employment. Fundamental rights include equal employment opportunities, guarantee of status, working days, work hours, weekly days off, wages and wage-related benefits, payment of salary, female employment, child labor, workplace safety, and the right to organize and collective bargaining.</p> <p>For almost all projects, the regional or local government requires project proponents to hire at least 30% of workers from among the local population.</p>
3. Efficient use of resources and prevention/reduction of pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid or minimize pollution.• Promote the reduction of emissions that are a cause of climate change.	Pollution prevention measures are implemented through the monitoring of soil, water quality, air, noise and the like. Monitoring results are assessed to determine whether environmental standards are being met, and whether additional measures are required.

<p>4. Community health, safety and security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid or minimize both routine and non-routine risks to and impacts on community health and safety. • Ensure that the safeguarding of personnel and property is carried out through lawful means. 	<p>Social development plans (SDP) are submitted to the Environmental Management Bureau Central Office (EMB CO) or Environmental Management Bureau Regional Office (EMB RO) as a part of EIA. SDPs are drawn up in line with local conditions from community field surveys. After the project is implemented, the area is monitored to ascertain whether the affected residents have any dissatisfaction or have been inconvenienced.</p>
<p>5. Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid or minimize displacement by exploring alternative designs. • Alleviate adverse environmental and social impacts from land acquisition etc. by providing compensation for loss of assets at replacement cost, and ensure that resettlement procedures are implemented with proper disclosure of information, consultation, and participation of local residents. • Improve, or at least restore, the livelihoods and standards of living of displaced persons. • Improve living conditions at resettlement sites by providing adequate housing. 	<p>A Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework Plan (LARFP) is prepared separate from the EIA report, and only a summary is included in the EIA.</p>
<p>6. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and conserve biodiversity. • Promote the sustainable management and use of natural resources through the adoption of practices that integrate conservation needs and development priorities. 	<p>A Biodiversity Conservation Plan (BCP) is drawn up in the EIA report to ensure that project proponents continue to maintain local ecosystems.</p>
<p>7. Indigenous Peoples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the development process fosters full respect for the dignity, human rights, aspirations, 	<p>Indigenous Peoples are protected under The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (RA 1997-8371). This aspect is dealt with in the EIA</p>

<p>culture and natural resource-based livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid adverse impacts on communities of Indigenous Peoples, or minimize, mitigate, or compensate for such impacts, and provide Indigenous Peoples with opportunities for development benefits in a culturally appropriate manner. • Establish and maintain an ongoing relationship with Indigenous Peoples affected by the project. • Foster good faith negotiation with and the participation of Indigenous Peoples when projects are to be located on traditional or customary lands under use by the Indigenous Peoples. • Respect and preserve the culture, knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples. 	<p>under “Ethnology” within the social environment assessment.</p>
<p>8. Cultural Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect cultural heritage and support its preservation. • Promote the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of cultural heritage in business activities 	<p>When a project site is to be in an area of cultural heritage, the impact on the cultural heritage is to be included in the EIA report.</p>