

USAID's ESIA Legacy and Looking Forward: Lessons for an Uncertain Future

Wednesday May 20, 2026

Room 304AB & 9:00-10:30 am



Moderator: Erika J. Clesceri, PhD

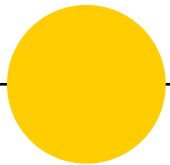
Mark Stoughton, PhD; Marissa Jablonski, PhD; David Kinyua, MSc; Elisa Perry, MA

The Questions

What did we gain for USAID's years of leadership and investment in ESIA globally?

What have we lost, and continue to lose?

*What should we do **now**?*



Panel Members

Erika
Clesceri



Elisa
Perry



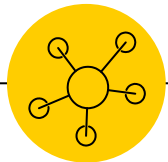
David
Kinyua



Marissa
Jablonski



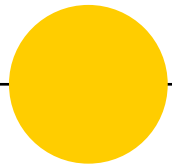
Mark
Stoughton



Agenda for the Session

1.5 hour Session:

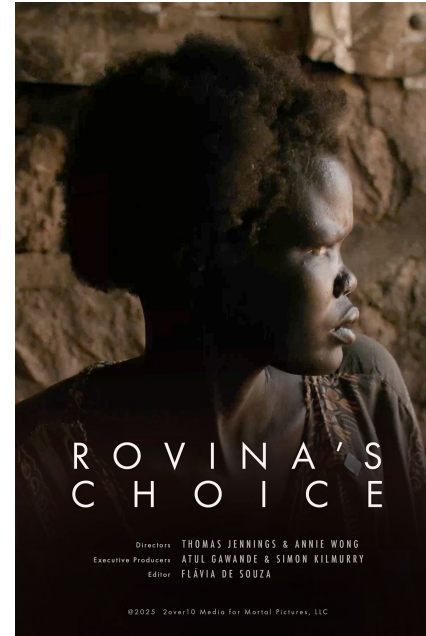
- Intro (5 min)
- Panelists (12 min x 5)
- Open Q&A (20 min)
- Wrap Up (5 min)



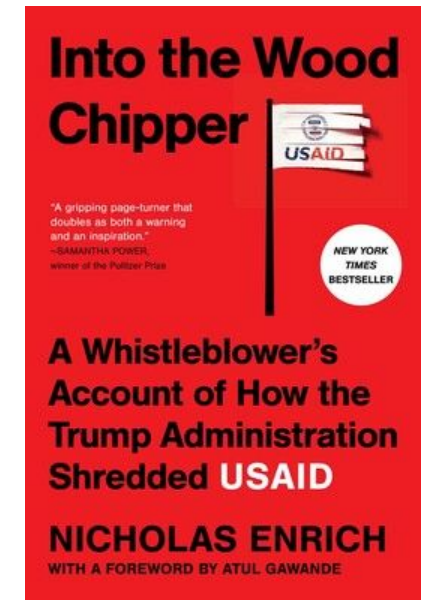
**Join us for a
Workshop right after
to Keep the
Conversation Going!**

We are at a Crossroads.....

- What is the future of United States international engagement in ESIA?
- How do we counteract the losses of Digital Continuity?



“At least 100 dead in Ebola outbreak in DR Congo” (BBC May 18, 2026)





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID as a Wise Investment

- Since 1961, USAID has shown the world the generosity of the American people, Smaller proportion of its GDP than other donors
- Help respond to global infectious human, plant and animal diseases, like Ebola, Zika, Coffee Leaf Rust, before they can reach U.S. shores
- 11 of 15 US global trade partners received foreign assistance
- USAID employed 10,000 people (scientists & engineers too), at 11% of overall budget to avoid fraud, waste and abuse

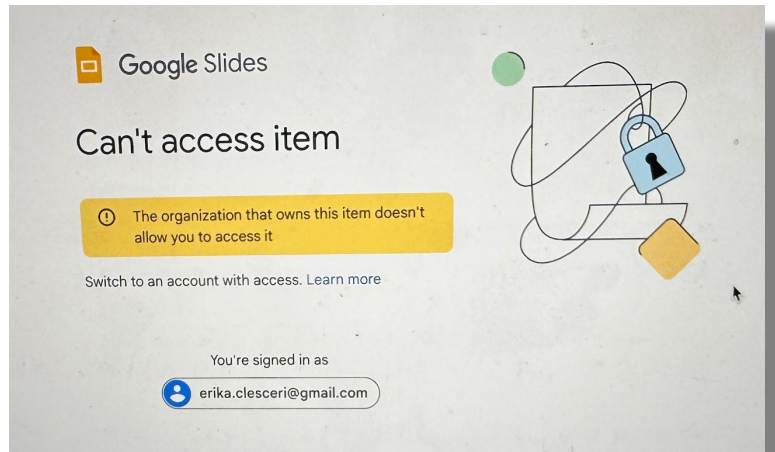
Common questions U.S. Government International Assistance

Origins of USAID's Environmental Procedures

- In 1975, **unsafe use** of the **pesticide malathion** in Pakistan caused **5 deaths**
- Consortium of US NGOs successfully sued USAID, **settled out of court**
- Resulted in **First Donor** ESIA regulation
 - rigorous **pesticide safety** protocols
- USAID's ground-breaking **22 CFR 216**



USAID Knowledge *Loss*



USAID Knowledge Rescue

ABOUT ACTIVITIES IMPACT CONTACT

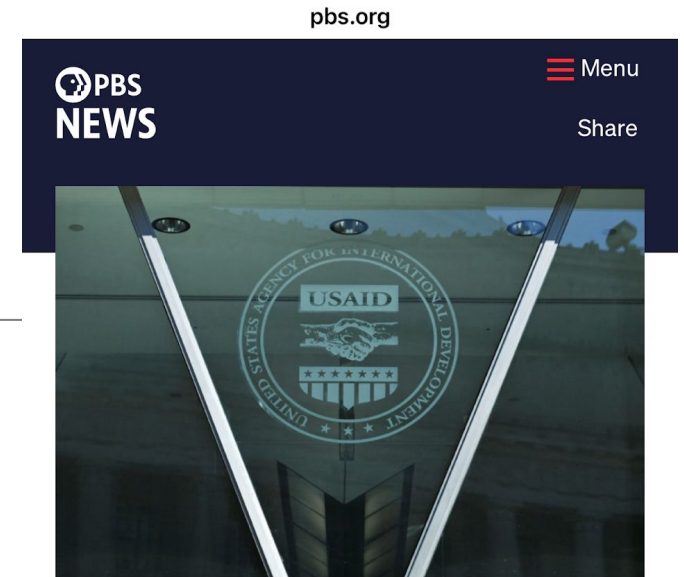
Preserving Development Knowledge

A collaborative community dedicated to rescuing and preserving critical development knowledge from USAID and partner institutions for current and future practitioners worldwide.

LEARN MORE



IAIA has kindly,
offered to host
LOST
USAID ESIA Info



A view of the USAID building in Washington, D.C., Feb. 1, 2025.
Photo by Annabelle Gordon/Reuters

USAID website goes dark
amid Trump
administration's freeze on
foreign aid worldwide

By — Ellen Knickmeyer, Associated Press

Politics Feb 1, 2025 6:53 PM EST

WASHINGTON (AP) — The website of the U.S. Agency for International Development went offline without explanation Saturday as thousands of

OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE LOVED ONES OF: **Anestine Salvant (Mis Nès), > 30 Yrs Rotary Club**

Our **USAID Haiti colleague** and the beloved nephew of Anestine Salvant, **Abdel Abellard** had **planned to join us at IAIA 2026** to share his deep expertise. Abdel, Co-Founder NOVHADEV has 23+ years in international development, leading environmental safeguards, climate-smart agriculture, biodiversity conservation in housing, health, ports, and energy sectors.



Abdel Abellard

“**UNE ICÔNE** DE LA SANTÉ PUBLIQUE ET UN
PILIER COMMUNAUTAIRE S’EN EST ALLÉE.”



5 Member Panel:

Preserving and Sharing USAID ESIA Lessons

1. **USAID ESIA Lessons** Available, Application Needed! (Mark Stoughton)
2. **Plastic Waste and Disaster: US Embassy** Engages with USAID in **Thailand** (Marissa Jablonski)
3. Capacity Development in ESIA- Lessons learned (David Kinyua)
4. USAID's **ESIA 2024 Audit**: Lessons for an Uncertain Future (Elisa Perry)
5. **Reimagining** ESIA from Two Decades of USAID **Humanitarian Assistance** (Erika J. Clesceri)

Mark Stoughton Bio

Mark Stoughton supported USAID as an ESIA/safeguards expert for over 20 years and led 3 of the Agency's 4 global safeguards support contracts. He has a PhD in sustainable industrial development.



USAID's ESIA Legacy and Looking Forward:

USAID ESIA Lessons Available, Application Needed!



Mark Stoughton, PhD



Background: ESIA & Safeguards at USAID



- NEPA-like and NEPA-lite
- Core requirement: US federal regulation 22 CFR 216
 - promulgated 1976 (last revised 1980)
 - origin: court settlement—USAID sued by EDF (US environmental NGO) following mass pesticide poisoning & multiple fatalities on USAID-funded project in Pakistan.
 - required mandatory pre-implementation E(S)IA process
 - risk-based regulatory determination→stop process at preliminary assessment or proceed to full E(S)IA.
 - both preliminary assessments and full ESIAs resulted in mitigation and monitoring requirements.

Significant Progress from the mid-2000s

- EMMPs/ESMPs/ESMFs required
- EMMP/ESMF-based compliance reporting
- Supportive mission portfolio soft-audits
- Multi-sector guidance development
- Capacity-building: partners and staff
- Global contractor technical support



At the close: Persistent challenges. . .

- limited site-specific information (80%+ of USAID ESIA was at the programmatic level),
 - quality of EMMPs/ ESMFs & spotty associated reporting
-
- ambiguous regulatory language re: social impacts—different treatment by different bureaus.
 - pesticide procedures almost unimplementable as-written,
 - no formal guidance for determinations of significance (i.e. level of risk),
 - too-high reliance on safeguard officer practices vs regulation or its implementing policy
 - intrinsic challenges of being both implementer and regulator,
 - highly manual safeguards documentation review process.





...but also more progress in queue

In January 2025, USAID was:

- rolling out first-ever social impacts screening requirements at the project design stage;
- on the cusp of a major update to its safeguards operational policy intended to address multiple persistent challenges; and
- scoping the automation of its safeguards documentation system.



Are lessons learned relevant?

YES. US Foreign Assistance is diminished, but remains substantial & retains significant intrinsic risks to life, health, and environment.

US Dept of State does not have safeguard procedures.

What are they?

co-equal treatment of social & env under single umbrella | **periodic stocktaking & policy update** | build KPIs into the system | **integrate safeguards & accountability mechanism** | don't dual-hat in a way that creates safeguards vs implementation conflicts | **if you claim indirect benefits, you own indirect impacts** | host country professionals make the system work



Let's continue the conversation!

Message me your questions or comments in the IAIA26 app.



Marissa Jablonski Bio

Marissa Jablonski, PhD, with 20 years of international development experience, supported USAID as an Environmental Advisor engaging with global communities, now runs the Universities of Wisconsin's Freshwater Collaborative.



USAID's ESIA Legacy and Looking Forward:

Plastic Waste and Disaster: US Embassy Engages with USAID in Thailand



Marissa Jablonski, PhD





Indonesia This Week in Asia / Health & Environment

Plastic rain: Indonesia sounds alarm as microplastics found in Jakarta's rainwater

The rain that falls on Jakarta contains 15 microplastic particles per square metre per day, new study shows

4-MIN READ



Make SCMP preferred on Google



PHUKET HOTELS ASSOCIATION



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Phuket hotels team up with US Embassy to eliminate single-use plastics

PHUKET: The Phuket Hotels Association has joined forces with the US Embassy Science Fellowship (ESF) Program to tackle the critical issue of waste management in Phuket, with the aim of eliminating single-use plastics at the island's hotels.

environment

pollution

tourism

By The Phuket News

Tuesday 10 July 2018, 05:19PM







1. Baseline Data of Plastics Audits
2. Catalog of eco-items, alternatives - including messaging
3. Workshops to *Gather, Inform, Share*
4. Engage Environmental Champions
5. Create Open Source Purchasing Info



Banquet Set-up: Water

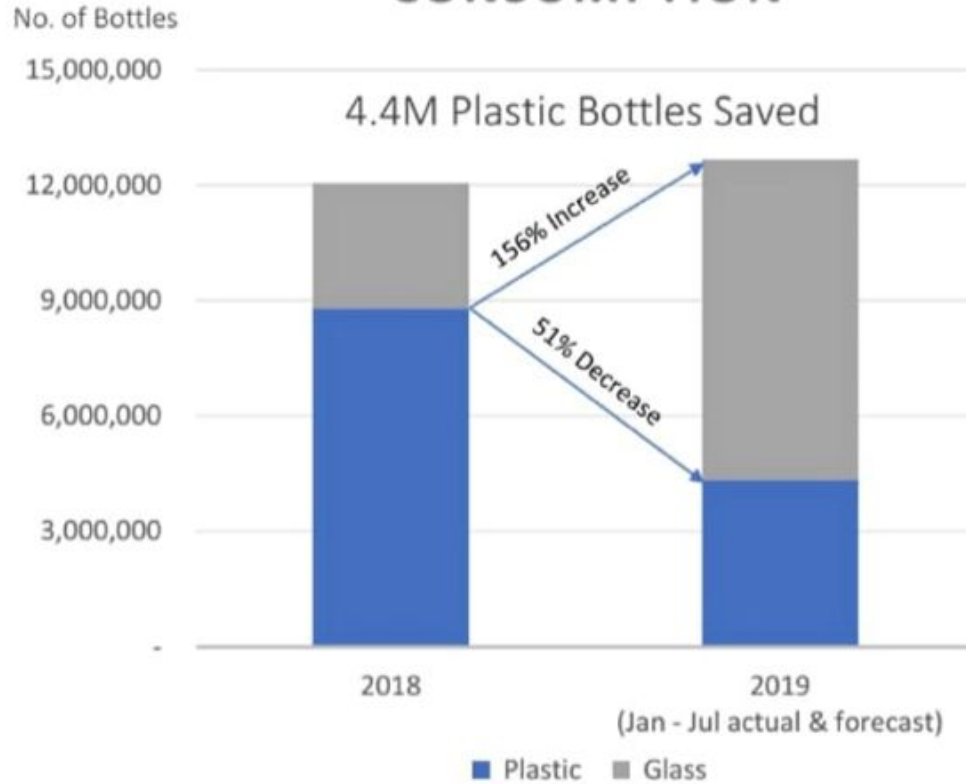
Alternatives/Substitutions or Re-design:

- Offer glass bottles or dispensers of water as the norm in banquet

Trade-offs:

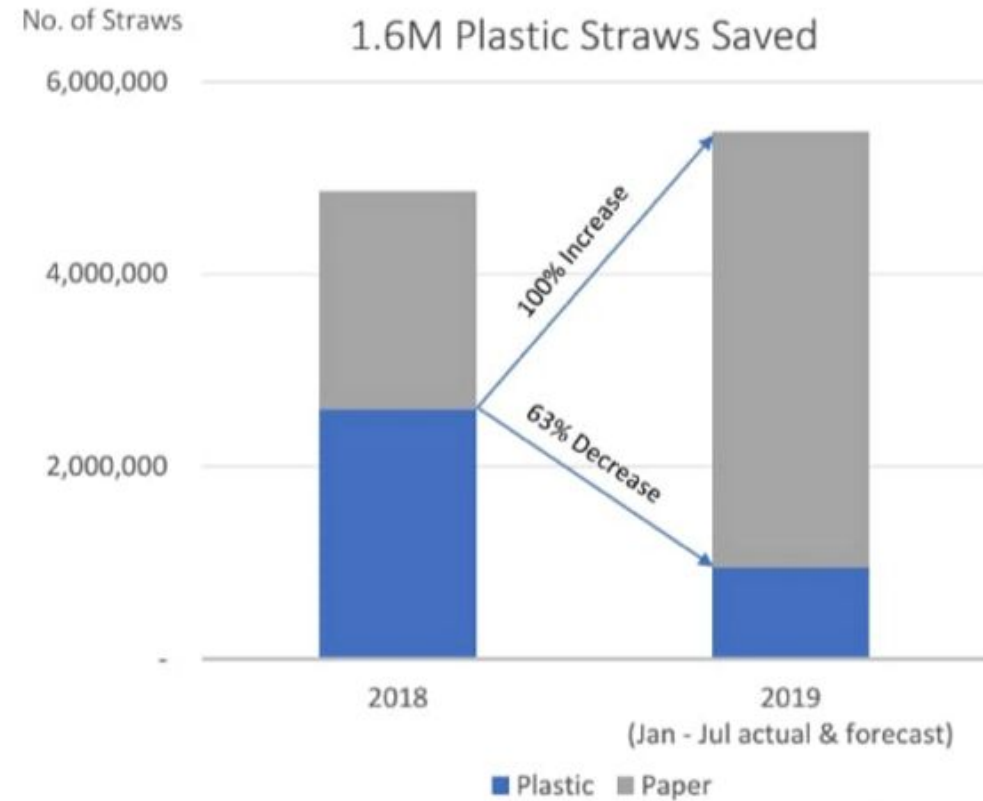
- Realizing that this can cost the hotel money that is not compensated for, adjust the banquet costs accordingly

IN ROOM ANNUAL WATER BOTTLE CONSUMPTION



Source : Phuket Hotels Association

ANNUAL STRAW CONSUMPTION



Source : Phuket Hotels Association



**It's all about
the people...**

>100 USAID Missions with Country-based Environmental Officers

Previously employed a Strong Workforce of National
Experts in USAID Missions

Globally: Africa, Europe and Eurasia, East Asia, South
East Asia, Near & Middle East, Latin America,
Caribbean, South America

David Kinyua Bio

David Kinyua is a Legacy USAID ESIA expert with over 20 years with USAID, where he was based out of Nairobi, Kenya providing ESIA expertise to the East and Central Africa region.

USAID's ESIA Capacity development Legacy: Lessons learned



David Kinyua, MSc

Over 20 Years USAID Kenya Regional Office



Africa's Long term Environmental Sustainability Challenges

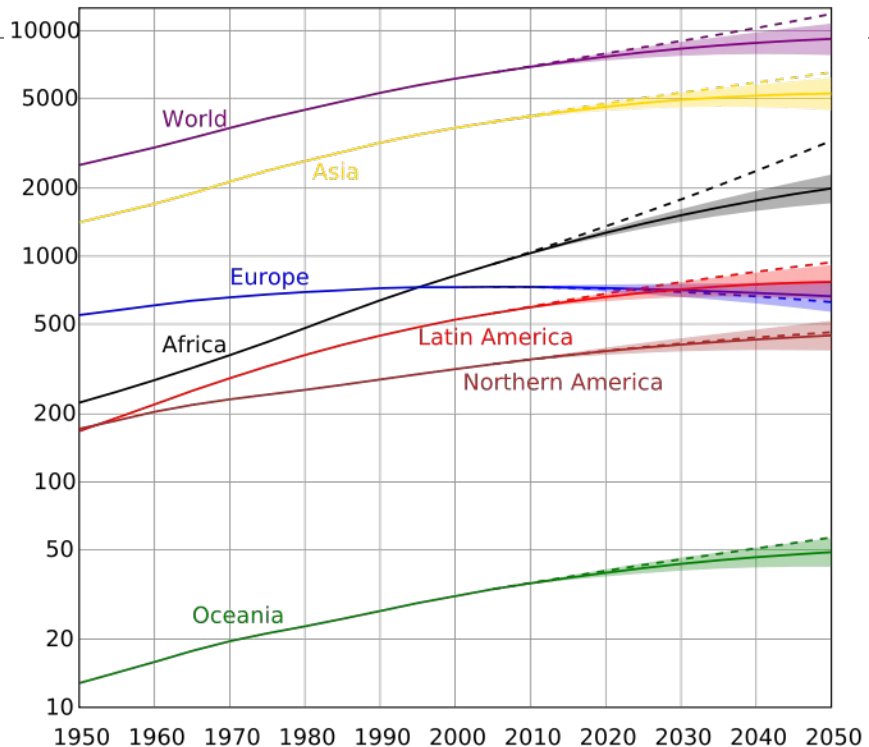
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UN Population Division <http://esa.un.org/unpp>

**LAC: Latin America and the Caribbean



Increasing Population in developing areas

LEADS TO

Increased demands for water, land, fish & timber, energy, infrastructure & social services. Increased waste production.

Urbanization

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Global change: Africa

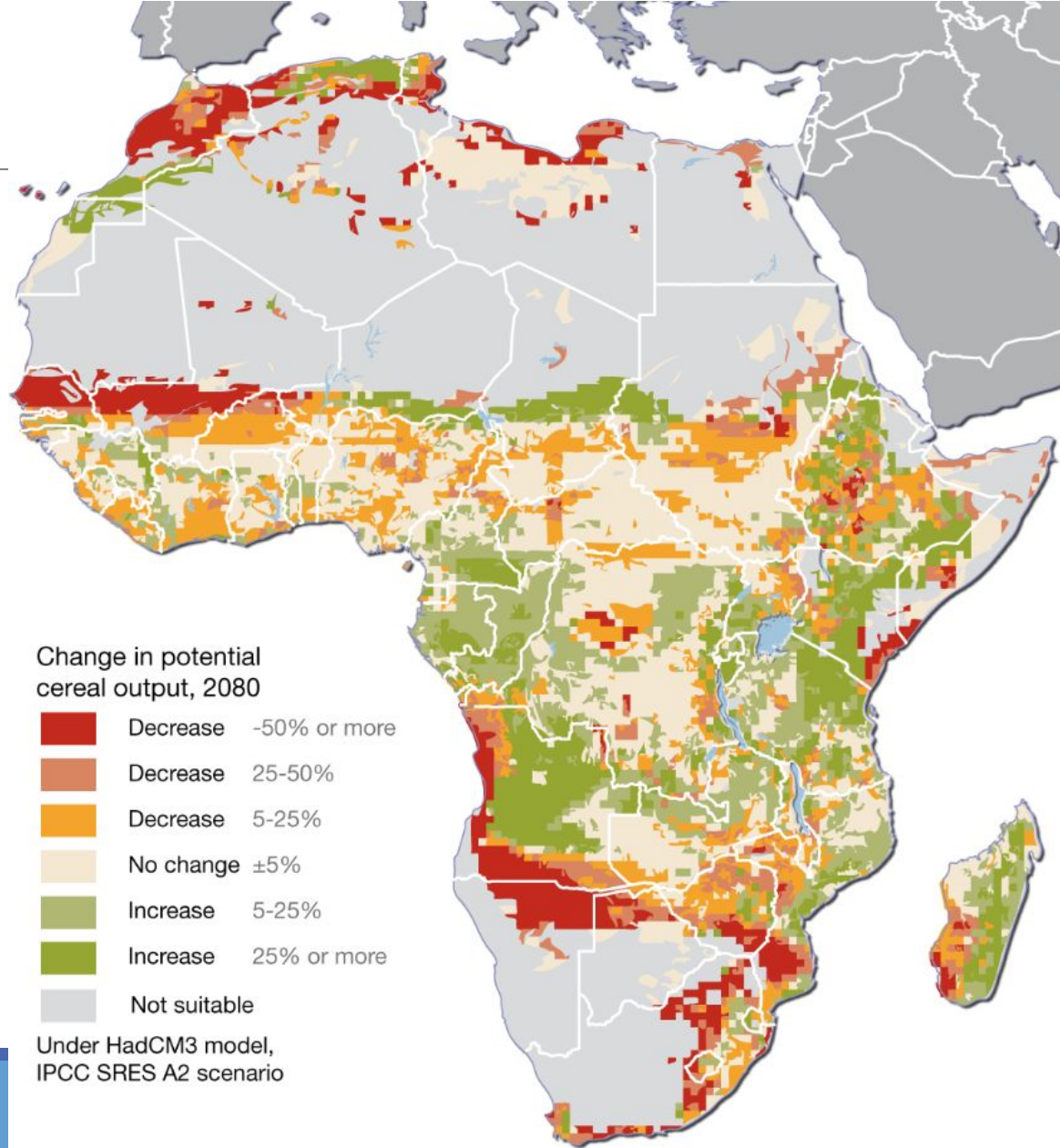
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+ Poverty

**+ Dependence on
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**+ strong shifts in precipitation
volumes & timing**

**Make Africa the most vulnerable
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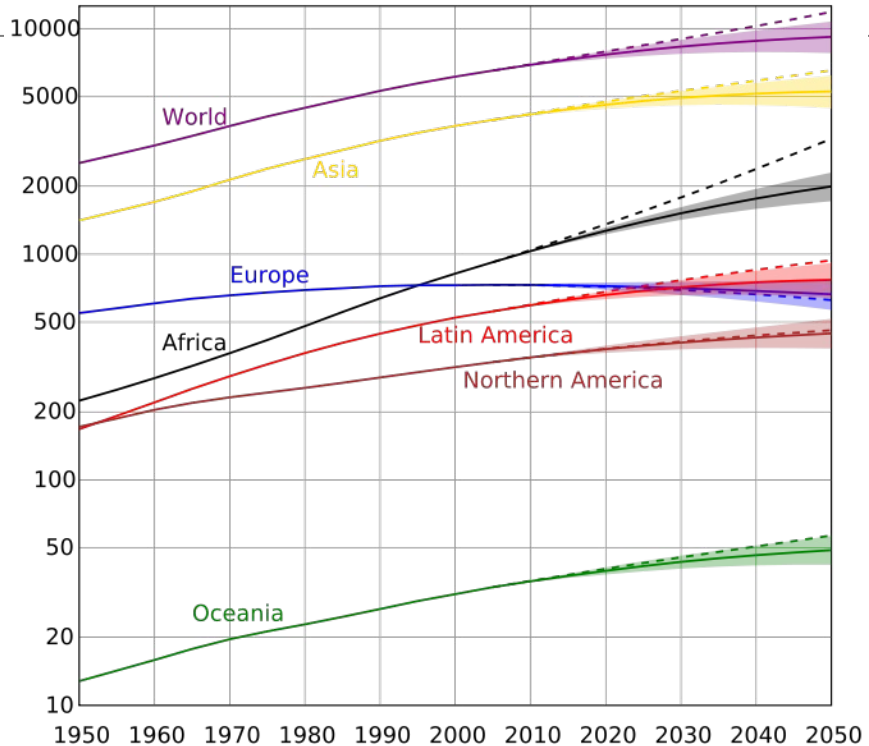
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- ❖ Environmentally Sound Design and Management – ESDM
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Challenges in USAID's environmental compliance

- ❖ USAID's approach imposed heavy compliance burden on USAID Missions and Implementing Partners.
- ❖ Capacity challenges were regularly documented in the USAID's Five year-Environmental compliance best practices reviews
- ❖ USAID's implementation is a fast moving train, and environmental compliance reviews, mitigation, monitoring and reporting was widely viewed as an implementation burden



- ❖ Poor environmental reviews were regularly documented resulting in unimplementable and broad mitigation statements
- ❖ Lack of proper and systematic monitoring
- ❖ Poor reporting and documentation
- ❖ Lack of specific environmental indicators
- ❖ lack of specific resources devoted to compliance



Addressing the challenges

- ❖ Bilateral and Regional Missions were required to appoint specific Environmental Officers responsible for supporting the Missions and Implementing Partners in environmental compliance
- ❖ Regular short term training for staff offered to Missions and Implementing Partners
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Legacy continued

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Long term Environmental Sustainability Challenges:

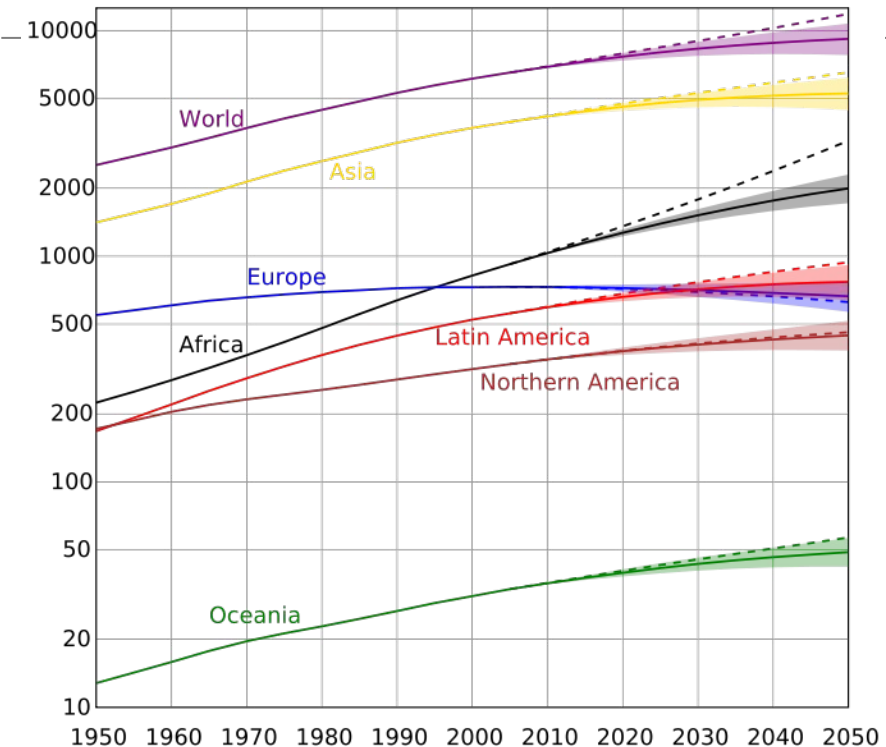
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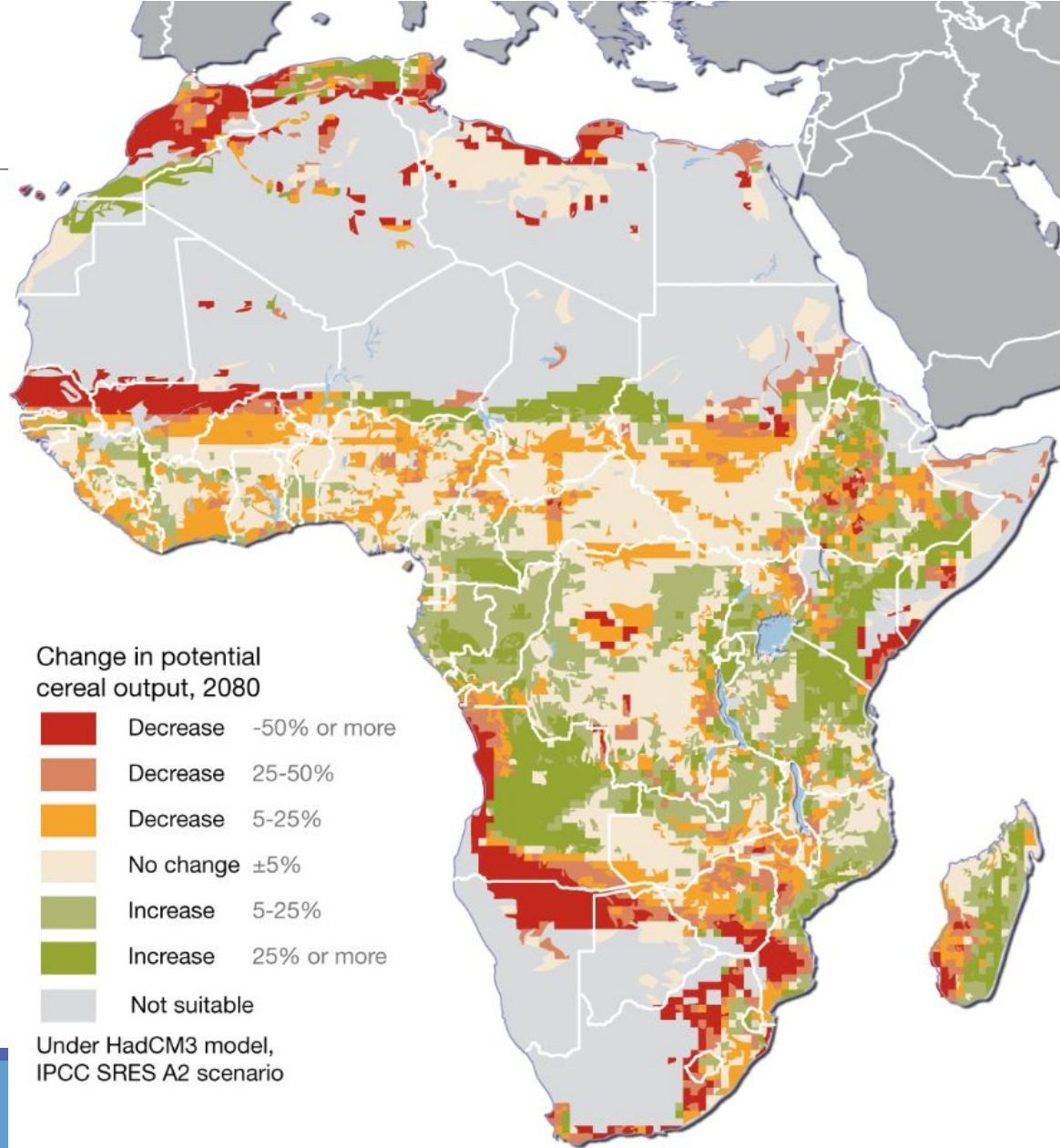
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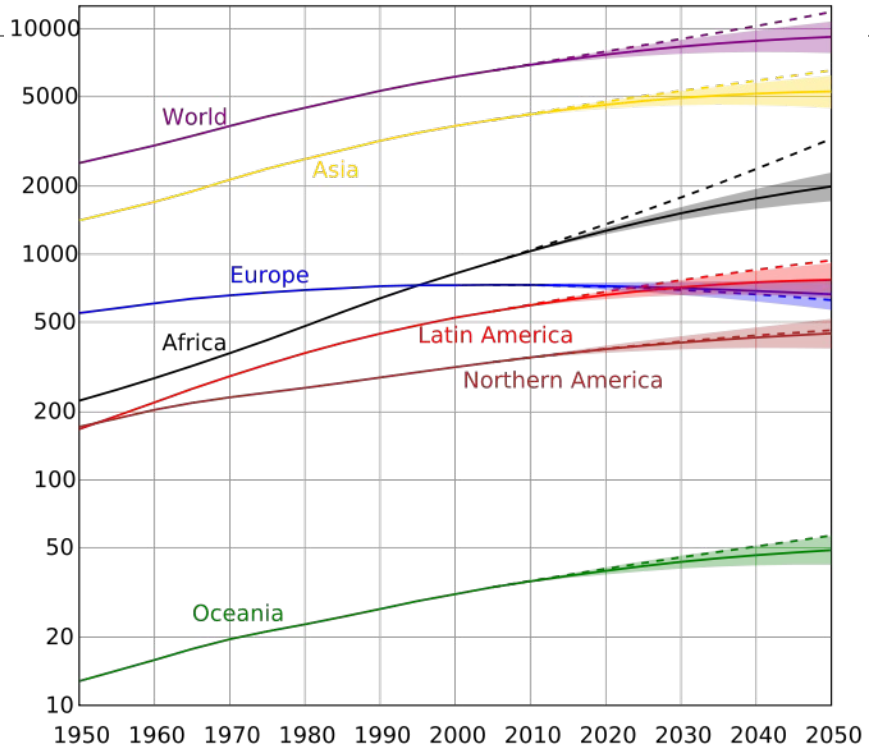
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USAID's ESIA Legacy and Looking Forward: USAID's ESIA Capacity development: Lessons learned



David Kinyua, MSc

Over 20 Years USAID Kenya Regional Office



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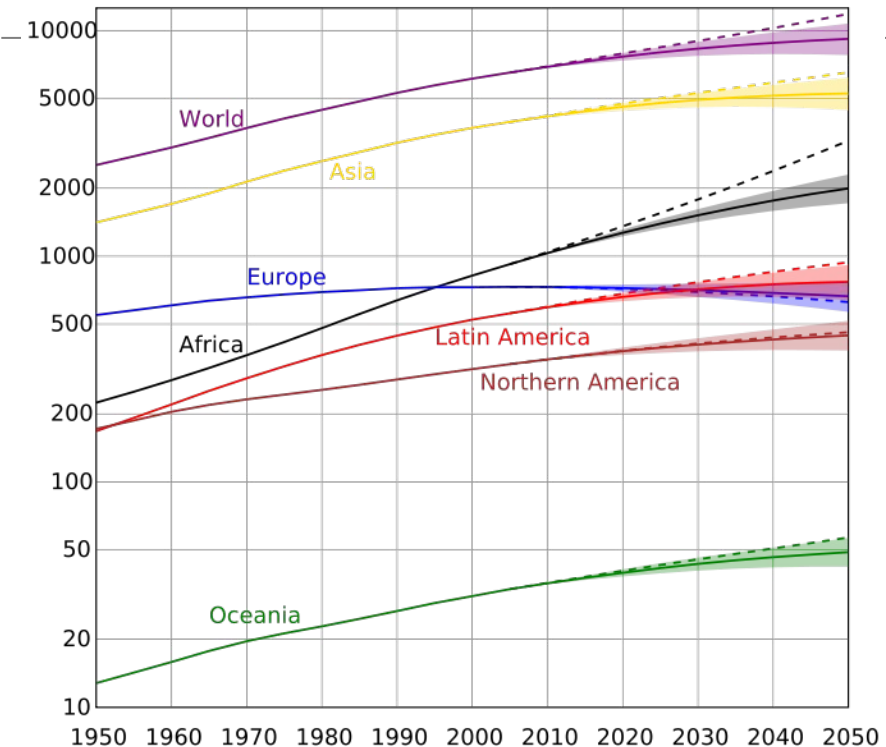
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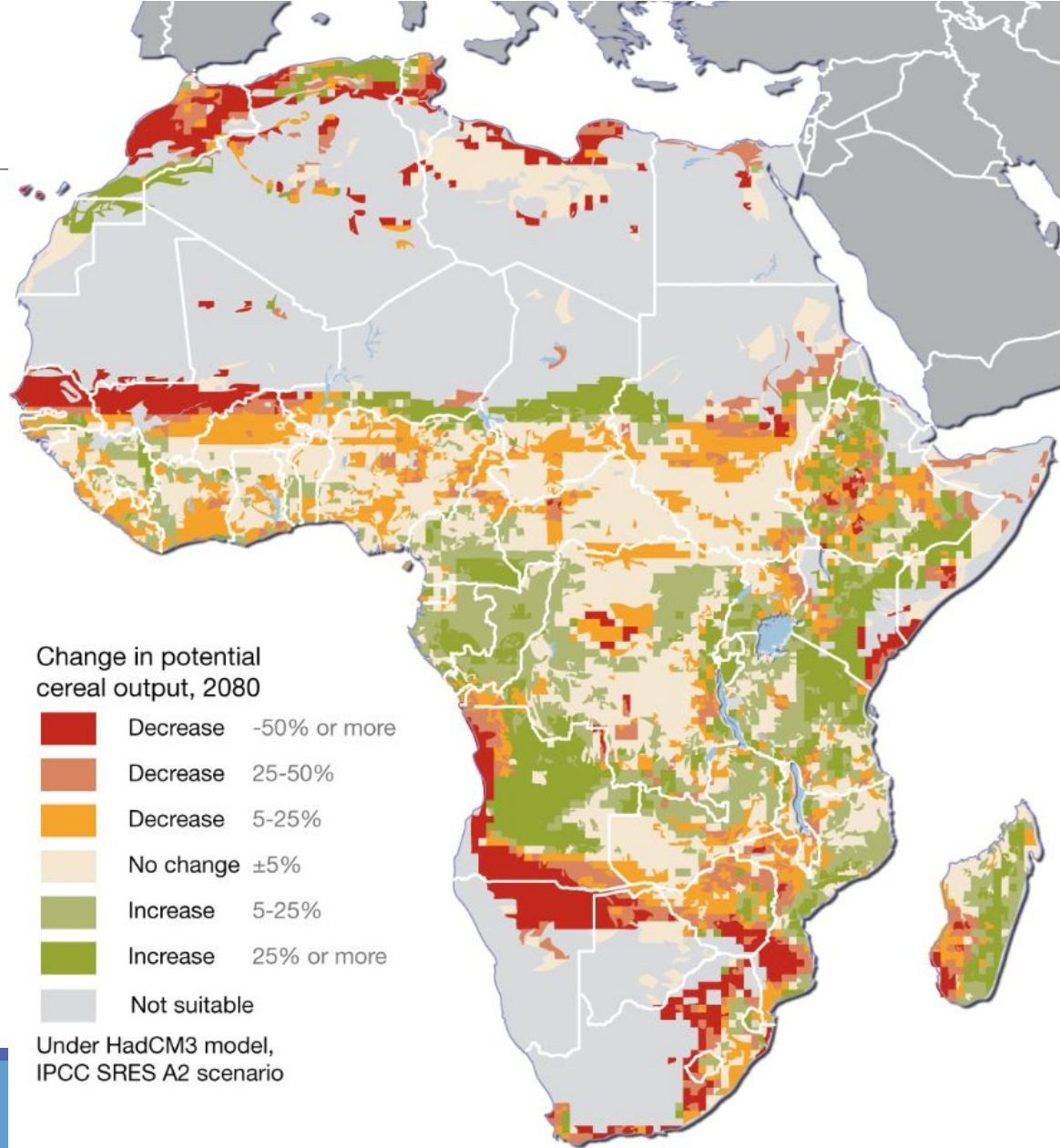
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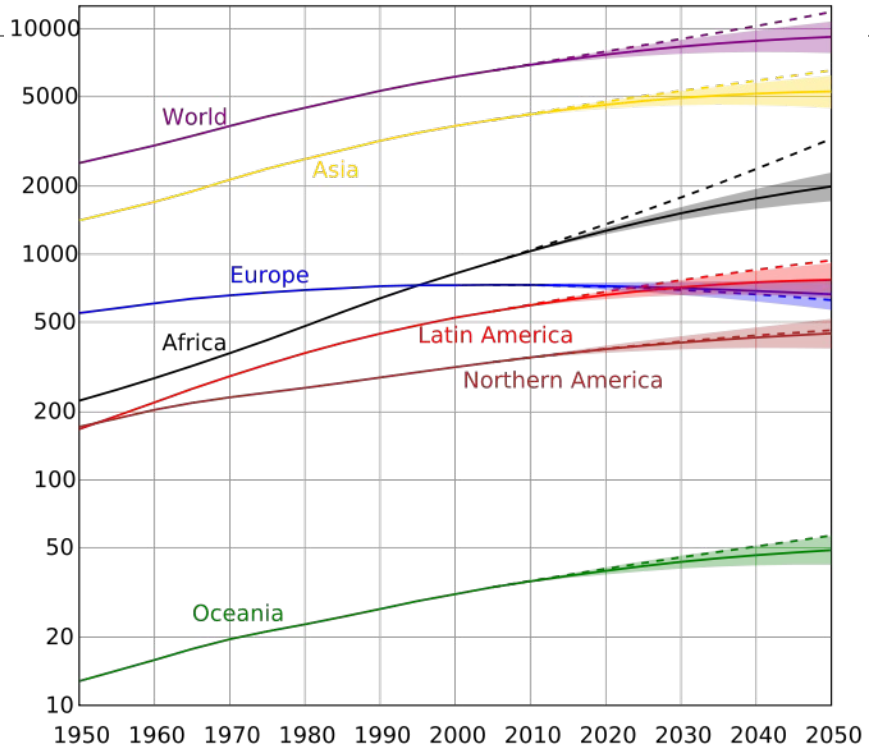
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- ❖ USAID often used these local capacities as Mission Environmental Officers or independent consultants for many of the environmental review processes documentation



Legacy continued

- ❖ More recently, USAID's ESIA Staff were often required to review Multilateral developmentESIAs developed for specific projects leading to convergence of the ESIA's standards and approaches.
- ❖ With the sharp decimation of USAID's budget, similar approaches to continue supporting capacity development is needed for both US government and other development projects
- ❖ Momentum and importance of the ESIA may be lost or a slowdown of growth of competent ESIA cadres

Elisa Perry Bio

Elisa Perry is an experienced international program and project manager, with a focus on assessing social and environmental impacts on conflict communities and vulnerable groups. She has worked in over 30 countries with USAID, the World Bank, GIZ, Sida and other agencies and private organizations.



USAID's ESIA Legacy and Looking Forward: Scaling USAID's ESIA 2024 Audit: Lessons for an Uncertain Future



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ESIA Consultant
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USAID
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USAID's ESIA 2024 Audit: Lessons for an Uncertain Future

PHOTO CREDIT: UMBERTO DE PEPPO COCCO FLICKR CC

SUMMARY OF 2024 AGENCY-WIDE REVIEW

Strengths

- Overall, USAID was compliant with environmental procedures
- Required environmental reviews were prepared
- EAs for higher-risk projects were comprehensive
- Environmental officer support and expertise was valued

Weaknesses

- Lack of clarity and understanding on certain key areas of U.S. regulation and USAID policy
- Inconsistent understanding of appropriate detail initial environmental reviews and role of EMMPs
- Capacity and resource constraints hinder oversight
- Limited follow-up during implementation

Threats

- Strong procedural focus and lack of follow-up means that consequences of not taking safeguarding seriously are not felt
- “Check the box” perception
- Leadership does not signal the importance of procedures

SUMMARY OF 2024 AGENCY-WIDE REVIEW

Identified Opportunities for USAID

- Make EIA more meaningful through tools, training, and resources
- Improve oversight during implementation
- Shift from a procedural approach to one anchored in risk management and results
- Engage leadership in transformative ways

DRILLING DOWN: POLICY CLARITY AND GUIDANCE

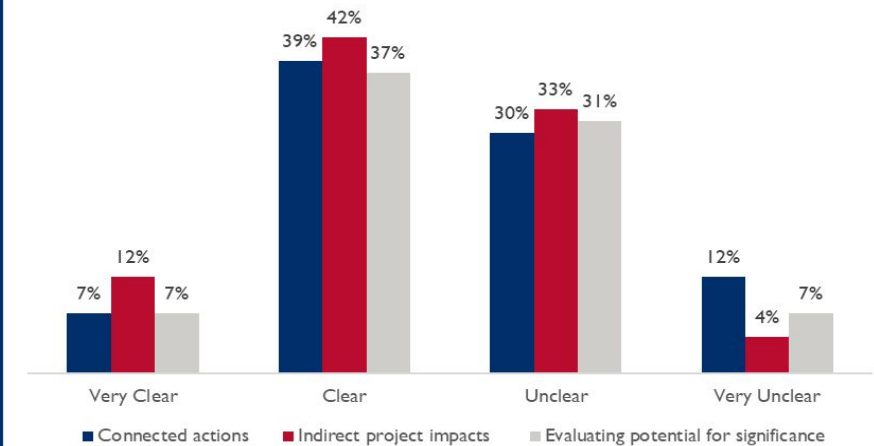
Key Finding

- The environmental procedures provide a formal and flexible foundation, but lack specificity and clarity on some key terms and topics, which contributes to inefficiencies and different operational interpretations

Recommended Actions

- Revise internal policies, clarify roles and responsibilities, refer to relevant practices (i.e., EMMP/Rs), and require periodic review.
- Clarify and widely communicate the USAID's policy on social safeguards and their treatment within U.S. regulatory requirements.
- Update and finalize individual Bureau Operating Procedures and Mission Orders to reflect recent updates to Agency operating procedures.
- Develop stand-alone guidance on less-clear topics, effective use of programmatic analyses, and subsidiary review and screening processes.

AOR/COR and AO/CO survey responses



“Rate the extent to which the environmental requirements for the following topics are clear to you.”

SPECIFIC ACTIONS:

- Develop benchmarks for important social impact considerations
- Ensure engaging with stakeholders is at the forefront of safeguarding action
- Provide clear-act procedures that are both responsive to need but flexible



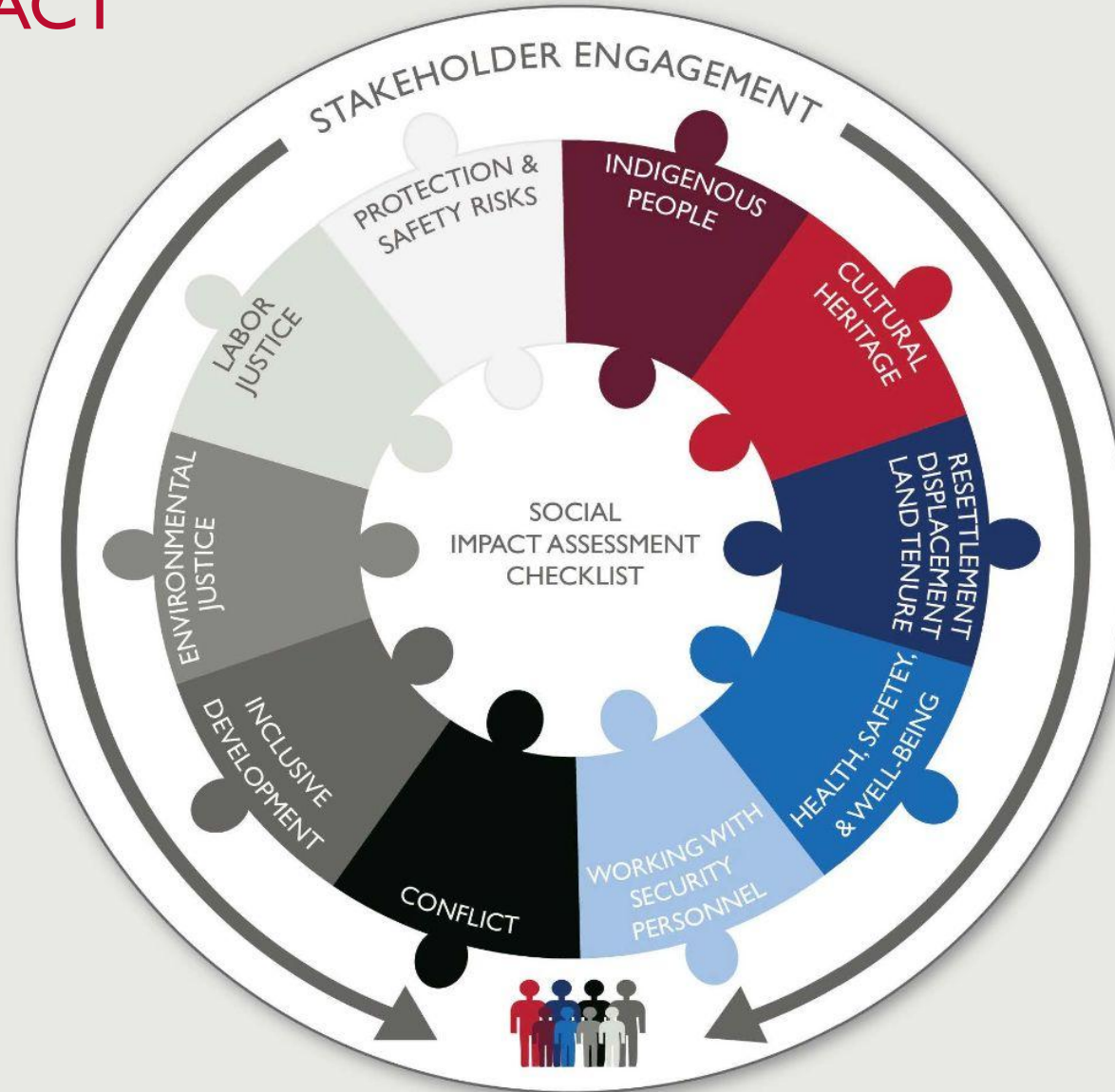
PHOTO CREDIT: DOMINIC CHAVEZ/WORLD BANK

HUMAN RIGHTS AT USAID

- Promotion and protection of human rights is both a fundamental part of U.S. foreign policy and a part of USAID's development mandate.
- Promoting and **protecting human rights is linked to development** and has been part of USAID's development agenda for many years though it has not always been labelled as such.
- Democracy, Rights and Governance programming Strategic Framework includes:
 - Protect and promote universally recognized human rights.



USAID SOCIAL IMPACT PRINCIPLES





SIA PRINCIPLES IN ACTION - PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AS A MORAL IMPERATIVE

Cultural Heritage Standard

“No action should proceed if the interaction with a focus on cultural heritage knowingly violates human rights, including the right to access the cultural heritage.”

Health, Wellbeing and Safety Standard

“No action can proceed if the human rights of any worker, program participant, or community will knowingly be violated.”

SIA PRINCIPLES IN ACTION - PROMOTING/SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS

Environmental Justice Standard

“Engaging EJ communities as partners in the development process is critical to protecting and sustainably managing the environment, promoting social inclusion, and preventing and resolving conflicts. This engagement also may enhance democratic governance, **promote human rights** and religious freedom, and reduce poverty.”

Working with Security Personnel Standard

“Without transparent and accountable oversight of rule of law, the risks of **potential human rights violations increase.**”

Social Impact Risk Screening (SIRS) Checklist

1. Does your activity design or approach have the **potential to adversely impact or exclude any underrepresented or marginalized communities?**
2. Is there any **systematic discrimination, physical barriers, or the potential for human rights violations** such as labor rights or sexual exploitation, that might hinder access to your activity or its services?
3. Is there potential that your **approach may not equitably distribute livelihood benefits or risks or may economically disadvantage anyone?**



Version 01 July 2024

USAID Social Impact Risk Initial Screening (SIRS) Checklist

Question	Yes/No	Notes (can include decisions, rationale and sources of evidence, follow-on actions)
1. Does your activity design or approach have the potential to adversely impact or exclude any underrepresented or marginalized communities? ¹		
2. Is there any systematic discrimination, physical barriers, or the potential for human rights violations such as labor rights or sexual exploitation, that might hinder access to your activity or its services?		
3. Is there potential that your approach may not equitably distribute livelihood benefits or risks or may economically disadvantage anyone?		
4. Is there potential for your approach to negatively affect how people access, use, and benefit from land, natural resources, or ecosystem services?		
5. Is there potential for your activity design or approach to negatively affect cultural heritage (tangible and/or intangible) resources? ²		
6. Are there Indigenous Peoples³ or Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities that use or live nearby any of your planned programming sites?		
7. Does existing conflict or instability affect your program planning or the proposed sites where the program will be implemented?		
8. Could your activity contribute to increased repression in any area where USAID programming will be implemented?		
9. Will the proposed programming have the potential to impact worker and community wellbeing, health and safety?		
10. Has the activity design considered protection/safety risks (such as sexual exploitation and abuse and child abuse, exploitation, or neglect) to program participants and their communities?		

¹ Communities may include, among others, ethnic/linguistic/racial/religious/caste groups, LGBTQI+ people, persons with disabilities, women and girls, youth and/or children, older persons, or groups identified as underrepresented or marginalized in the country/context where you work.

² May include structures, spiritual sites, burial grounds.

³ USAID OUs and staff should identify Indigenous Peoples as guided by the [Policy on Promoting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) and the [Optional Toolkit on Identifying Indigenous Peoples](#).

ADDITIONAL MECHANISMS

- Grievance Redress Mechanism
- Social Economic Environment Accountability Mechanism



IN CONCLUSION



- GRM, SEE-AM, Human Rights Approach, FPIC??

GRM should:

- Establish clear roles and responsibilities for its staff
- Be afforded adequate logistics support and financial resources
- Provide a safe and accessible forum for affected people to voice their ideas and concerns
- Document reported ideas and concerns and communicate them to those who can take action (e.g., mediation, redress, remedy)

It does not:

- Ensure everyone accepts the activity
- Compensate everyone who makes a complaint
- Serve as a bribery scheme

SEE-AM:

- AMs provide individuals and communities, impacted by a donor-funded project, a simple way to voice concerns and complaints to the donor about harms and have them addressed.
- There are three features typical of an AM:
 - a compliance review function to ensure project adherence to environmental and social policies and standards;
 - a dispute resolution function; and
 - an advisory function to report lessons learned.

- **Human rights** include: the right to be free from violations of physical integrity (such as torture, slavery, and illegal detention); the collective rights of all citizens to enjoy political rights and civil liberties; and equality of opportunity and non-discriminatory access to public goods and services.
- Promotion and protection of human rights is both a fundamental part of U.S. foreign policy and a part of USAID's development mandate.
- Promoting and protecting human rights is linked to development and has been part of USAID's development agenda for many years though it has not always been labeled as such.
-

Erika Clesceri Bio

Erika J. Clesceri, Ph.D, with over 34 years in international humanitarian assistance and academic research specializing in practical nature-positive solutions using a multilateral approach.



USAID's ESIA Legacy and Looking Forward: Reimagining ESIA from Two Decades of USAID Humanitarian Assistance



Erika J. Clesceri, M.S., Ph.D.

>20 Years with USAID

Co-Founder of Joint Initiative for Greener Humanitarian Assistance

Board Member Boston Network for International Development (BNID)

Senior Fellow & Multilateral Liaison, Dept of Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University

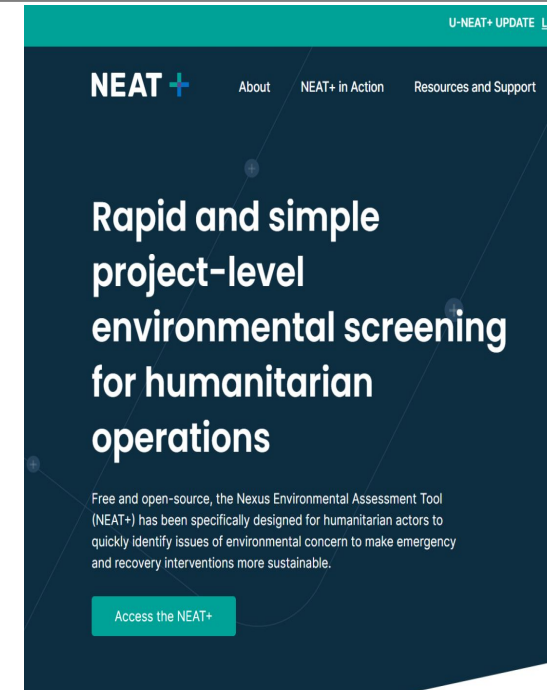
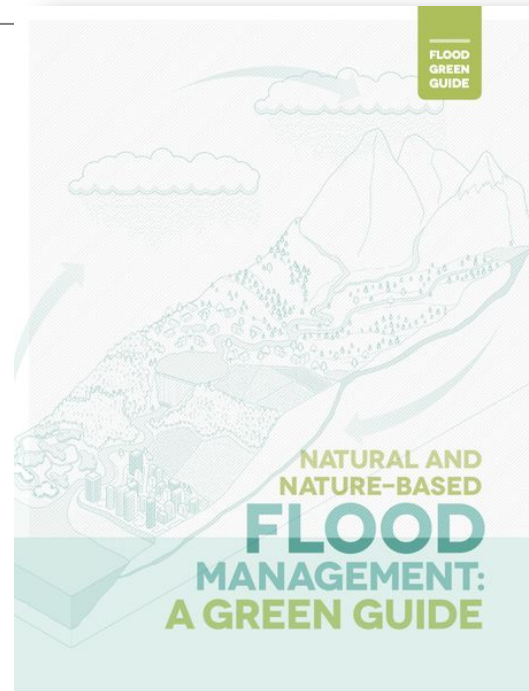
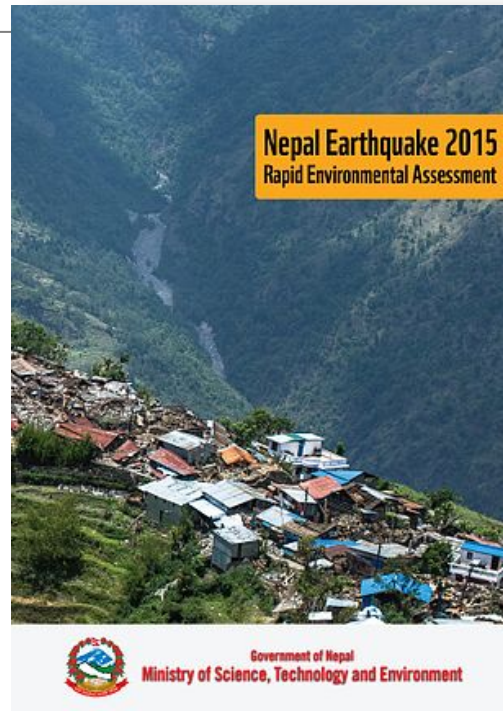


USAID
Responded to
Humanitarian
Emergencies
since 1961

2004 Indonesian
Tsunami
2015 Nepal
Earthquake



Beyond Compliance, Funding EHA Tools



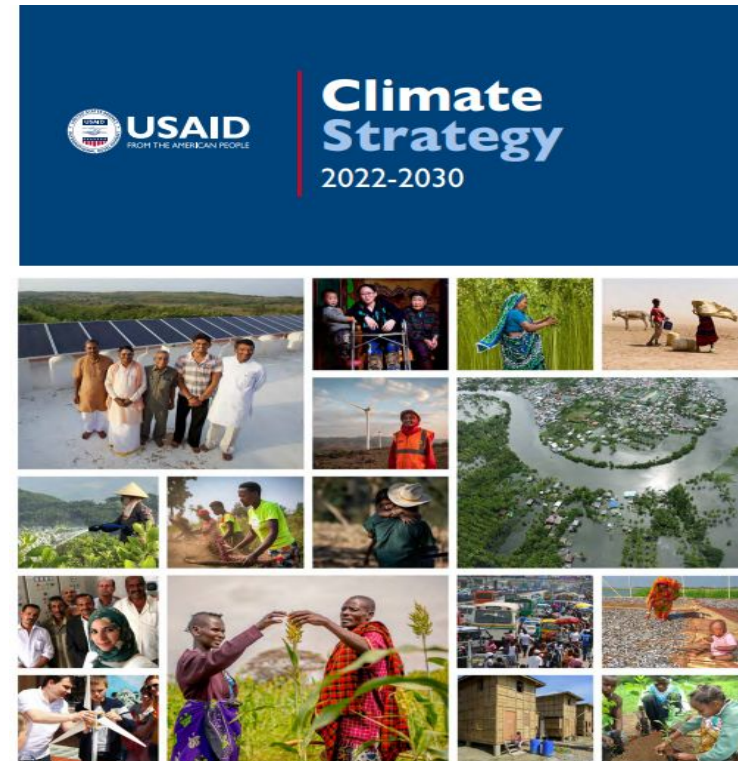
USAID supported key EHA guidance like the Rapid Environmental Assessment, Flood Green Guide and Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+)

A Tale of 2 Strategies

USAID's Climate and Biodiversity Strategies

To advance equitable and ambitious actions to confront the climate crisis.

Released April 22, 2022





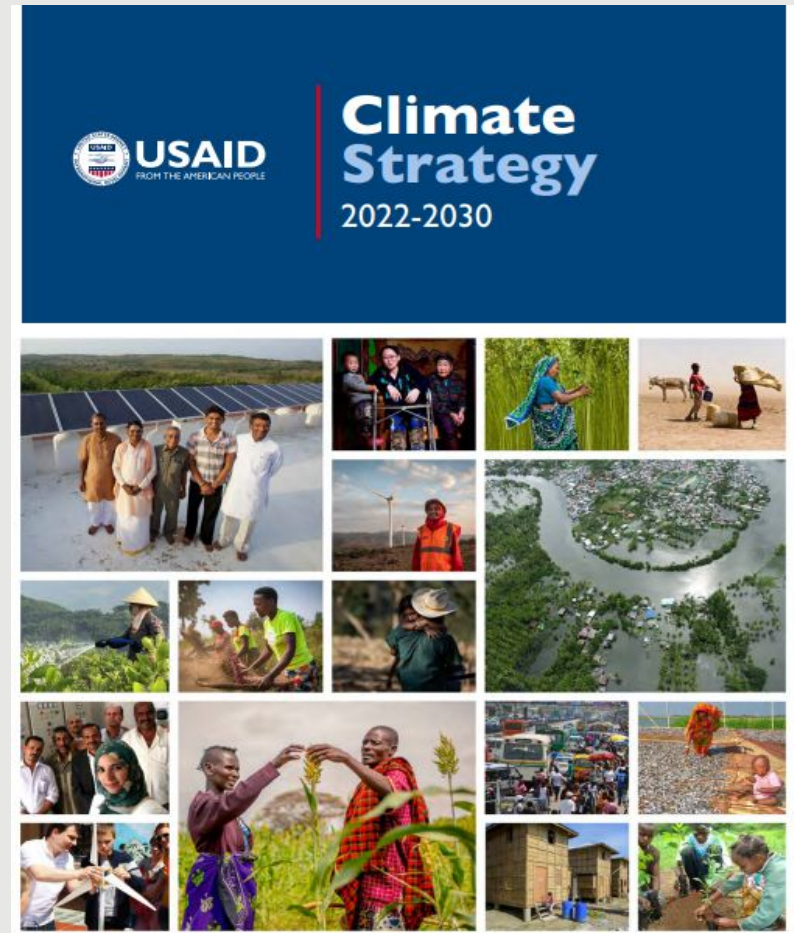
Use Lessons from USAID's Climate Strategy

USAID's Climate Strategy guided by a single goal:

to advance **equitable and ambitious**
actions to confront the climate crisis.

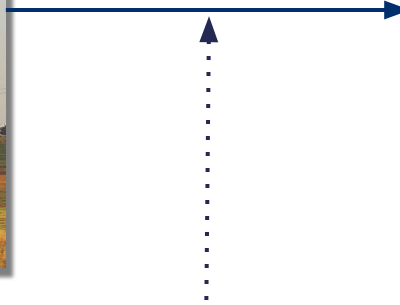
2022-2030,
Stop Work Orders (SWO) of 2025

Released April 22, 2022





During a **Just Transition** to a Greener Economy



Who benefits?
Who is harmed?
Who is left out?



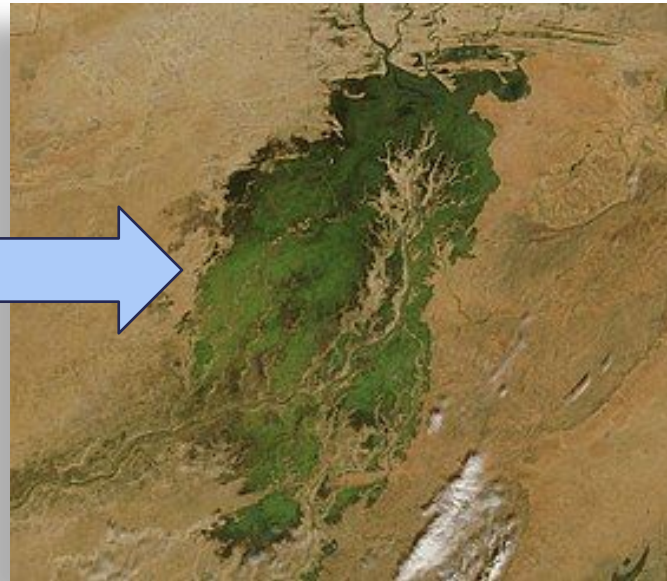
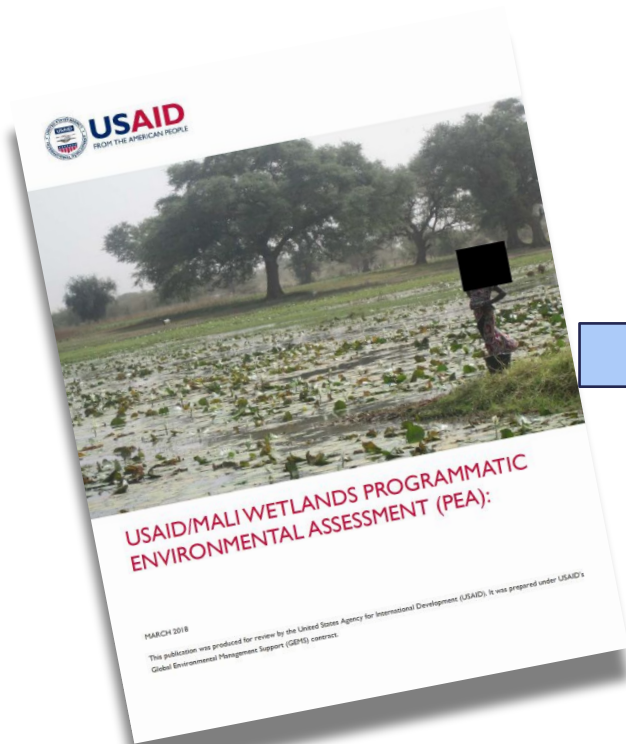
Risks:

Land grabs, pollution,
unsafe labor
conditions, unequal
access to benefits

Protecting Ramsar Wetlands in Mali for Food Security

USAID Mali Resilience Food Security Assistance (RFSAs)

Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA)



- Ramsar wetland “**oasis**” in West Africa
- Key source of resilience against **drought** in the desert
- Must be **understood** to not destroy

Primary Donor focused on Pesticide Safety

- **The Problem:**

- Food loss and waste, Insect infestation
- Toxic pesticide gas fumigation can be lethal
- Pesticide resistance in Africa and Latin America, affects global food supply



- **The Approach: Fumigation Assessment**

- Guidance for food aid projects
- US Shippers, Farmers & Universities
- NGOs, UN, Governments



Gas Monitors



2020 Locust Outbreak and Scientific Analysis

- Food security fears in East Africa from locust plague
- Risk from some outdated pesticides requested too high
 - Early Action and Monitoring
 - Biopesticide “Green Muscle” opportunities



Reducing Plastic Wastes in Humanitarian Supply Chains

- ❖ Joint Initiative for Packaging Waste
- ❖ To avoid the “second disaster”



Unmanaged Waste



Solar- Baler



Ready to
Recycle
Locally!



WREC
Environmental Sustainability
in Humanitarian Supply Chain



LOGISTICS
CLUSTER



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Waste....(of all kinds)... Eventually becomes a Problem.

We have come so far in the Last 20 Years...



United Nations

Climate Action

The climate crisis is a humanitarian crisis

The Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations

Sign the Charter



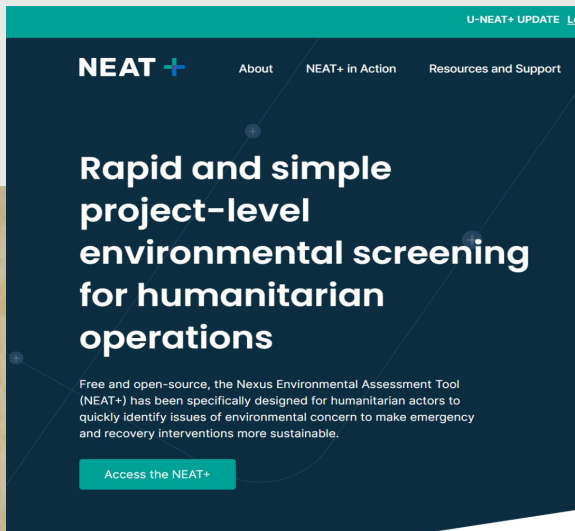
To date, **527** Humanitarian Organizations have signed the [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](#)

- We are Stronger, When We Work Together



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Scalable Technologies: Digital Transformation in Humanitarian Action Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+)



What's Next?
NEAT+ Strategy
Meeting Nov 4-5, 2026
Geneva & Hybrid



Role of ethical A.I.? Privacy? Accuracy?

**JOINT INITIATIVE FOR GREENER
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

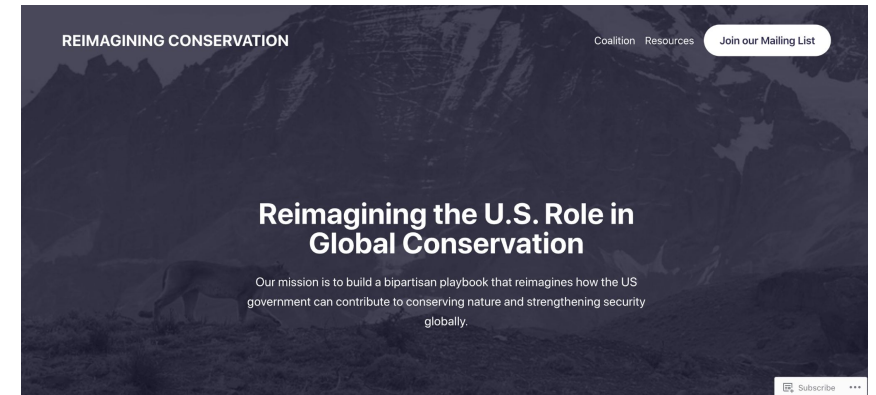


Q&A

1. What have we lost?
2. What can we do now?

WRAP UP Optimism is not Optional

- Connecting environment and economic growth, Green Economy
- Innovation comes out of Disasters
 - Problems give Purpose
- Move Forward even if not at Scale
- Can't do Everything, but all can do Something
- More than Survive, build Coalitions



Top 5 Key Lessons from USAID ESIA

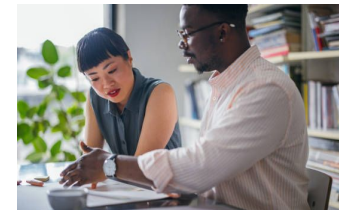
“Too early to tell or too late to do anything about it”



1. ESIA Staffing is Critical, Be Creative in Workforce Development
2. Work in external multilateral teams...Don't suffer in isolation
 - a. Connect your ESIA practice to international standards
3. Integrate ESIA compliance follow-through robustly in contracting; monitoring, evaluation & reporting; staff and partner training.
4. Beyond regulatory compliance can achieve better results
5. Consistent trusted relationships are essential
 - a. International and Local actors working together

Things We Should Do Now...

1. Join “OneAid” effort on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests
 - a. FOIA requests for USAID Environmental Database
2. Partner with organizations to host lost USAID ESIA info
3. Write Op-Eds about USAID ESIA risks in “Trade Over Aid”
4. Write journal articles to capture USAID lessons from over 100 Environmental Officers globally
5. Supporting Next Generation of ESIA practitioners, Mentoring



Gratitude & Acknowledgements

Brian Ward, Ordinary Alvarez-Campos, Victor Bullen, Brian Hirsch,
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Caitlin Corner-Dolloff, Bethzaida Colon, Teresa Bernhard

Masoom Hamdard, Shannon Johnson, Zoely Ramanase

Susan Patterson, Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show
Professor. Mark Patterson, Northeastern University

Wes Fisher, Charles Kelly

Bridget John, Jennifer Howell, Sue Quinn, Gary Baker CEO IAIA

They Can Take Away Our Jobs, But the Work Still Needs to Be Done!

[Cynthia Gill](#)
Cynthia@focuscoaching.net



<https://reimaginingconservation.com/>



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IAIA26
QUÉBEC CITY, CANADA

Let's continue the conversation!

USAID's ESIA Legacy and Looking Forward

Come Back for a Workshop right here!

304AB @ 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

#iaia26

EXTRA SLIDES

TO REFINE THE TOP 5

Lessons for ESIA...

1. Staffing is critical to tailor to needs, Be Proactive & Creative
 - Otherwise poor communications, confusion
2. Work in external multilateral teams
 - Don't Suffer in isolation
3. Always keep the focus at community level
 - Nothing about us, without us
4. Find imperfect solutions, and be flexible to change
5. Speak up & Build coalitions
 - 2 Stages: “Too early to tell or too late to do anything about it”

Top 10 Key Lessons from IAIA for USAID ESIA

1. Tie ESIA and safeguards practice to international standards (env/social integration, indirect impacts &tc.)
2. Integrate ESIA follow-through consistently and robustly in contracting; monitoring, evaluation & reporting; staff and partner training.
3. Marissa economic disaster due to waste
4. Marissa environmental disaster due to waste
5. Abdel
6. Abdel
7. Elisa: Although USAID' safeguarding approach had oversights, including a specific approach to social impact safeguarding, the Agency was regularly reviewing and evolving their processes and policies.
8. Elisa lack of evidence base info, had negative impact on dismantling, how to combat disinformation, misinformation (digital continuity losses?) (See slide 31)

Top 10 Lessons in IAIA from USAID ESIA

1. Tie ESIA and safeguards practice to international standards (env/social integration, indirect impacts &tc.)
2. Integrate ESIA follow-through consistently and robustly in contracting; monitoring, evaluation & reporting; staff and partner training.
3. Marissa Global interconnectedness - economic disaster due to physical waste
4. Marissa environmental disaster due to physical waste
5. Abdel: **Domestic Resources Mobilization**: Economic sustainability in waste management requires shifting from external aid to internal financial resilience;
6. Abdel: **Decentralization**, locally-driven governance are the only path to sustainable impact; Elisa: How to make best use of taxpayer funds, Congressional directional
7. Elisa lack of evidence base info, had negative impact on dismantling, how to combat disinformation, misinformation (digital continuity losses?) (See slide 31)
8. Erika Important to work multilaterally, Stronger Together
9. Erika Overlooked cumulative risks like pesticides, Ramsar, packaging

Top 10 Key Lessons from IAIA for USAID ESIA

1. Mark ESIA suffered without performance indicators BUT we also had too indicators (Feast or famine)
2. Mark staffing FSNs
3. Marissa economic disaster due to physical waste
4. Marissa environmental disaster due to physical waste
- 5.