

GREAT Women Project



The Environment and Social Management Guidelines: Ensuring Environmentally-Sound and Gender Sensitive Enterprises



Philippine
Commission
on Women

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The Environment and Social Management Guidelines

Ensuring Environmentally-Sound and Gender-Sensitive Enterprises

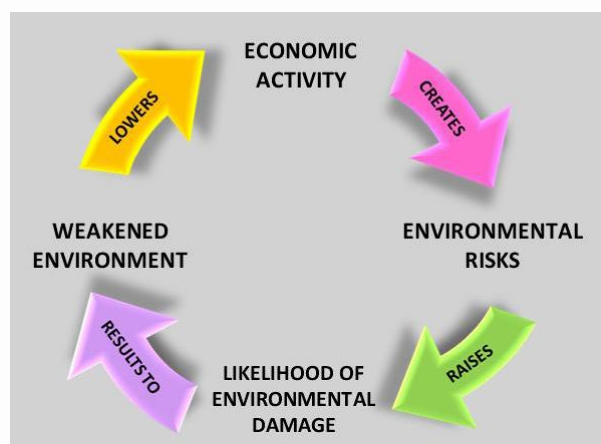
Crafting the ESMG

Making enterprises resilient require environmental soundness and gender-responsiveness. With this, the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), through the GREAT Women Project, developed the Environment and Social Management Guidelines (ESMG), a tool to push forward environmentally-sustainable and gender-responsive enterprises.

Adopted in 2010, ESGM is a tool that aims to identify and address environmental problems that may be caused by establishing new and up-scaling enterprises. It likewise suggests principles and interventions for managing environmental risks and reducing risks brought about by disasters in enterprise development. It was initially intended for use by national and local government project partners.

ESMG As An Enterprise And Environment Tool

The ESGM contains the Enterprise Social and Environmental Assessment (ESEEA) tool, the Good Environmental and Social Practice (GESP) Plan, and a Negative List of Enterprises. It complements the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) required by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for enterprises to secure an environmental permit, which is not currently required of micro- and small enterprises.



Applying the ESMG

PCW is the first national government agency that issued an environment and social management policy, according to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Environmental Adviser. ESGM, as a policy framework tool, was developed for two years in partnership with the DENR, Department of Labor-Occupational Safety and Health Center (DOLE-OSHC) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). After its adoption in February 2010, ESGM was rolled-out to partner national and local government partners by mid-2011.

National government agencies and local government units may adopt the ESGM in two ways: 1) use as a national or local policy or as a pattern for future policymaking, or 2) adopt as a tool and process in local planning and capacity development.

National and local governments should first undergo an orientation on the ESGM as well as other capacity development interventions. Such interventions include climate

The Environment and Social Management Guidelines

Ensuring Environmentally-Sound and Gender-Sensitive Enterprises

change and disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), resources assessment and monitoring, environmental policies, gender analysis, occupational safety and health (OSH), social protection, and assessment of gender-responsiveness of technologies.

The ESMG analyses the current situation of a specific enterprise by determining possible environmental and social risks and its corresponding scope and impact. It has a 'negative list' that identifies enterprise activities that should be restricted as they pose direct environmental and social hazards. Enterprises dealing with manufacture and sale of explosives, endangered flora and fauna, restricted chemicals and distribution of machinery that can rapidly deplete critical natural resources as well as those that use forced labor and exploit women and children are banned.

After weeding the 'negative listed' enterprises, the 'acceptable' enterprises are assessed using the Enterprise Social and Environmental Assessment (ESEA) Tool, which is divided into two (2) major parts: Environmental Assessment and Social Assessment.

The Environmental Assessment focuses on the potential risks faced and posed by the enterprise. It contains a set of 15-questions that asks if enterprises are operating in certain climate conditions and if weather patterns have caused problems in its operations. It also inquires about the location, sources of raw materials, chemical use in the production process, waste generation, hazardous waste generation, air emissions, water significance, and human and/or animal waste generation of the enterprise.

The Social Assessment, on the other hand, poses a set of questions to determine whether there has been consistent and systematic attention given to the differences between women and men in the enterprise. It asks about the location, accidents, presence of safety signages, equipment and implements used, presence of proper ventilation, presence of proper lighting, existence of child labor and presence of women employees in the enterprise.

After using the ESEA, national and local governments draw out issues and concerns on environmental and social management and address such using the Good Environmental and Social Practice (GESP) Plan. The GESP Plan contains a matrix of proposed interventions and measures that may be adopted through agency and LGU plans to avoid, mitigate, and adapt to environmental impacts posed by enterprises.

PCW selected Gainza, one of the member municipalities of the Metro Naga Development Council (MNDC), as its pilot area for ESMG.

The Environment and Social Management Guidelines

Ensuring Environmentally-Sound and Gender-Sensitive Enterprises

Piloting ESMG in the Municipality of Gainza

Gainza is known for its crab paste production. Prior to the ESMG piloting, women crabpaste producers were not aware of the depleting crabs and other freshwater resources in the area. While there is one material recovery facility (MRF) in Barangay San Juan, there was no set of governing rules and procedures on solid waste management at the local level. Disposal of solid waste was difficult for barangays where there are inadequate solid waste management facilities for household and enterprise wastes. Majority of enterprises usually dispose their waste by burning, dumping and composting in their own backyards, while some segregate and sell recycled waste.

Because of the pilot-testing of ESMG in Gainza, the local government increased its awareness on the effects of enterprises on the environment. As a result, the municipal government issued a Fishery Code, which ensures the sustainability of raw materials such as crabs and other freshwater resources used in women's livelihoods and microenterprises. This local legislation was jointly developed by the municipal government, Region 5's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Camarines Sur Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO); its implementing rules and regulations (IRR) are currently being developed.

The Fishery Code additionally mandated the establishment of a sanctuary out of the areas where crabs are harvested. This crab sanctuary is within the municipality's confines along the Bicol River. Women microentrepreneurs were enjoined as volunteer safeguards to watch over the sanctuary. Women microentrepreneur groups, such as the Cagbunga Crabpaste Producers' Association of Gainza (CCPAG), adopted better solid waste management measures by using a closed pit for waste water and crab waste.

Aside from the Fishery Code, Gainza planned to institutionalize the ESMG tool by adopting it through a local ordinance. It likewise intended to convert waste crab shells into animal feeds for poultry and livestock as part of its waste management system. Exploratory meetings were conducted with milling companies like B-MEG which were interested implementing the plan.

The Environment and Social Management Guidelines

Ensuring Environmentally-Sound and Gender-Sensitive Enterprises

The ESMG was rolled-out, later on, in other GREAT Women Project sites such as Quezon, Bohol and PALMA+PB Alliance in North Cotabato.

Other developments in the ESMG roll-out

In Quezon, General Nakar's Solid Waste Management Program espoused the essential role of women in managing the environment. Through the project, the campaign on the importance of solid waste management involved women in trading posts to maintain cleanliness, especially of public markets. The "no-plastic policy" of the municipalities of Real, Infanta and General Nakar (REINA) emphasized the role of women stall owners in using alternative means to pack goods other than the use of plastic bags.

Common service facilities (CSFs) in Metro Naga made moves to ensure sustainability of rawmaterials and observe proper waste disposal. Bohol, on the other hand, crafted an ordinance protecting bamboo and buri sources.

In PALMA+PB Alliance, initiatives on environmental sustainability were also introduced. Aleosan encouraged barangay officials to sustain sources of raw materials for nito, a local plant for handicraft weaving. It also passed an ordinance prohibiting production of charcoal from wood and, instead, promoted the use of corn cobs as alternatives. Pigcawayan, on the other hand, established a bamboo nursery and participated in DENR's national greening program, committing to plant bamboo in over 50 hectares of land.

About The Project

The Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women (GREAT Women) Project is a governance and capacity development project that aims to promote and support a gender-responsive enabling environment for women's economic empowerment, particularly those in microenterprises.

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), the national machinery for the advancement of women in the Philippines, is the lead executing agency for the Project.

The Commission forged partnership with key national government agencies involved in micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprise (MSME) development and select local government units to create a gender-responsive enabling environment for women's economic empowerment. This project receives technical and financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

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