

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT JAPAN INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA)’S GUIDELINES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL
CONSIDERATIONS (January 2022)

* If there is any ambiguity in the English version and/or any inconsistencies with the Japanese version, the Japanese version shall prevail.

20 July 2011
(Revised on 4 January 2022)

➤ Answers to general questions about the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations (“the JICA Guidelines”)

Questions	Answers
When were the JICA Guidelines developed and revised?	<p>Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter called “JICA”) became the inclusive executing agency of Japanese ODA, responsible for technical cooperation, loan aid and grant aid since October 2008 and the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations (promulgated in April 2010) (hereinafter called “the JICA Guidelines (April 2010)”) were developed, based on the characteristics of each assistance method.</p> <p>In 2020, 10 years after enforcement of the JICA Guidelines (April 2010), an Advisory Council for the Revising Guidelines was established to revise the JICA Guidelines (April 2010) while ensuring transparency and accountability based on the provisions of the Guidelines above. The revised JICA Guidelines is promulgated in January 2022 and enforced in April 2022. In this FAQ, the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Consideration (promulgated in January 2022) are referred to as “the JICA Guidelines” below.</p>
What are “FAQs”?	<p>According to the JICA Guidelines 1.9, “JICA discloses “Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations” (FAQ), which is a supplementary explanation to the JICA Guidelines. The FAQ is prepared based on international trends and good practices, and does not constitute a part of the JICA Guidelines. JICA refers to the FAQ in the implementation of the</p>

	<p>JICA Guidelines.”</p> <p>This FAQ were prepared to answer questions and concerns regarding the JICA Guidelines. In case it is difficult to understand the body text of the JICA Guidelines, please refer to this FAQ as well.</p>
<p>Why does JICA incorporate environmental and social considerations in its operations?</p>	<p>JICA’s development assistance is provided not as a temporary response but as a form of support for sustainable development. The integration of environmental and social considerations into development assistance is essential for ensuring sustainability. Insufficient attention to environmental and social impacts of development projects may impair the basis for development, hampering the development. A careful consideration is required for achieving sustainable development by balancing development with natural environment, livelihoods of project affected people and so forth.</p>
<p>Are the JICA Guidelines consistent with international organizations’ systems on environmental and social considerations?</p>	<p>The JICA Guidelines are intended to be consistent with systems on environmental and social considerations of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other international organizations, in terms of procedures for environmental and social considerations; consultations with stakeholders; categorization for screening; contents of environmental assessment reports and resettlement action plans, and so forth. Section 2.6 of the JICA Guidelines states, “JICA confirms that environmental and social considerations of a project do not deviate significantly from the World Bank’s environmental and social policies.”</p>
<p>Is coordination needed between the JICA Guidelines and the laws and regulations of the host country governments?</p>	<p>The first priority is to apply laws and regulations, such as environmental assessment, of the host country governments, and JICA confirms the compliance of them based on Section 2.6 of the JICA Guidelines. In addition, JICA confirms that environmental and social considerations of a project do not deviate significantly from the World Bank’s environmental and social policies. When JICA recognizes that environmental and social considerations of a project are deviate significantly from them, JICA encourages the project proponents to take more</p>

	appropriate environmental and social considerations through a series of dialogues.
Can project proponents respond to the requirements under the JICA Guidelines?	Many countries where projects are implemented currently have laws and guidelines on environmental assessment. Other donors also require implementation of environmental assessments. JICA considers that project proponents can comply with the JICA Guidelines, whereas JICA also supports the project proponents to implement appropriate environmental and social considerations if necessary.
Is information on environment and social aspects that JICA requires actually available?	Yes, JICA thinks it can obtain information it needs. Project proponents, usually appropriately collect information and conduct surveys on potential environmental and social impacts of their projects and take measures to address issues identified. If necessary, JICA provides support to project proponents, for instance, through its preparatory surveys.
Does JICA disseminate to the international community its efforts to address the incorporation of environmental and social considerations under the JICA Guidelines?	In order to disseminate the concept of the JICA Guidelines, JICA actively disseminates its approaches to the inclusion of environmental and social considerations at such occasions as international conferences and consultation meetings with project proponents.
What activities have been conducted to disseminate the JICA Guidelines widely among all related parties at home and abroad?	<p>The JICA Guidelines are published as a hardcopy and posted on the JICA website to reach a wider audience. The JICA Guidelines are translated into English, Spanish and French, and all of these are posted as well.</p> <p>The processes for development and revision of the JICA Guidelines ensured transparency, through obtaining opinions from academic experts, NGO, private sectors and related ministries, as well as public comments. Minutes and distributed materials of the meetings and comments were promptly disclosed on the website. JICA has also explained the content of the JICA Guidelines to project proponents.</p> <p>JICA continues its efforts to improve its institutional framework</p>

	<p>and further disseminate the JICA Guidelines inside and outside of Japan.</p>
<p>Isn't there a risk that the implementation of the JICA Guidelines may make JICA unable to make a speedy response as before, requiring more time for project appraisal?</p>	<p>While it is necessary to confirm the incorporation of environmental and social considerations in accordance with sector, nature and content of each project, the progress of a project must not be impeded by delays in JICA's appraisal procedures.</p> <p>To prompt the procedures while ensuring the inclusion of environmental and social considerations, JICA takes the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introducing screening procedures to identify projects likely to have significant impacts on the environment and social. Such projects are subject to more elaborate confirmation of environmental and social considerations. - A screening form including a set of questions for project proponents, and sector-specific checklists. - Sharing information and exchanging views with other co-financing institutions and other institutions. - Formulating projects based on the JICA Guidelines by utilizing preparatory surveys conducted through outside experts in specific sectors in accordance with the nature and details of the projects.
<p>What measures are taken in emergency situations?</p>	<p>Even in emergency situations, it is desirable that the procedures described in the JICA Guidelines should be followed in principle. However, in cases, such as restorations following natural disasters or conflicts, where it is highly emergent and there is clearly no time to follow the procedures for environmental and social considerations in accordance with the JICA Guidelines, JICA reports categorization results, reasons why the situations were decided to be as emergencies and procedures to follow to the Advisory Committee for Environmental and Social Considerations at the early stages of such events, while disclosing such information to the public.</p> <p>When deemed necessary, JICA asks the committee for advice.</p>

	<p>So far, there were several cases deemed “emergency” in Technical Cooperation for Development Planning, etc. In such cases, given the emergency situations, the process to confirm the incorporation of environmental and social considerations, which should have been otherwise conducted, was omitted. Note, however, that JICA confirmed at the implementation stage of the Technical Cooperation for Development Planning that environmental and social considerations had been incorporated, to ensure the implementation in an appropriate manner. Emergency measures may be taken in other schemes than Technical Cooperation for Development Planning in future.</p>
<p>Why is the phrase “when necessary” used in the JICA Guidelines?</p>	<p>A wide variety of projects is subject to the JICA Guidelines. Since the nature of projects and the timing of JICA’s involvement are determined for each project, applying uniform standards to all projects is difficult. Furthermore, dividing standards into various possible cases may make the JICA Guidelines too complicated. Some projects should be flexibly addressed on a case-by-case basis. Accordingly, JICA uses the phrase “where necessary” to make the JICA Guidelines effective and easy to read.</p>
<p>The word “desirable” is used in sections of “Scope of Impacts to Be Assessed” and “Indigenous Peoples” in Appendix 1. Is this consistent with the descriptions in Chapters 2 and 3 of the Guidelines?</p>	<p>The expression is used since the JICA Guidelines include what is recommended (“desirable”) as well as what is necessary (“must”).</p>

➤ Answers to questions on the application and review of the JICA Guidelines

Questions	Answers
<p>Given that the revised and promulgated JICA Guidelines in January 2022 came into effect from April 2022, are they applied to projects for which official requests are made thereafter?</p>	<p>The JICA Guidelines revised and promulgated in January 2022 are applicable to projects for which official requests are made from April 2022 onwards. More specifically, it should be decided based on the timing of official request from project proponents to the Japanese government.</p>
<p>Are the JICA Guidelines applied to projects for which decisions on assistance have already been made?</p>	<p>The JICA Guidelines come into effect on April 1, 2022, and are applied to projects requested after the enforcement date (April 1, 2022).</p> <p>For the projects whose official requests are made before March 31st, 2022, “the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations (April 2010)” are applied. For preparatory surveys, agreed to be implemented with project proponents before March 31st, 2022, and cooperation projects based on those surveys, “the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations (April 2010)” are applicable.</p> <p>For projects whose applications were made before June 30th 2010, “the JBIC Guidelines for Confirmation of Environmental and Social Considerations (April 2002)” are applicable to loan aid, and “the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations (April 2004)” are applicable to technical cooperation for development planning. In case of grant aid (excluding those offered via international organizations), “the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations (April 2004)” are referred to. Preparatory surveys whose implementation has been agreed upon with project proponents, before June 30th, 2010, follow procedures as required by the previous guidelines, not the JICA Guidelines.</p>
<p>Are not the JICA Guidelines applied to schemes other than the target schemes?</p>	<p>The JICA Guidelines cover the following schemes: 1) loan aid (Finance and Investment Cooperation), 2) grant aid (excluding projects executed through international</p>

	<p>organizations), 3) technical cooperation for development planning, 4) technical cooperation projects, and 5) schemes similar to the above and related studies. Other than these schemes, such as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, trainings programs and dispatches of individual experts, are not covered by the JICA Guidelines.</p>
<p>What is “the schemes similar to the above and related studies” specified in (5) of 1.7 “Covered Schemes” of the JICA Guidelines? How does JICA undertake procedures for environmental and social considerations for these schemes and surveys, in accordance with the JICA Guidelines?</p>	<p>“The schemes similar to the above and related studies” includes, for instance, “preparatory studies of grant aid undertaken by Ministry of Foreign Affairs,” Feasibility Survey and Verification Survey of the Support for SMEs and SDGs Businesses, and projects entrusted by the Green Climate Fund. When a new scheme is added, JICA will check whether the scheme falls into “(5) schemes similar to the above and related studies”, and will append that in this FAQ. A project, which falls into (5) above, needs to comply with the requirements and the procedures that are required by the JICA Guidelines for the similar or related projects.</p>
<p>For co-financing projects, will a harmonized approach, called as a common approach, be implemented for co-financing procedures?</p>	<p>For co-financing projects, JICA maintains compliance with the JICA Guidelines, while striving to apply a common approach where it is possible to harmonize environmental and social consideration procedures with the co-financers. By doing so, JICA endeavors to avoid the borrower’s burden associated with differences in the environmental and social consideration procedures between the co-financers as much as possible.</p>
<p>Specifically, when and how will the JICA Guidelines be revised?</p>	<p>As mentioned in 2.10. 2 of the JICA Guidelines, JICA verifies the status of the implementation of the JICA Guidelines, and will reexamine its way of procedures within five years of their enforcement by hearing the opinions of concerned people. Based on the review result, JICA will conduct a comprehensive review of the JICA Guidelines within ten years of the enforcement of the JICA Guidelines. Based on findings, revisions will be made, as needed. When revisions are required, JICA will collect and</p>

	consider opinions from the Japanese government, governments and NGOs of developing countries, NGOs in Japan, the private sector, and experts, then follow the process that ensures transparency and accountability.
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➤ Answers to questions on the procedures for environmental and social considerations in general

Questions	Answers
The JICA Guidelines mention that “JICA applies a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)”. What activities are specifically conducted in an SEA?	JICA applies an SEA for preparatory surveys involving the formation of sectoral and regional cooperation and upper-stream-level studies, and master plan surveys for the Technical Cooperation for Development Planning. Specifically, an SEA may include: examination on policy and plan of a project at the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) level, scoping, confirmation of the status of environmental and social situations to be a baseline, estimation and evaluation of impacts, examination of alternative plans including a case where the proposed project is not implemented, mitigation measures, information disclosure and support for consultation with stakeholders.
The terms “guidelines for environmental and social considerations” and “environmental and social considerations” are frequently used. How does JICA define “environmental and social considerations” in the JICA Guidelines?	Section 1.3 of the JICA Guidelines defines “environmental and social considerations” as “considering impacts on human health and safety, natural environment and society.” Please refer to Section 2.3 of the JICA Guidelines for the specific items to be considered.
JICA’s environment-related activities include checking adverse impacts of individual projects on environment and support for projects that contribute to environmental improvement. Do the	The JICA Guidelines also refer to projects that contribute to improving the environment. The preface of the JICA Guidelines explicitly states, “JICA has a policy to actively support projects that promote environmental conservation/improvement and projects that contribute to the protection of the global environment, such as

<p>JICA Guidelines cover such support in their scope?</p>	<p>reductions and removals of greenhouse gas emissions.” For example, preferential conditions may be applied to loan aid projects for areas, such as forestry preservation and forestation, energy conservation and resource saving, preservation of the natural environment, and environmental management etc. Proactive support is provided to projects that contribute to improving the environment.</p>
<p>In the JICA Guidelines, the terms “confirmation of environmental and social considerations” and “environmental review” are used. In what sense are these terms used?</p>	<p>JICA’s methods to ensure the incorporation of environmental and social considerations into loan aid, grant aid and technical cooperation projects are divided into three stages: screening, environmental review and monitoring. That is to say, “environmental review” is included in the process for the “confirmation of environmental and social considerations.”</p>
<p>Is it necessary to examine all elements of “the impacts to be assessed” listed with regard to environmental and social considerations?</p>	<p>The JICA Guidelines list a wide range of impacts to be assessed with regard to environmental and social considerations. However, this does not mean that all the impacts listed under 2.3 “Impacts to be Assessed” of the JICA Guidelines are examined in each project. Elements to be addressed in each project are narrowed down through scoping.</p>
<p>It may be difficult to specify all items to be checked for each project. What measures does JICA take to prevent any of the items from being left out for confirmation?</p>	<p>While JICA makes use of screening forms and environmental checklists to ensure to the greatest extent possible that no omissions occur, it also takes measures to supplement the process. For example, for Category A projects, confirming the procedures for consultation with local stakeholders and information disclosure is useful to avoid missing out what to be checked. Section 3.2.1.4.(1)3 of the JICA Guidelines writes that “JICA also reviews the results of information disclosure and local stakeholder consultations.” to ensure appropriate operations.</p>

<p>If a third party provides JICA with information whose authenticity the party cannot demonstrate, in an attempt to thwart a project, how will JICA deal with such information?</p>	<p>JICA welcomes information from third parties. Of information JICA receives, the information that is deemed reliable and of significance will be used as a reference by JICA for the inclusion of environmental and social considerations. However, it is not desirable for JICA to spend considerable time and cost to confirm information of low reliability, such as unknown sources, in terms of the efficient operations required for a public institution. Therefore, third parties are kindly requested to provide factual and accurate information whose authenticity they can demonstrate.</p>
<p>Who will conduct environmental assessments and monitoring under the JICA Guidelines?</p>	<p>Environmental assessments and monitoring shall be conducted primarily by project proponents, who are best informed of the project and have ownership of the projects. Specifically, in order to ensure the transparency and objectivity of the environmental assessments and monitoring, the JICA Guidelines clearly state the requirements to project proponents, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) When environmental assessment procedures already exist in host countries, and projects are subject to such procedures, project proponents must officially finish those procedures and obtain the approval from the approval agencies of the host country. (Appendix 2) 2) Environmental assessment reports are required to be made available in the host country, including for local residents. (Appendix 2) 3) Sufficient consultations with local stakeholders, such as local residents, must be conducted. The outcome of such consultations must be incorporated into the project plans. (Appendix 1 “Social Acceptability”) 4) Project proponents should make efforts to make the monitoring results available to local stakeholders involved in the project. (Appendix 1 “Monitoring”)
<p>Does JICA assist project proponents with the preparation of an environmental assessment report?</p>	<p>Project proponents carry out procedures for preparing an environmental assessment report and performing an environmental assessment based on their domestic laws.</p>

	<p>JICA conducts surveys on environmental and social considerations and supports the preparation of materials required for the environmental assessment as needed.</p>
<p>How does JICA support the preparation of environmental assessment reports?</p>	<p>JICA assists project proponents, in preparing environmental assessment reports through preparatory surveys and engineering service loans. Preparatory surveys are led by JICA, and engineering services, which cover survey and/or detailed design, by project proponents. Therefore, in the case of preparatory surveys, JICA helps project proponents, prepare environmental assessment reports. When utilizing engineering service loans, JICA reviews environmental assessment reports, etc., prepared by project proponents, to ensure that environmental and social considerations are incorporated into the projects as required.</p>
<p>How does JICA ensure appropriate environmental and social considerations of the engineering service loans (E/S loans), if there are expected environmental and social impacts due to preparatory physical works during the engineering service loans?</p>	<p>E/S loans are provided prior to the subsequent main projects, and cover engineering services, such as detailed data collection on site, detailed design, and preparation of bidding documents, which are necessary at the survey and design stage for implementation of the main projects. Such services are basically conducted on a desktop basis and no environmental and social impacts are expected to be generated from such services typically performed during the E/S loans. However, during the provision of the E/S loans, some preparatory physical works, such as exploratory drillings for geothermal power projects and civil works for construction of access roads for the exploratory drillings, may cause environmental and social impacts, even though these works are not main civil works. In such cases, JICA confirms that environmental and social considerations for such impacts brought by preparatory physical works fulfill the requirements of JICA Guidelines, during the environmental review prior to the provision of the E/S loans, in accordance with 3 of (5) of Section 3.2.1 of the JICA Guidelines. Additionally, JICA ensures appropriate environmental and social considerations</p>

	through monitoring during the provision of the E/S loans.
For environmental assessment reports for category A projects, how is Appendix 2 of the JICA Guidelines to be applied to the cases of waiting for the approval of the reports submitted to the approval agencies of host countries? How is the Appendix 2 to be applied to environmental assessment reports, which have been prepared by project proponents and approved, without conducting preparatory survey by JICA?	In principle, the environmental assessment reports submitted to the approval agencies of host countries should fulfill the requirements specified in Appendix 2 of the JICA Guidelines. However, some of the requirements are not required to be fulfilled at the submission of the reports, but are expected to be fulfilled adequately at the time of approval or after the approval. Such requirements include, for example, “project proponents must officially finish the environmental assessment procedures and obtain the approval based on the environmental assessment regulations,” and “environmental assessment reports are required to be available at all times to stakeholders such as local residents, and to be available for photocopying.” Similarly, in principle, the environmental assessment reports, which have been prepared by project proponents and approved without conducting a preparatory survey, should fulfill the requirements specified in Appendix 2 of the JICA Guidelines. When finding a substantial gap between the reports and the requirements of the Appendix 2, JICA would encourage project proponents to undertake appropriate environmental and social considerations through the environmental review, in accordance with the Section 2.8.1.1. of the JICA Guidelines.
What sources does JICA use to collect environmental information regarding projects?	JICA collects environmental information regarding projects through project proponents. JICA recognizes the importance of information provided by other sources as well as project proponents, in ensuring the inclusion of environmental and social considerations. JICA also has been making efforts to collect information from sources other than project proponents through its own field surveys, etc. and will continue such efforts.
The JICA Guidelines state, “[...] a committee of experts may be formed” (Appendix 1, “1. Basic	JICA considers that the procedures stated in Appendix 1 of the JICA Guidelines should be conducted by project proponents as part of their environmental and social

<p>Principles”). Does this mean that JICA may form a committee of experts to seek opinions from outside experts?</p>	<p>considerations. The JICA Guidelines also has a stipulation related to the formation of a committee of experts as an item of environmental and social considerations required for projects. The World Bank’s Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) 1 paragraph 33 states this as a requirement to the Borrower as given below: “For projects that are High Risk or contentious, or that involve serious multidimensional environmental or social risks or impacts, the Borrower may be required to engage one or more internationally recognized independent experts. Such experts may, depending on the project, form part of an advisory panel or be otherwise employed by the Borrower, and will provide independent advice and oversight to the project.”</p>
<p>What is the role of the Advisory Committee for Environmental and Social Considerations?</p>	<p>The Advisory Committee for Environmental and Social Considerations is a committee that provides advice on supporting and confirming the environmental and social considerations of cooperation projects. It is a third-party organization consisting of external experts. For Category A projects and if necessary Category B projects, the committee provides advice on environmental and social considerations at the stage of preparatory survey. At the stages of environmental review and monitoring, the committee receives a report and provides advice as needed. For Technical Cooperation for Development Planning, the committee provides advice on the inclusion of environmental and social considerations at the stage of full-scale survey.</p> <p>Targets of the advice and timing for calling the committee can be found in “2. Tasks of the committee” of the Principles and Operation Guidance of the Advisory Committee for Environmental and Social Considerations (Japanese): https://www.jica.go.jp/environment/advice/ku57pq0000n-etg3-att/advice_meyasu.pdf</p>

<p>How will the results of the environmental reviews be used in decision-making and in agreement documents?</p>	<p>The results of the environmental reviews are used in making decisions regarding the conclusion of agreement documents, including the incorporation of the results into agreement documents. As set forth in 2.8.1. of the JICA Guidelines, JICA would make the utmost effort to ensure following through agreement documents, in accordance with the nature and characteristics of projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Monitoring results; 2) Consultation with local stakeholders when a problem arises; and 3) Possibility of suggesting changes to projects (including discontinuation and early amortization).
<p>What are the cases where “JICA concludes that it is impossible to ensure environmental and social considerations”?</p>	<p>Examples of such cases may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project is obviously considered irrelevant even after going through comparative examination with alternative plans including “without project” scenario; - The project is expected to have significant adverse impacts when implemented even if mitigation measures are taken; - Participation of the affected residents or social is very limited and is not expected to increase in future, despite significant adverse impacts predicted; and - Difficulties are expected in avoiding environmental and social impacts of the project and implementing mitigation measures, given social and institutional conditions of the region.

➤ Answers to questions on categorization

Questions	Answers
<p>Isn't it necessary to set out clear standards or give illustrations for categorization?</p>	<p>Since different projects, regardless of project size, have different environmental and social impacts depending on the environment in which actual projects are conducted, JICA considers that it is inappropriate to set out uniform standards of categorization.</p>

<p>With regards to a change in the category designated to a project, if, for example, concerns about a serious environmental and social impact arises midway through the project and the project classification has been changed to Category A from Category B, is the project required to meet the requirements for Category A under the JICA Guidelines?</p>	<p>When the project classification has been changed to Category A after an environmental review, JICA, in principle, encourages project proponents to meet the Category A requirements of the JICA Guidelines. JICA discloses the summary of the change and a new category to the public. Key documents concerning environmental and social considerations incorporated are disclosed immediately after they are obtained and an environmental review is performed.</p>
<p>What is JICA's policy on the timing of information disclosure regarding categorization results?</p>	<p>JICA discloses project categorization results at the earliest possible time. Specifically, for a project involving a preparatory survey, the result of the categorization is disclosed before a decision on implementation of a preparatory survey is made. For a project without a preparatory survey, the result is disclosed after receiving an official request (JICA Guidelines 3.1.2.2 and 3.2.1.2).</p>
<p>May JICA change the category of projects, based on new information obtained from stakeholders and third parties as well as project proponents, after the results of the categorization have been made public? If yes, how will such information be disclosed?</p>	<p>The project category made available to the public before agreement document is signed is a tentative one and is not definitive. Therefore, new information made available to JICA after disclosing screening information may lead to a change in category. When a category change has occurred, JICA intends to promptly change the information on the website, providing the rationale.</p>
<p>What is Category FI?</p>	<p>Category FI, for example, applies to loan aid project whose sub-projects to be funded are not specified at the time of the signing of agreement document and for which JICA cannot check the inclusion of environmental and social considerations prior to the signing of agreement document.</p>

<p>Is a project that has already been specified still classified as Category FI, if JICA's funding of projects is provided to a financial intermediary?</p>	<p>Category FI only applies to cases where projects to be financed are unspecified prior to the signing of agreement document. Accordingly, when the project is specified prior to the signing of agreement document, the project to be financed is not classified as Category FI even if JICA's funding of the project is provided to a financial intermediary. In such case, the project will be classified as Category A, B, or C.</p>
<p>What are the review procedures for Category FI?</p>	<p>In order to ensure that environmental and social considerations are incorporated into Category FI sub-projects practically in a same manner as projects in other categories (for which the inclusion of environmental and social considerations is confirmed at the time of the signing of agreement document), Section 3.2.1.4.(4)1 of the JICA Guidelines states that "JICA reviews, through the financial intermediary or executing agency, to ensure a project's appropriate environmental and social considerations stated in the JICA Guidelines. JICA also reviews institutional capacity of the financial intermediary or executing agency for implementation of environmental and social considerations, and if necessary, requires adequate measures to be taken to strengthen the capacity." Specifically, examples of the measures include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Confirming the capacity of the financial intermediary, etc. for ensuring the inclusion of environmental and social considerations and delegating them a task of confirming the inclusion of environmental and social considerations as required in the JICA Guidelines; 2) When the financial intermediary, etc., are deemed not to have sufficient capacity for the task, the financial intermediary, etc., are required to employ consultants to strengthen their capacity for ensuring the inclusion of environmental and social considerations; and 3) Making Category A sub-projects ineligible for sub-loans. <p>Due to difficulties in uniformly determining the most</p>

	<p>appropriate measure to be taken, JICA has chosen to indicate the basic principles as above. The JICA Guidelines stipulate that JICA discloses the results of environmental reviews on Category FI projects on its website after concluding agreement documents.</p> <p>The JICA Guidelines set forth in 3.2.1.4.(4).3. that “JICA, in principle, undertakes the environmental reviews and information disclosure for the Category A sub-project(s) in a same manner as required for Category A projects, prior to implementation of the sub-project(s).”</p>
<p>When a project receives additional funding after having undergone screening, environmental review, etc., is the project required to go through the same procedures all over again?</p>	<p>Section 3.2.2.6. of the JICA Guidelines writes: “When a project undergoes significant changes, JICA re-categorizes the project and carries out an environmental review according to Section 3.2.1. JICA discloses an outline of the changes and the new category as well as major environmental and social considerations documents promptly after receiving them.”</p>
<p>When a project planned to run over multiple years receives funding annually after having undergone screening, environmental review, etc. for the entire project at the initial stage of the project, will it be subject to the same procedures every year?</p>	<p>JICA does not think it necessary for a project expected to run over multiple years to repeat the procedures, if the entire project has undergone screening, environmental review, etc. at the initial stage of the project, provided that impacts the project has on environment do not differ significantly from those foreseen by the first screening and environment review.</p>
<p>Is a project required to fulfill the requirements stated in Appendix 2 of the JICA Guidelines, even if the project is categorized as A due to a large-scale involuntary resettlement and/or significant impacts on indigenous peoples?</p>	<p>For a project categorized as A due to a large-scale involuntary resettlement and/or significant impacts on indigenous peoples, JICA recognizes that the project is selectively required to fulfill the requirements stated in the Appendix 2, Environmental Assessment Reports for Category A Projects, corresponding to the impacts of the project.</p>

➤ Answers to questions on information disclosure

Questions	Answers
<p>What is JICA’s policy for information disclosure?</p>	<p>The principle is that project proponents, disclose information on their own initiative. JICA also discloses information at key project implementation stages as well.</p>
<p>How is information disclosure under the JICA Guidelines related to information disclosure under the “Act on Access to Information Held by Independent Administrative Agencies” (hereinafter referred to as the “Act on Access to Information”)?</p>	<p>Information disclosure pursuant to the Act on Access to Information is to determine whether or not documents in JICA’s possession should be disclosed in response to a request from the public for disclosure.</p> <p>On the other hand, information disclosure under the JICA Guidelines is JICA’s voluntary and proactive effort to provide important information on screening and environmental review, etc., to the public to increase transparency of its operations and encourage third parties including related agencies and stakeholders to provide information. JICA considers that this will help achieve the purpose of the Act on Access to Information.</p>
<p>What information is additionally published on the website, following the new disclosure requirements introduced under the JICA Guidelines?</p>	<p>Categorization results are disclosed before the decisions on implementing a preparatory survey is made, or after receiving an official request for projects not conducting such preparatory survey, according to the JICA Guidelines. For Category A projects, the following information is disclosed prior to environmental reviews: a) Final reports on preparatory surveys or equivalent documents, b) Environmental assessment reports approved by or submitted to the approval agencies of host country governments (120 days or more prior to concluding the agreement documents, or 60 days or more prior to concluding the agreement documents for private sector investment finance) , and c) Resettlement Action Plans (in the case where large scale involuntary resettlement is required), and d) Indigenous Peoples Plans (if measures for indigenous peoples are necessary).</p> <p>In addition, the results of the environmental reviews are disclosed after concluding the agreement document, and monitoring results are disclosed at the stage of monitoring, with a consent of the project proponents.</p>

<p>The JICA Guidelines require that environmental assessment reports and other documents are made available to the public. Are there any countries that prohibit disclosure of environmental assessment report, etc.?</p>	<p>Although JICA has not looked into the status in all countries, JICA has not come across any country which prohibits the disclosure of environmental assessment report, etc., while some countries do not legally stipulate the disclosure of environmental assessment report, etc. When projects are implemented in countries where the disclosure of environmental assessment reports is not required, JICA works on project proponents, to voluntarily disclose environmental assessment reports, etc.</p>
<p>Could ignoring a legal framework of project proponents, and requiring the country to disclose the environmental assessment report, etc., and other documents constitute interference in the domestic affairs of that country?</p>	<p>Disclosure of environmental assessment report, etc., is imperative to achieve sustainable projects while incorporating environmental considerations. Therefore, JICA explains the needs and importance of information disclosing environmental assessment reports, etc., to project proponents, to ask for their understanding. However, even though the disclosure of environmental assessment report, etc., is not prohibited, some countries do not disclose them in practice. This is perhaps not merely due to a problem with their environmental assessment framework but due to a different view of “information disclosure”. Therefore, the JICA Guidelines hold the policy of requiring the disclosure of environmental assessment reports, and JICA intends to request project proponents, for disclosing environmental assessment report, etc., under the JICA Guidelines.</p> <p>In order to help project proponents understand the importance of the disclosure of environmental assessment report and other documents, JICA continues to have opportunities for consultations with them.</p>
<p>In case that JICA discloses an environmental assessment report of a Category A project submitted to, but not approved by, the approval agency of host country government 120 days before concluding the agreement documents, will JICA disclose an approved</p>	<p>For Category A projects, JICA confirms that environmental assessment reports are approved by the approval agencies of the host country governments. In principle, JICA confirms it before concluding the agreement documents. Then JICA discloses the approved reports on JICA’s information disclosure website, as soon as it is submitted to JICA by the project proponents.</p> <p>However, in truly unavoidable circumstances, such as that the approval agencies of the host country governments are expected to approve the environmental assessment reports only after concluding the agreement documents in case of co-financing</p>

<p>environmental assessment report upon approval of the report by such agency? If so, when does JICA disclose the approved reports?</p>	<p>projects, etc., JICA accepts the approval of the reports by the approval deadline based on the laws and regulations of the host countries.</p>
<p>How does JICA deal with changes of projects' environmental and social considerations or modification of projects due to a correction in the approval process by the approval agencies, advice by the Advisory Committee or the environmental review processes by JICA? This question pertains to cases of Category A projects where the date of disclosure of the environment assessment report, which is submitted to, but not approved by, the approval agencies of host country governments, is the starting date of the 120 day disclosure period.</p>	<p>For the disclosure of environmental assessment reports prior to the environmental review for Category A projects, JICA accepts either a submitted version or approved version of the reports, or in other words, the environmental assessment reports that have been submitted to or have been approved by the approval agencies of the host country governments, as the subject of disclosure. This is in order to promote stakeholder awareness and involvement as soon as possible, and to consider speeding up the procedure, through meeting the needs of project proponents and achieving early realization of development effects.</p> <p>The final approved environmental assessment reports will be disclosed, even if disclosing the submitted version (not the approved version) of the reports for fulfilment of 120 days disclosure requirement. In some cases, however, it should be difficult to reflect advice of the Advisory Committee for Environmental and Social Considerations and the result of the JICA environmental review into the judgement or approval of the environmental assessment reports conducted by the host country governments under the country's laws and regulations. JICA discloses such advice on the JICA website in Japanese, and responsibly responds to such advice through discussions with project proponents. JICA explains the results of the responses to the advice at the Advisory Committee, and discloses the results on the website. JICA also discloses the results of environmental review by JICA as ex-ante evaluation reports in Japanese and English. In addition, the latest measures are explained to the local stakeholders through local stakeholder consultations during the implementation stage.</p> <p>As such, JICA shall ensure transparency in terms of the advice and the results of JICA environmental review.</p>

<p>Is it enough to set the duration of disclosure as 60 days for environmental assessment reports of Category A projects of private sector investment finance?</p>	<p>It is necessary to ensure the sufficient and appropriate process for building a consensus with affected persons, especially in cases of projects with a large-scale involuntary resettlement or projects requiring measures for indigenous people.</p> <p>Therefore, in addition to disclosing the environmental assessment reports for 60 days, JICA confirms that the projects ensure sufficient and appropriate process for building a consensus with affected persons, and requires additional actions for social consensus as necessary during the JICA environmental review prior to concluding the agreement documents.</p>
<p>Does JICA disclose environmental assessment reports, which reflect advice of the Advisory Committee for Environmental and Social Considerations, in case of conducting preparatory surveys?</p>	<p>For Category A projects and necessary projects among Category B projects, the Advisory Committee for Environmental and Social Considerations provides advice on environmental and social considerations for the preparatory surveys. For Category A projects, the environmental assessment reports, which are disclosed for 120 days or more prior to concluding the agreement documents, should reflect the advice.</p>
<p>How is personal information treated in information disclosure?</p>	<p>Personal information which may unjustly violate rights or benefits of a person or a third party will not be subject to information disclosure. For example, information about personal properties written in a resettlement action plan falls under this category.</p>
<p>Are environmental assessment reports and other documents on Category A projects disclosed in Japan as well?</p>	<p>As for environmental assessment reports and other documents required for Category A projects, JICA notifies on the website as to whether or not JICA has obtained them. In addition, JICA discloses environmental assessment reports and other documents on its website after taking appropriate steps, for example, to exclude commercially confidential information, etc.</p>
<p>If affected local residents may have no access to websites, how can they obtain information about projects?</p>	<p>JICA’s methods to disclose information are not limited to the use of the website. Appendix 1 of the JICA Guidelines (“Social Acceptability”) regards “sufficient consultations with local stakeholders” as one of the principles of environmental and social considerations required of the project. Thus, JICA requests project proponents, to disclose information to the affected residents.</p>

<p>The JICA Guidelines writes “In case that JICA conducts preparatory surveys, JICA discloses the final report or equivalent documents, excluding information related to a bid, on its website, for Category A projects, and if necessary Category B projects, prior to the environmental review.” What are “equivalent documents”?</p>	<p>This provision indicates that even when a preparatory survey has been completed for the project and the final report has not been disclosed, JICA can perform an environmental review to confirm the inclusion of environmental and social considerations in a project, by disclosing documents which contain all necessary information, including information about environmental and social considerations. Necessary information means the project’s content and schedule, examination of the project’s relevance, information about environmental and social considerations, etc. Documents which contain the above information may be disclosed in place of the final report on the preparatory survey, prior to an environmental review.</p>
<p>Can’t environmental review results be disclosed at an early stage?</p>	<p>Given a possibility that important conditions concerning environmental and social considerations are agreed upon by the parties, JICA considers that the timing of making final decisions based on the results of the environmental reviews are when agreement documents are signed, at which point JICA publicly commits to provide support. From this point of view, JICA discloses the results of the environmental reviews after signing agreement documents.</p>
<p>Will agreement documents be disclosed after they are signed?</p>	<p>JICA actively discloses information on environmental and social considerations in accordance with the JICA Guidelines. However, note that agreement documents on grant aid and loan aid etc. will not be disclosed, due to confidentiality obligations.</p>

➤ Answers to questions on stakeholder consultation

Questions	Answers
<p>What provisions do the JICA Guidelines have in order to take into account the opinions of the project affected people?</p>	<p>In order to ensure environmental and social considerations of a project, JICA understands that it is necessary to appropriately reflect the opinions of the people who may be affected by the project, including vulnerable social groups such as women, children, elderly people, people in poverty, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, refugees, internally displaced persons, and minorities, in the projects. Appendix 1 (Social Acceptability)</p>

	<p>of the JICA Guidelines clearly states, “(...) sufficient consultations with local stakeholders, such as local residents, must be conducted (...). The outcome of such consultations must be incorporated into the project plans” and “appropriate considerations must be given to vulnerable social groups, such as women, children, elderly peoples, people in poverty, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, refugees, internally displaced persons, and minorities. Such vulnerable social groups (...) may have little access to decision-making processes within society.”</p> <p>2.1.6 of the JICA Guidelines also states, “JICA actively encourages project proponents to disclose and present information about environmental and social considerations of their projects to local stakeholders,” in order to reflect the opinions of the project affected people in the projects</p>
<p>Who hosts consultations with stakeholders?</p>	<p>Project proponents host consultations with stakeholders. JICA provides support for hosting consultations, if necessary.</p>
<p>How do the JICA Guidelines define the scope of stakeholders?</p>	<p>The “local stakeholders” are defined in 1.3. of the JICA Guidelines as “project affected individuals or groups, including informal dwellers and local NGOs.” “Stakeholders” are “individuals or groups who have knowledge and/or views about the cooperation projects, including local stakeholders.”</p> <p>Environmental assessments are conducted based on the procedures set out by host countries. As for consultations with stakeholders, the scope of stakeholders will be determined on a case-by-case basis by taking into account the content of individual projects and surrounding circumstances.</p>
<p>Is it necessary to include informal dwellers in stakeholders?</p>	<p>The residents of a project site, even though they may be living there informally, are included in local stakeholders, provided that they live or earn a living in the area. However, it is necessary to determine how to treat “professional squatters,” i.e. informal dwellers whose sole objective is to gain compensation, through consultations with the project proponents.</p>

<p>In planning and conducting consultations with stakeholders, whom does JICA regard as vulnerable social groups requiring special considerations?</p>	<p>Appendix 1 (Social Acceptability) of the JICA Guidelines states, “appropriate considerations must be given to vulnerable social groups, such as women, children, elderly peoples, people in poverty, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, refugees, internally displaced persons, and minorities.” JICA also understands that other people than stated in the JICA Guidelines, such as youths, displaced persons, female householders, the landless, people who are not eligible for compensation under national laws related to land acquisition, can be the target of the special considerations as vulnerable social groups. In addition, JICA recognizes that there are people who fall into vulnerable social groups due to their status (race and color of skin, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, language, religion, political and other opinions, property, and/or birthplace) and/or characteristics (gender and age, ethnicity, culture, literacy, disease, physical or mental disability, economic disadvantages and/or dependence on unique natural resources). Special attention should be paid when having vulnerabilities in multiple different aspects.</p>
<p>What are the key points to be considered (including considerations for Project Affected People) when planning and conducting consultations with stakeholders?</p>	<p>Appendix 1 (Social Acceptability) of the JICA Guidelines states, “projects must be adequately coordinated so that they are accepted (...). (...) Sufficient consultations with local stakeholders, such as local residents, must be conducted (...). The outcome of such consultations must be incorporated into the project plans.”</p> <p>JICA confirms that a project implements the appropriate considerations based on Appendix 5 of the JICA Guidelines, as well as by referring to handbooks or other references on planning and implementation of stakeholder consultations prepared by other donors and international organizations.</p> <p>When stakeholder consultation takes place regarding environmental and social considerations and land acquisition/involuntary resettlement in Category A and B projects, at least the following items should be covered in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plans for stakeholder consultations (target groups, number of consultations to be held and rationale of the plans, etc.), date, place and methods (resident meetings, individual interviews), methods of considerations for vulnerable social groups, notification methods, participants (number of attendants, their

	<p>organizations, sex, etc.), topics and themes discussed, comments from participants, responses from project proponents, outcomes of incorporating the feedbacks into a plan/project, consultation meeting minutes, and a plan for further consultations, if any.</p> <p>Stakeholder consultations should ensure participation of vulnerable social groups, allow them to actively express their opinions, and treat the opinions fairly.</p>
<p>What does “meaningful participation” and “responsible for their own statements” mentioned in the Basic Principle 5 of the JICA Guidelines mean?</p>	<p>“Meaningful participation” is a two-way communication, which ensures to appropriately reflect stakeholders’ opinions into plans. See also Appendix 5 (Meaningful Consultation) of the JICA Guidelines.</p> <p>“Responsible for their own statements” means to make statements and hold oneself responsible for them.</p>
<p>How is it confirmed that consultation with stakeholders was held appropriately?</p>	<p>Taking the minutes of a meeting is encouraged, when a consultation with stakeholders is held. JICA confirms whether or not the contents of the minutes has been considered in the project design.</p>
<p>Appendix 2 of the JICA Guidelines stipulates, “In preparing environmental assessment reports, consultations with stakeholders such as local residents must take place after sufficient information has been disclosed. Records of such consultations must be prepared.” Will JICA confirm whether the consultations have taken place?</p>	<p>The JICA Guidelines recognizes the importance of dialogues with local residents and other parties to ensure the inclusion of environmental and social considerations.</p> <p>Appendix 2 of the JICA Guidelines regards records of consultation meetings as one of the matters that should be included in an environmental assessment report, and JICA will confirm the incorporation of environmental and social considerations through the records.</p>

➤ Answers to questions on monitoring

Questions	Answers
<p>What is the purpose of monitoring?</p>	<p>The purpose of monitoring is to check how project proponents have been implementing environmental and social considerations in practice. In addition, monitoring contributes to ensuring early detection of initially unforeseen impacts. When some issues are identified as the result of monitoring, JICA promptly urges the project proponents to take appropriate actions. The JICA Guidelines stipulate in Appendix 1 (Monitoring) that the “[...] project proponents monitor whether any unforeseeable situations occur [...] Project proponents take appropriate measures based on the results of such monitoring.” It also states that in a case where issues are identified as a result of monitoring, JICA “may ask project proponents to take appropriate action” (3.2.2.5.), to address unforeseen environmental and social impacts, etc.</p>
<p>Doesn't JICA stipulate in advance what to be monitored and the monitoring period in the JICA Guidelines?</p>	<p>The JICA Guidelines consider that monitoring is imperative in following up on whether the measures planned have been taken, whether the content of the initial plan was sufficient, whether any unexpected external changes have exerted any negative environmental and social impacts. JICA confirms the results of the monitoring performed by project proponents for Category A, B and FI projects.</p> <p>JICA does not think it appropriate to uniformly specify monitoring items and monitoring period. They are decided after considering various factors specific to each project, including sector, content and characteristics of the project and surrounding circumstances. Key monitoring items may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permits and approvals, consultations (responses to findings pointed out by authorities) - Pollution prevention measures (air quality, water quality, and water use etc.) - Natural environment (ecosystem and biodiversity) - Social environment (resettlement, etc.) - Grievances (Number and contents of complaints)

	<p>These items are listed in advance under “Monitoring Items” in Appendix 7 of the JICA Guidelines. The monitoring frequencies, monitoring items etc., will be agreed upon with project proponents and JICA. Project proponents perform monitoring in accordance with the agreement.</p>
<p>How long is a project monitored for? Isn't it inefficient to continue monitoring when it is obvious that the project is being operated appropriately?</p>	<p>JICA considers it appropriate to determine the monitoring period for each project, taking into account the nature of the project, the seriousness of potential environmental and social impacts, uncertainties and other factors.</p> <p>When it is confirmed that the project is operated properly in light of sector, nature and actual conditions of the project, monitoring will be simplified or brought to an end after a certain period of time, in order to achieve operational efficiency.</p>
<p>Are opinions collected directly from residents, for instance, at the mid-term evaluation stage, to increase the effectiveness of the monitoring?</p>	<p>JICA recognizes that residents' participation in monitoring is desirable to ensure early detection of issues and sustainability of project outcomes. Section 3.2.2.1. of the JICA Guidelines state that “[...] JICA checks with project proponents about the monitoring results of items [...] in order to confirm that project proponents are undertaking environmental and social considerations [...]” JICA will continue to pay attention to this point to maximize positive impacts. Stakeholders, third parties, etc., are also encouraged to provide information to JICA.</p>
<p>Are field surveys conducted by JICA to gain monitoring results different from other field surveys?</p>	<p>Monitoring results are submitted by project proponents. As stipulated in Section 3.2.2.2. of the JICA Guidelines, JICA also conducts its own field survey where necessary. JICA conducted its own field surveys as needed, and continues to do so after the revised JICA Guidelines are enforced</p>
<p>Proper monitoring is important. What measures are taken by JICA to strengthen the environmental monitoring system?</p>	<p>JICA has been making efforts to strengthen the monitoring system, recognizing the importance of monitoring to confirm whether planned measures have been put into action, whether the content of the initial plan was sufficient, whether any unexpected external changes have exerted negative environment and social impacts.</p> <p>For example, when deemed necessary, JICA takes measures to assist project proponents in conducting environmental and social</p>

	monitoring or in strengthening their monitoring system.
Is there a provision regarding information disclosure at the monitoring stage in the JICA Guidelines?	Section 3.2.2.7 of the JICA Guidelines states, “JICA discloses the results of monitoring conducted by project proponents on its website, with consent of the project proponents.” Appendix 1 (Monitoring) of the JICA Guidelines stipulates, “project proponents should make efforts to make the monitoring results available to local stakeholders involved in the project” in order to promote project proponents to take actions for information disclosure.

➤ Answers to questions on the items of the environmental and social considerations

Questions	Answers
What are “indivisible projects”?	<p>Referring to the definition by the International Finance Corporation (IFC)’s Performance Standard 1*, JICA defines “indivisible projects” as related projects for which JICA does not cooperate, 1) which involve associated facilities that would not have been constructed or expanded if the project for which JICA cooperates did not exist, and 2) without which, the project for which JICA cooperates would not be viable.</p> <p>For instance, in Figure 1, power transmission lines (in red) may be an indivisible project that is not separable from the project for which JICA cooperates (power station).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Figure 1. An example of “indivisible project”</p>

	<p>For “indivisible projects”, to the extent reasonably possible, JICA checks whether or not project documents on environmental and social considerations (resettlement plan, environmental assessment reports, etc.,) have been prepared in accordance with the JICA Guidelines to address predicted environmental and social impacts. Where necessary, JICA will request project proponents to incorporate environmental and social considerations into the projects to the extent required by the JICA Guidelines.</p> <p>* :Extracted from IFC Performance Standard 1</p> <p>8. Where the project involves specifically identified physical elements, aspects, and facilities that are likely to generate impacts, environmental and social risks and impacts will be identified in the context of the project’s area of influence. This area of influence encompasses, as appropriate:</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Associated facilities, which are facilities that are not funded as part of the project and that would not have been constructed or expanded if the project did not exist and without which the project would not be viable.</p>
<p>What are “derivative and secondary impacts”?</p>	<p>Referring to IFC’s Performance Standard 1*, JICA’s definition of “derivative and secondary impacts” is impacts from unplanned but predictable developments caused by the project, for which JICA cooperates, that may occur later or at a different location. For instance, indirect project impacts on biodiversity or on ecosystem services upon which affected communities’ livelihoods are dependent should be considered derivative and secondary impacts. When these impacts are considered likely to occur, JICA will conduct a survey to the extent reasonable in the projects for which JICA cooperates, in order to examine the possible impacts.</p> <p>* :Extracted from IFC Performance Standard 1</p> <p>8. Where the project involves specifically identified physical elements, aspects, and facilities that are likely to generate impacts, environmental and social risks and impacts will be identified in the context of the project’s area of influence. This area of influence</p>

	<p>encompasses, as appropriate:</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(ii) impacts from unplanned but predictable developments caused by the project that may occur later or at a different location; or (iii) indirect project impacts on biodiversity or on ecosystem services upon which Affected Communities' livelihoods are dependent.</p>
<p>What are “cumulative impacts”?</p>	<p>Referring to IFC’s Performance Standard 1*, JICA defines the “cumulative impacts” as cumulative impacts resulting from the incremental impact, on areas or resources used or directly impacted by the project for which JICA cooperates, from other planned or reasonably defined developments at the time the risks and impacts identification process is conducted (e.g. scoping) .</p> <p>For instance, in a road project, JICA has requested a host country to consider incremental impacts of the possible accumulation of houses and commercial facilities along the roads to be developed. When cumulative impacts are considered likely to occur, JICA will conduct a survey to the extent reasonable in the projects for which JICA cooperates, in order to examine the possible impacts.</p> <p>*: Extracted from IFC Performance Standard 1</p> <p>8. Where the project involves specifically identified physical elements, aspects, and facilities that are likely to generate impacts, environmental and social risks and impacts will be identified in the context of the project’s area of influence. This area of influence encompasses, as appropriate:</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Cumulative impacts that result from the incremental impact, on areas or resources used or directly impacted by the project, from other existing, planned or reasonably defined developments at the time the risks and impacts identification process is conducted.</p>
<p>Why is “without project” scenario included in alternatives?</p>	<p>The objective is to compare the impacts of implementing a project with those of not implementing the project. The inclusion of the “without project” scenario in alternatives enables us to account for the appropriateness of implementing the project more explicitly.</p>
<p>Do the JICA Guidelines require compliance with</p>	<p>In confirming the inclusion of environmental and social considerations, JICA confirms that projects do not deviate</p>

<p>international standards, in addition to the laws, regulations and standards on social and environmental considerations by the government of the project hosting site (including the central and local governments)?</p>	<p>significantly from the World Bank’s environmental and social policies, and refers as a benchmark to the standards of international financial organizations, internationally recognized standards, or international standards, treaties, and declarations, etc. and the good practices etc. of developed countries including Japan, when deemed appropriate. However, since different countries and regions have different natural environments and different social/cultural backgrounds, JICA does not necessarily think it appropriate to apply uniform standards to all projects.</p>
<p>What international standards and good practices are used as a reference in the JICA Guidelines?</p>	<p>JICA confirms that environmental and social considerations of a project do not deviate significantly from the World Bank’s environmental and social policies. In addition, JICA in general refers to the followings as international standards: international treaties; standards of international organizations other than the World Bank; and standards and regulations of developed countries such as Japan, the U.S. and European countries.</p> <p>Although numerous standards and good practices are available as references, specific examples of the references include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Pollution prevention measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulation standards in Japan and in the U.S. - The Marpol Convention 2) Natural environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The World Heritage Convention - The Ramsar Convention - The Washington Convention - The Red List of IUCN 3) Social environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The World Heritage Convention - The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) guidelines on resettlement <p>Since it is difficult to make a complete list of the references, Section 2.6.3 of the JICA Guidelines is comprehensively stated. If new standards are internationally established in future, JICA would refer to them as well.</p>

<p>When the laws, regulations and standards on social and environmental considerations set out by the government of the project hosting site (including the central and local governments) are significantly lax, compared with the international standards, how does JICA respond to it?</p>	<p>Section 2.6.3 of the JICA Guidelines states, “when JICA recognizes that environmental and social considerations of a project significantly deviate from the aforementioned standards and good practices, JICA encourages the project proponents to take more appropriate environmental and social considerations through a series of dialogues, in which JICA clarifies the background and reasons and confirms countermeasures as necessary.” As a result of the clarification, “if (...) JICA determines that appropriate environmental and social considerations cannot be ensured, it will encourage the project proponents to undertake appropriate environmental and social considerations.” (Section 2.8.1.1)</p>
<p>Section 2.6 of the JICA Guidelines states, “JICA confirms that environmental and social considerations of a project do not deviate significantly from the World Bank’s environmental and social policies.” What are the World Bank’s environmental and social policies?</p>	<p>The World Bank’s environmental and social policies refer to the Environmental and Social Standards in the Environmental and Social Framework of the World Bank, which consists of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA), and the Performance Standards in the Sustainability Framework of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group. JICA confirms that environmental and social considerations of a project do not deviate significantly from either of these.</p>
<p>How are international organizations’ guidelines on involuntary resettlement used, when JICA ensures the inclusion of environmental considerations?</p>	<p>JICA confirms that there are no significant deviations from the World Bank’s environmental and social policies regarding involuntary resettlement, when conducting a review on environmental and social considerations based on the JICA Guidelines. When deemed appropriate, JICA refers to standards stipulated by other international financial organizations and good practices, etc. as a benchmark. It is desirable that a resettlement action plan includes items provided in Annex 1 of ESS 5 of the World Bank.</p>

<p>“Involuntary Resettlement” in Appendix 1 of the JICA Guidelines states, “it is desirable that the resettlement action plan includes elements laid out in the ESS 5 of the World Bank’s environmental and social policies.” What are the elements laid out in the ESS 5?</p>	<p>Annex 1 of ESS 5 of the World Bank provides key elements of a resettlement action plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Description of the project; ➤ Potential impacts; ➤ Objectives; ➤ Census survey and baseline socioeconomic studies; ➤ Legal framework; ➤ Institutional framework; ➤ Eligibility; ➤ Valuation of and compensation for losses; ➤ Community participation; ➤ Implementation schedule; ➤ Costs and budget; ➤ Grievance redress mechanism; ➤ Monitoring and evaluation; and ➤ Arrangements for adaptive management.
<p>For a project involving involuntary resettlement, how does JICA confirm the consent of the Project Affected Persons?</p>	<p>As set forth in Annex 1, the JICA Guidelines emphasizes consultations with local residents, etc. to ensure the inclusion of environmental and social considerations. JICA confirms whether the consent of the residents has been obtained through an appropriate process, based on information provided by project proponents. Recognizing the importance of information received from project proponents as well as from governments and organizations of host countries, co-financiers and stakeholders, JICA utilizes such information.</p>
<p>To what should a project give consideration when explaining contents of compensation such as compensation amount to affected peoples, if the project involves involuntary resettlement and loss of livelihood?</p>	<p>As stated in Appendix 1 of the JICA Guidelines, compensation standards are disclosed and the project-affected peoples need to be aware of the contents of the individual compensation to be provided to them. When conducting a survey of each project-affected person’s assets and calculating their compensation, the results of the survey and calculation must be provided and explained to the relevant project-affected person.</p>

<p>What are criteria for “indigenous people”?</p>	<p>JICA will determine whether or not a social group falls under the category of “indigenous people” on a case-by-case basis and based on the World Bank’s ESS 7 and other related information.</p>
<p>Would you elaborate on “relevant international declarations and treaties” as described in “Indigenous Peoples” in Appendix 1 of the JICA Guidelines: “when projects may have adverse impacts on indigenous peoples, all of their rights in relation to land and resources must be respected in accordance with the spirit of relevant international declarations and treaties, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Efforts must be made to obtain the free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of the affected indigenous peoples”</p>	<p>“Relevant international declarations and treaties” include the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - The Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (commonly known as International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169)
<p>What is “Free, Prior and Informed Consent” for indigenous peoples?</p>	<p>There is no universal definition for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) but JICA considers the FPIC should fulfill the following elements, referring to ESS 7 of the World Bank’s environmental and social policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is achieved through meaningful consultations (see Appendix 5 of the JICA Guidelines). - It refers to “the collective support,” which is reached through a culturally appropriate and good faith negotiation process. - Project proponents document the negotiation process and results, including both opinions of acceptance and objection. It does not require unanimity and may be achieved even when individuals or groups within or among affected indigenous

	<p>peoples explicitly disagree with the project.</p>
<p>“Indigenous Peoples” in Appendix 1 of the JICA Guidelines states, “it is desirable that the Indigenous Peoples Plan includes the elements laid out in the ESS 7 of the World Bank’s environmental and social policies.” What are the elements laid out in the ESS 7?</p>	<p>ESS7 of the World Bank’s environmental and social policies provides key elements of an Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLC) Plan (Indigenous Peoples Plan), including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measures and actions that contains a time-bound plan should be prepared through consultations with indigenous peoples (IP / SSAHUTLC of the World Bank). However, the scope and scale of plans are proportionate to the potential risks and impacts of the project. 2. The format and title of the plan are adjusted as appropriate to the project or country context, and will reflect any alternative terminology for the indigenous peoples. 3. When indigenous peoples (IP / SSAHUTLC) are the sole, or the overwhelming majority of, project beneficiaries, the elements of the plan may be included in the overall project design, and preparation of a stand-alone Indigenous Peoples Plan is not necessary. 4. In some circumstances, a broader integrated community development plan is prepared, addressing all beneficiaries of the project and incorporating necessary information relating to the affected IP/SSAHUTLC. <p>Note: the World Bank’s ESS7 Guidance Note (*) Annex contains recommended items for indigenous peoples plan. (*) Guidance Note: A document that helps explain the requirements of the World Bank’s ESS. It is not environmental and social policies of the World Bank and is not an essential requirement.</p>
<p>How will JICA ensure the incorporation of human rights in its development plans/projects, under the JICA Guidelines?</p>	<p>Section 2.5.2 of the JICA Guidelines states, “JICA respects the principles of internationally established human rights standards such as the International Convention on Human Rights when implementing cooperation projects. JICA gives special attention to the human rights of vulnerable social groups, including women, children, elderly people, people in poverty, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, refugees, internally displaced persons,</p>

	<p>and minorities. JICA obtains country reports and information widely about human rights that are issued by related institutions, discloses information about cooperation projects, and seeks to understand local human rights situations, in order to reflect these in JICA’s decision making.” JICA confirms the human rights considerations, when it can address specific human rights issues at the individual project level and there are clear standards of judgement available. Considerations for vulnerable social groups such as women and children are mentioned in Appendix 1 “Environmental and Social Considerations Required for Projects” of the JICA Guidelines.</p> <p>It is desirable that the human rights issues, which should be addressed at the country level, are addressed through diplomacy or national policies, for example, incorporating in the Development Cooperation Charter, rather than the JICA Guidelines.</p>
<p>The Policy of the JICA Guidelines includes the support for the achievement of gender equality. How does JICA deal with this issue specifically?</p>	<p>Toward the achievement of gender equality, JICA confirms, for instance, whether or not a project prepares a mechanism for fully respecting and not eliminating opinions and thoughts of women in case the project involves resettlement of people, in terms of environmental and social considerations. JICA also confirms that a project provides consideration to prevent women from being unevenly impacted by the project or from receiving compensation and support unequally. Additionally, JICA is working on necessary measures to eradicate gender-based violence under other mechanisms than the JICA Guidelines.</p>
<p>What are the key points to be considered with regard to gender, children’s rights, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases?</p>	<p>As the JICA Guidelines are designed to examine environmental and social impacts of individual projects, JICA confirms the inclusion of elements for which considerations at individual project level is thought to be appropriate, such as children’s rights, HIV/AIDS and gender.</p> <p>For instance, in ensuring the inclusion of gender considerations in a project involving resettlement, JICA confirms whether a framework for respecting women’s opinions and views - and not excluding them - is in place. For ensuring children’s rights in a project involving resettlement, for example, JICA confirms whether schools and medical/healthcare facilities for children are</p>

	<p>adequately prepared at the resettlement site.,</p> <p>With regard to infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, for example, when a project involves large civil works and needs to set up a camp for workers, JICA confirms whether the workers have received guidance on infectious diseases.</p> <p>Since the scope of impacts to be examined depends on projects, it is difficult to apply uniform rules and it may be more appropriate to consider the scope for each project.</p>
<p>How does the JICA Guidelines deal with labor management, workers' health and safety and child labors?</p>	<p>JICA confirms risks of workers' health and safety and child labor, stating "working conditions including occupational safety" and "children's rights" as the impacts to be assessed with regard to environmental and social considerations in Section 2.3 of the JICA Guidelines. As for labor management, workers' health and safety and child labor, JICA confirms that a project proponent gives appropriate considerations, including the actions based on the laws and regulations of the host country, through the agreement documents with the project proponent as well as the contract between the project proponent and contractors, under other arrangements than the JICA Guidelines. Please refer to this (Safety for Construction Works in Japanese ODA Projects Our Work JICA) about JICA's efforts for safety measures based on "The Guidance for the Management of Safety for Construction Works in Japanese ODA Projects" and "JICA Standard Safety Specifications" for the purpose of prevention of occupational accidents in construction projects such as public facilities by ODA.</p>
<p>What is biodiversity mentioned in Section 2.3 "Impacts to be Assessed" of the JICA Guidelines?</p>	<p>According to the Convention on Biological Diversity, "Biological diversity" means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.</p>
<p>How does JICA give considerations for ecosystem services, which are</p>	<p>JICA considers ecosystem services when affected ecosystem services impact health and safety of communities, especially the communities of indigenous peoples who depend on the ecosystem</p>

<p>mentioned in Section 2.3 “Impacts to be Assessed” of the JICA Guidelines?</p>	<p>services. The range of the communities depending on the ecosystem services are wide and the methods of review/evaluation may not be clear, so JICA considers ecosystem services to the extent possible. Among the ecosystem services, ESS of the World Bank focuses on provisioning services (the products people obtain from ecosystems and which may include food, fuels, timbers, fibers, medicinal plants and freshwater) and on regulating services (the benefits people obtain from the regulation of ecosystem processes and may include climate regulation, protection from floods and surface water purification) as a target of considerations. It is expected that precedents of the World Bank’s operations regarding ecosystem services will further accumulate. JICA will refer to the World Bank’s experience and consider impacts on provisioning and regulating services as items to be assessed as ecosystem services.</p>
<p>What are “critical habitats and critical forests?”</p>	<p>Referring to the definitions in the World Bank’s environmental and social policies, etc., JICA understands “critical habitat” is defined as areas with high biodiversity importance or value, including:</p> <p>Areas extremely important in preserving biodiversity and/or maintaining key functions of the ecosystems, including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Habitat of significant importance to Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), or Near Threatened (NT) species, as listed in the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of threatened species or equivalent national approaches; (2) Habitat of significant importance to endemic or restricted-range species; (3) Habitat supporting globally or nationally significant concentrations of migratory or congregatory species; (4) Highly threatened or unique ecosystems; (5) Ecological functions or characteristics that are needed to maintain the viability of the biodiversity values described above in (1) to (4).

	<p>“Critical forest” refers to a forest area identified as a “critical habitat” as stipulated above.</p> <p>* “Critical habitats and critical forests” are mentioned in “Biodiversity” of Appendix 1 of the JICA Guidelines. However, not only impacts on natural environment but also impacts on society are also considered under the JICA Guidelines. Please see FAQ regarding ecosystem services.</p>
<p>What are “significant conversion” and “significant degradation”?</p>	<p>Based on the definition by the World Bank’s environmental and social policies, etc., JICA defines “significant conversion” and “significant degradation” to be caused by the implementation of projects as below.</p> <p>Note that whether or not the project for which JICA cooperates will “involve significant conversion or significant degradation” of critical natural habitats and critical forests needs to be decided rationally by considering the content of the project and regional characteristics of the project site, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Significant conversion Elimination or severe reduction of the integrity of a critical habitat or critical forests ▪ Significant degradation Substantial reduction of a critical habitat’s or critical forest’s ability to maintain viable populations of its native species or substantial reduction of key ecosystem functions.
<p>What considerations should be taken into account to ensure that “projects must not involve significant conversion or significant degradation of critical habitats and critical forests”?</p>	<p>“Biodiversity” in Appendix 1 of the JICA Guidelines stipulates that “projects must not involve significant conversion or significant degradation of critical habitats and critical forests.”</p> <p>After confirming that no feasible alternatives are available in areas other than “critical habitats”, JICA, referring to IFC’s standards, considers that it is important to fulfill all conditions listed below during project formation and implementation,</p> <p>(1) Projects shall not exert significant adverse impacts on</p>

	<p>biodiversity values existing in “critical habitats” and key functions of the ecosystems:* 1</p> <p>(2) Over a reasonable period of time* 2, projects shall not cause net reduction in endangered species population * 3 listed below:</p> <p>Species classified into “Critically Endangered (CR)” and “Endangered (EN)” out of “Threatened” species listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, , or those that fall under such classifications in accordance with the host country’s rules and regulations: and</p> <p>(3) Long-term and effective mitigation measures and monitoring shall be put in place be performed with regard to (1) and (2) above.</p> <p>*1 IFC’s standards note: “Biodiversity values and their supporting ecological processes will be determined on an ecologically relevant scale.”</p> <p>*2 Based on experts’ advices, etc., the period shall be determined for each project.</p> <p>*3 1 IFC’s standards note: “Net reduction is a singular or cumulative loss of individuals that impacts on the species’ ability to persist at the global and/or regional/national scales for many generations or over a long period of time. The scale (i.e., global and/or regional/national) of the potential net reduction is determined based on the species’ listing on either the (global) IUCN Red List and/or on regional/national lists. For species listed on both the (global) IUCN Red List and the national/regional lists, the net reduction will be based on the national/regional population.”</p>
<p>What are “areas that are specifically designated for conservation of nature or cultural heritages by the host county governments”?</p>	<p>“areas that are specifically designated for conservation of nature or cultural heritages by the host county governments” are the area designated as such by the country and/or local governments by laws and/or ordinances to protect nature and cultural heritage. Based on the definitions of the World Bank’s environmental and social policies, etc. examples of such areas may include those listed below.</p> <p>Note that whether or not the area where a project for which JICA cooperates is implemented may fall under the areas designated for</p>

	<p>the conservation of nature or cultural heritage needs to be rationally decided by referring to the IUCN protected area management categories, etc., and considering regional characteristics.</p> <p><Areas that are specifically designated by laws or ordinances for the conservation of nature></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Areas designated by the country and/or local governments by laws or ordinances primarily for the conservation of nature: 2. Areas whose conservation is of international importance. Examples include: areas listed on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and Wetlands of International Importance <p>< Areas that are specifically designated by laws or ordinances for the conservation of cultural heritage></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Areas designated by the country and/or local governments by laws or ordinances primarily for the conservation of cultural heritage: 2. Areas whose conservation is of international importance. Examples include areas listed on the World Heritage List of the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. <p>Reference: IUCN’s definition of a protected area: A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.”</p>
<p>The JICA Guidelines write that “In principle, Projects must be undertaken outside of areas that are specifically designated for conservation</p>	<p>“Compliance with Laws, Standards, and Plans” of Appendix 1 of the JICA Guidelines states that “In principle, Projects must be undertaken outside of areas that are specifically designated for conservation of nature or cultural heritages by the host county governments, unless the main purpose of the Projects is to promote</p>

<p>of nature or cultural heritages by the host country governments, unless the main purpose of the Projects is to promote or restore the protection of such areas..</p> <p>Would you elaborate on exceptional cases?</p>	<p>or restore the protection of such areas. Also, projects shall not cause significant adverse impacts on such designated conservation areas..” Referring to IFC’s Performance Standards, etc., JICA requires project formation and implementation in such areas to fulfill all conditions mentioned below,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) No feasible alternative plans shall be available in areas other than the area designated as such by the country and/or local governments by laws and/or ordinances to protect nature and cultural heritage (“the Designated Area” hereinafter): (2) development in the Designated Area shall be legally acceptable by the host country’s domestic laws: (3) Project proponents, shall comply with the laws, ordinance concerning the Designated Area and management plan of the protected zones: (4) Project proponents, shall form a consensus about project implementation with stakeholders including organizations responsible for managing the Designated Area, local communities through consultations: and (5) Project proponents, shall perform additional programmes, where necessary, to ensure that the Designated Area is effectively managed for its conservation.*1 <p>*1 IFC’s Performance Standards note the following: “Implementing additional programs may not be necessary for projects that do not create a new footprint.”</p>
<p>How does JICA evaluate impacts of a proposed project on climate change at the project level?</p>	<p>Appendix 1 of the JICA Guidelines states, "for projects that are expected to generate more than a certain amount of greenhouse gas emissions, the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions will be estimated and disclosed before the project implementation."</p> <p>JICA will assist the project proponents through considering alternatives. At master plan stage, JICA will assist analyzing alternatives to reduce total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. At the individual project level, JICA will assist in analyzing alternatives for reduction of total GHG emissions, taking into consideration of application of Best Available Technologies (BAT) for the sectors with high GHG emissions, e.g. power generation projects and large-scale livestock projects, etc., referring to the high carbon intensity sectors mentioned in Annex A of the Equator Principles. JICA will assist in</p>

	conducting such analysis based on the alternatives that are feasible and cost-effective in terms of technical, financial, environmental and social aspects.
In scoping to identify environmental and social concerns, what baseline scenario is used to evaluate mitigation effects of the project?	As a principle, the baseline is the GHG emissions that would have occurred without the project. For instance, where the host country has been steadily replacing old technologies and facilities with new ones, resulting in a reduction of GHG emission basic unit (i.e. the amount of GHGs per unit of production), such trend is incorporated into the baseline scenario. In addition, depending on project characteristics, JICA may take different approaches to assess mitigation effects of the project.
What is JICA’s policy regarding climate change adaptation measures?	In order to incorporate climate change considerations and measures into project plans and to further promote the mainstreaming of the climate change measures, JICA updated the Climate Finance Impact Tool for Mitigation and Adaptation (Climate FIT) in 2019, and strengthens efforts for mitigation and adaptation measures including climate risk assessment at the JICA projects. JICA puts our priority to the mainstreaming of the climate change measures including mitigation and adaptation measures, and describes it in the “Global Agenda for Climate Change (2021).”
Appendix 1 of the JICA Guidelines states, “for projects that are expected to generate more than a certain amount of greenhouse gas emissions, the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions will be estimated and disclosed before the project implementation.” Please specify the “certain amount” of greenhouse gas emissions. And what are the target scopes and gases?	For projects that are expected to emit greenhouse gases (GHG) more than 25,000 tonnes of CO ₂ -equivalent annually for Scope 1 (direct GHG emissions from the project), JICA calculates and discloses the GHG emission amount before the commencement of the projects. The target GHG for the calculation and disclosure are carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄) and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), based on the relevant sectors of JICA cooperation projects.

<p>How does alternative analysis of individual projects contribute to transition to a decarbonized society?</p>	<p>At the Master Plan level, JICA assists in analyzing alternatives for reduction of total GHG emissions. At the individual project level, JICA assists in analyzing alternatives for reduction of total GHG emissions, taking into consideration application of Best Available Technologies (BAT) for the sectors with high GHG emissions, e.g. power generation projects and large-scale livestock projects, etc., referring to the high carbon intensity sectors mentioned in Annex A of the Equator Principles. JICA assists in conducting such analysis based on the alternatives that are feasible and cost-effective in terms of technical, financial, environmental and social aspects.</p>
<p>How does JICA review safety of structures constructed by a project? Communities around the project can be affected adversely if safety level of the structures is low.</p>	<p>Safety of structures is considered in other framework than the JICA Guidelines. More specifically, in the process of finalizing agreement documents with project proponents as well as contracts between project proponents and contractors, JICA checks appropriate considerations are ensured, including measures based on technical standards of developed countries including Japan, international organizations, and the host countries.</p>

END