



EHS Newsletter

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We are environmental health and safety professionals who are not afraid to challenge and innovate. You will find our culture is one of pride, passion, support and integrity, and we hope you will find us a great business to work with, or for. We are providing ONE ROOF solution in the arena of environment health and safety.

World Environment Day 2021



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030



WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY

UN 
environment
programme



Ecosystem Restoration



Ecosystems support all forms of life on Earth. They can be large, like a forest, or small like a pond. The benefits and services it provides us are uncountable. Many are crucial to human societies, providing people with water, food, building materials and a host of other essentials. They provide benefits like food, water, regulation of floods, formation of soils and soil fertility that sustains crop and livestock production depends on the ecosystem

processes of decomposition and nutrient cycling by soil micro-organisms, climate protection, and biodiversity conservation and so on.

Many of the world's ecosystems have undergone significant degradation with negative impacts on biological diversity and peoples' livelihoods.

Ecosystems can be damaged, degraded, or destroyed by human activity including road building, poaching, long-term

grazing impacts, long-term over fishing or hunting pressure, persistent invasions by non-native species, urbanization, coastal erosion, and mining.

Doing "less bad" is not good enough. It is also important to restore an ecosystem.

Ecosystem Restoration is the "process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed".



Did you know?

- * Over 4.7 million hectares of forests – an area larger than Denmark – are lost every year.
- * Nearly 80 per cent of the world's wastewater is discharged to our oceans and rivers without treatment.
- * Wetlands are being drained for agriculture, with some 87 per cent lost globally in the last 300 years.
- * Present in more than 180 countries, peatlands are vital, super-powered ecosystems. Though they cover only 3 per cent of the world's land, they store nearly 30 per cent of its soil carbon.



It focuses on repairing the damage human activities have caused to natural ecosystems and seeks to return them to an earlier state or to a state that is closely related to one unaltered by anthropogenic activities.

A critical step in restoration is to have realistic goals. The restoration begins with a proper assessment of the degraded site. The conditions on the site should be thoroughly examined to identify the where the restoration is needed and any potential actions should be taken to restore it.

Soil rehabilitation, land stabilization, restoring the plant community is some important components for restoration. This may include the restoration of the soil's or water's original characteristics by improving soil pH, tilling to increase aeration and root penetration, reducing fertilizers use, inoculating soils with beneficial microorganisms, and selecting seeds, seedlings, or cuttings for re-vegetation.

cuttings for re-vegetation.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has found that for every dollar that is invested into restoration, at least \$9 of economic benefits can be expected in return.

Ecological restoration aims to re-establish a self-organizing ecosystem on a path to attain full recovery, however full recovery of the ecosystem may take years, decades, or even more. So, the restoration process can continues as the ecosystem recovers and matures.

Restoration initiatives can be carried out by almost anyone, from governments, organizations, to communities and even individuals.

Destruction or unsustainable use of any ecosystem is not justified with a thought of its restoration as it may not succeed in regaining the full extent of the original ecosystem's structure and function. Moreover, even if we are successful in restoring structure, and function of a degraded ecosystem, restoration should not be a substitute for conservation.

Thus, realising their contribution in our lives it is essential for us to restore and conserve our ecosystem. As said "healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier the planet - and its people".



IFC Performance Standards Overview



The IFC Performance Standards are an international benchmark for identifying and managing environmental and social risk and has been adopted by many organizations as a key component of their environmental and social risk management. IFC's Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines provide technical guidelines with general and industry-specific examples of good international industry practice to meet IFC's Performance Standards.

In many countries, the scope and intent of the IFC Performance Standards is addressed or partially addressed in the country's environmental and social regulatory framework. The IFC Performance Standards encompass eight topics:

1 Environmental and Social Assessment and Management System:

Commercial clients/investees are required to manage the environmental and social performance of their business activity, which should also involve communication between the client/investee, its workers and the local communities directly affected by the business activity. This requires the development of a good management system, appropriate to the size and nature of the business activity, to promote sound and sustainable environmental and social performance as well as lead to improved financial outcomes.

2 Labour and Working Conditions:

For any business, its workforce is a valuable asset and a sound worker-management relationship is a key component of the overall success of the enterprise. By protecting the basic rights of workers, treating workers fairly and providing them with safe and healthy working conditions, commercial clients/investees can enhance the efficiency and productivity of their operations and strengthen worker commitment and retention.

3 Pollution Prevention and Abatement:

Increased industrial activity and urbanization often generate increased levels of pollution to air, water and land that may threaten people and the environment at the local, regional and global level. Commercial clients/investees are required to integrate pollution prevention and control technologies and practices (as technically and financially feasible as well as cost-effective) into their business activities.

4 Community Health, Safety and Security:

Business activities can increase the potential for community exposure to risks and impacts arising from equipment accidents, structural failures and releases of hazardous materials as well as impacts on a community's natural resources, exposure to diseases and the use of security personnel. Commercial clients/investees are responsible for avoiding or minimizing the risks and impacts to community health, safety and security that may arise from their business activities.



5 Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement: Land acquisition due to the business activities of commercial client/investees may result in the physical displacement (relocation or loss of shelter) and economic displacement (loss of access to resources necessary for income generation or as means of livelihood) of individuals or communities. Involuntary resettlement occurs when affected individuals or communities do not have the right to refuse land acquisition and are displaced, which may result to long-term hardship and impoverishment as well as environmental damage and social stress. Commercial clients/investees are required to avoid physical or economic displacement or minimize impacts on displaced individuals or communities through appropriate measures such as fair compensation and improving livelihoods and living conditions.

6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management: Protecting and conserving biodiversity (including genetic, species and ecosystem diversity) and its ability to change and evolve, is fundamental to sustainable development. Commercial clients/investees are required to avoid or mitigate threats to biodiversity arising from their business activities and to promote the use of renewable natural resources in their operations.

7 Indigenous Peoples: Indigenous Peoples are recognized as social groups with identities that are distinct from other groups in national societies and are often among the marginalized and vulnerable. Their economic, social and legal status may limit their capacity to defend their interests and rights to lands and natural and cultural resources. Commercial clients/investees are required to ensure that their business activities respect the identity, culture and natural resource-based livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and reduce exposure to impoverishment and disease.

8 Cultural Heritage: Cultural heritage encompasses properties and sites of archaeological, historical, cultural, artistic and religious significance as well as unique environmental features and cultural knowledge, innovations and practices of communities embodying traditional lifestyles, which are protected for current and future generations. Commercial clients/investees are required to avoid significant damage to cultural heritage due to their business activities.

We have highly qualified consultants, auditors and trainers and International legislation experts for the services under EHS Alliance proprietorship. The Profile and their Certificate are attached herewith for your reference.

IFC EHS Compliance and Due Diligences Report Contact us on www.ehsall.in

IFC's Performance Standards offer a framework for understanding and managing environmental and social risks for high profile, complex, international or potentially high impact project. The financial institution is required to verify as part of its environmental and social due diligence process that the commercial client/investee complies with the IFC Performance Standards. To do so, the financial institution needs to be knowledgeable of the environmental and social laws of the country in which it operates and compare the regulatory requirements against those of the IFC Performance Standards to identify gaps. A good understanding of both sets of requirements as well as potential gaps ensures that the financial institution will effectively identify and assess the key environmental and social risks and impacts that might be associated with a financial transaction.

If non-compliances with the IFC Performance Standards are identified and depending on the severity of the

issue, the financial institution can require the commercial client/investee to develop a corrective action plan for addressing the issue within a reasonable timeframe and stipulate this as a condition of the financial transaction with the commercial client/investee.

The IFC Performance Standards help IFC and its clients manage and improve their environmental and social performance through an outcomes-based approach and also provide a solid base from which clients may increase the sustainability of their business operations. The desired outcomes are described in the objectives of each Performance Standard, followed by specific requirements to help clients achieve these outcomes through means that are appropriate to the nature and scale of the project and commensurate with the level of environmental and social risks (likelihood of harm) and impacts.



Trainings



Consultancy



Audits

We sincerely thank you for spending your precious time; we're flattered and grateful. We are celebrating our 1st Anniversary of Monthly EHS Newsletter with your support and positive response.

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