

Request for an Environmental Assessment Statement

Constituencies that support development projects in Canada – whether governments, organizations or individual contributors – place considerable weight on the gender aspects and the environmental impacts of a project. To be in a position to answer questions that contributors might raise MCC and CFGB would appreciate having on file a summary environmental assessment for this sand dam project.

In general, environmental analysis and assessment is seen as an advantage in project planning, implementation and evaluation:

- to promote sustainable forms of development;
- to promote participation by the local population early in the planning process;
- to make projects more acceptable to the affected populations;
- to clarify linkages between ecology, social life and economics;
- to clarify environmental and social problems at the outset, thereby making it possible to alleviate or solve them;
- to avoid delays and additional costs caused by the need to solve environmental and social problems once the project is already in progress;
- to multiply the beneficial effects of programs and projects on the environment, health and society; and
- to develop the environmental management skills of Canadian NGOs and their partners.

For the purpose of environmental analysis some relevant questions are:

- 1) Have environmental objectives been integrated into the project's other objectives? If so, how?
- 2) What are the environmental features of the project site?
- 3) What project components could lead to environmental effects? What are these effects? What is their significance? What effect will the natural environment have on the project?
- 4) What strategies and specific measures will be implemented to alleviate or eliminate the project's negative effects and increase its benefits? How will the project be monitored to ensure the effective implementation of these measures?

More specifically to your organization, points to be covered might include:

- 1) As an organization:
 - Do you have an environmental management structure? If so, what is it?
 - Outline your specialized capabilities and skills.
 - Outline environmental assessment process in place to ensure that environmental factors are taken into account in program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- 2) Your organization's policies:
 - Do you have an environment statement, policies, objectives, strategies? If yes incorporate them into this statement OR make reference to them.

- What are your environmental guidelines and/or criteria to be used during the project selection process?
- 3) Your organization's program:
- Are you familiar with the main features of Kenya's environment that could impact this project?
 - i. laws, policies, national/local strategies, and responsible government authorities; and
 - ii. institutions and NGOs that can provide environmental information and advice.
 - Define environmental objectives for your program and indicators for the assessment of results.
 - Indicate familiarity with the environmental issues specific to the program and your ability to properly manage them.
 - Your ability to determine the needs and strengths of other ministries/organizations, who might become involved in the program area, in terms of the environmental management of the program, and to propose activities to build their capacities in this area.
 - Your system for exchanging any relevant information on environmental objectives and strategies between MCC/CFGB and your organization.