



# USAID | SOUTHERN AFRICA

**Dawn Thomas**  
**Deputy Mission Director**  
**USAID RCSA Talking Points:**

***Background:***

**Environmental Management Workshop for USAID Staff:  
MEOs, CTOs, SO Team Leaders, PDOs**

**USAID Environmental Procedures  
& Mainstreaming Environmental Considerations in Development Programs**

**Hosted by Regional Center for Southern Africa  
Co-sponsored by USAID/RCSA, USAID/REDSO and AFR/SD**

**Kasane, Botswana May 16<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

**Presenters/Discussion Facilitators:**

- Wes Fisher, Principal, Capacity for Impact Assessment and Management, Cadmus Group
- Walter Knausenberger, Sr. Regional Environmental Officer, REDSO/Nairobi/Kenya
- Camilien Jean W. Saint-Cyr, Regional Environmental Advisor, USAID Southern Africa
- Erika Clesceri, Environmental Protection Specialist, USAID/DCHA/FFP/PTD
- David Kinyua, Assistant REA, REDSO/Nairobi/Kenya
- Ephantus Wahome, Assistant REA, REDSO/Nairobi/Kenya
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**Be prepared to discuss or share at the course:**

- ❖ Questions on existing IEEs, Environmental Review issues (bring them along).
- ❖ Information about future SOs, IRs, and corresponding IEEs, if you would like to raise issues.
- ❖ Information about your host country environmental policy, legislation or requirements.
- ❖ An answer to the following question: What do you think USAID's environmental procedures and policy should look like 10 years from now?

**Course Objectives**

The objectives of this training are to assist USAID staff to:

1. Better understand and apply USAID Environmental Procedures (22 CFR 216, ADS 204), and documentation and review requirements
2. Design and implement environmentally-sound activities to improve program and project sustainability

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3. Assess reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts and mitigate and monitor to minimize adverse impacts and design errors
4. Review how USAID procedures are to be applied in the context of evolving host country policies and practice in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and environmentally sound design and management
5. Consider answers to the questions: “How can environmentally sound design processes be strengthened within our Missions and the Agency?” and “What are some state-of-the-art approaches to mainstreaming environmental considerations into USAID regional and bilateral programs?”
6. Discuss capacity building needs, options and approaches
7. Review new approaches to knowledge management and their potential application to Agency and Mission responsibilities to promote environmentally sound design

### Talking points:

1. Pose the question. What is the value of Reg. 216?
  - It’s a **systematic** process for identifying and mitigation impacts on human health and welfare and the economic and environmental sustainability of our interventions, before they occur (like a medical diagnostic in preventive medicine).
  - Following the procedures during **design** increases the potential for the long-term success of our projects and programs.
    - for example what might be the effects in design of building several new lodges on the Chobe River waterfront without consideration of the cumulative effects, or
    - moving Kasane’s current open dump to a new location without proper consideration of alternative sites and designs for a new land fill.
  - The step by step assessment process also helps us avoid costly mistakes and even program or project failures
2. Are we using the Regulation properly?
  - Sometimes, but often the preparation of environmental reviews are tagged on at the end of design as an afterthought instead of being integral to design. Doing so is a waste of this valuable tool.
  - Even when quality environmental assessment or review is carried out, the mitigation and monitoring design and environmental management recommendations frequently go on a shelf or are only partially implemented. Design errors must then be corrected at much higher cost than if they had been addressed in design.
3. Is there more we can do to harness private sector interest and resources in support of sound environmental management? Yes. Progressive private sector actors are taking initiatives to introduce environmental and social management standards, and the public sector can “harness: and take advantage of those initiatives, such as those the World Trade Organization (WTO) has introduced
4. What can be done to ensure proper application of USAID’s Procedures?
  - Convince senior Mission managers to invest in proper environmental reviews at the Mission level and to also **budget** for on-the-ground follow-up to ensure environmental management plans for mitigation and monitoring of impacts are actually implemented.

- A very wise investment would be for each of our Missions to set aside \$50,000 per year for environmental review and follow-up of partner programs and activities, so as to improve the sustainability of our interventions. Ideally these funds should be used to increase the use of **local** environmental assessment support services to the Missions, particularly for review and follow-up, but also for EIA training, and to assist in environmental reviews and documentation preparation..
- Our REDSO/ESA and RCSA investment in environmental assessment and review resources also need to be increased to provide regionally based support for this purpose.