



Environmental and Social Management System of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund

LDN Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources (Corresponds to IFC PS # 6)

With regard to the LDN Standard-1, we would like to present the following for your kind attention

In our current area of project operations we are facing land acquisition by the government for the purpose of industrial development activities.

This is a very common scenario in many states in India. Due to this, not only the farmers are losing their valuable lands but also the biodiversity of the ecosystem is being hampered.

There is also no standard counterbalance mechanism for the landless farmers nor for the environment damage caused due to land acquisition.

Some of the areas where we face the problem as we speak now:

1. Drought prone Southern part of Andhra Pradesh region.
2. Andhra Pradesh Capital Development Area.

In this back ground, we would like to suggest that ***the government's intervention should not end at the stage of acquiring land and Land Pooling System, and leaving the poor farming community helpless rather it should end with a proper standardised structure of relocation of the affected people and measurable counterbalance mechanism for environmental destruction.***

We think this is crucial because the draft document only talks about counterbalance mechanism by the organisation who is causing any damage to the environment and social standards in their region.

It doesn't talk about the broader aspect of how to address the issue when a government itself is acquiring healthy lands on the basis of 'Development' and to create hazardous industries which are degrading not only land but also the people's life.

Therefore please try to introduce clauses to check these kind of adverse effects.

Thanking you

With regards.