# Social and Environmental Policy and Procedures [sepp] Policy statement

## [This policy statement on sepp was approved and adopted on dt. 31.12.2011]

## Policy Statement

Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited (MSETCL) is committed to operate by inducing principles of sustainable development in each and every activity we do.

MSETCL shall strive to achieve and sustain continual excellence in Environment, Social, Occupational Health and Safety performance through:

* Comprehensive **assessment** of social, environmental and health and safety related impacts and **identification** of mitigation measures of all activities throughout the project life cycle (i.e. from conceptual designing phase to commissioning phase, operation and also decommissioning activities) concerning its employees, contractors and community;
* Compliance with applicable social, environmental and health and safety **laws and regulations**;
* **Proactive engagement with community** to understand, cooperate and benefit mutually;
* Development of framework for setting **achievable and quantifiable objectives and targets** and through this achieving continual improvement;
* Adoption of basic principles of **prevention** of pollution and waste minimization;
* Conservation of natural resources and energy with emphasis on **use of safe and eco-friendly technologies, use of environmentally preferred materials reuse and recycle** whenever possible;
* Provision of safe **and healthy work environment** to employees;
* Identification of **training** needs and imparting trainings to employees, contract workers and business associates on environment, social, health and safety aspects;
* Establishment and maintenance of effective **monitoring system**, tools and internal audit programs;
* Ensuring provision and availability of required resources and documentation.

## Scope of Application

MSETCL’s Social and Environmental Policy is applicable to all of the Company’s Operations including:

* Projects (from concept to commissioning);
* Operation & Maintenance; and
* All Corporate Functions.

## The Principles

* MSETCL will ensure full adherence to all applicable social and environmental laws pertaining to its activities.
* MSETCL will proactively identify and manage all social and environmental risks and impacts associated with its activities in a manner consistent with: the Social and Environmental Safeguard Policies of The World Bank and The Asian Development Bank; IFC’s Performance Standards on Social and Environmental Sustainability.
* MSETCL will: identify and assess social and environment impacts, both adverse and beneficial, in the area of influence of its Operations; avoid, or where avoidance is not possible, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for adverse impacts on workers, affected communities, and the environment.

In particular, MSETCL will:

* Improve its social and environment performance through the effective use of management systems;
* Create safe and healthy working conditions, and protect and promote the health of all workers for whom it is a Principal Employer;
* Avoid or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment by avoiding or minimizing pollution from its Operations including measures to abate emissions that contribute to climate change;
* Avoid or minimize risks to and impacts on the health and safety of the local community from its Operations (on account of both routine and non routine circumstances);
* Ensure that the safeguarding of personnel and property is carried out in a legitimate manner that avoids or minimizes risks to the community’s safety and security;
* Avoid or at least minimize involuntary resettlement wherever feasible by exploring alternative project designs;
* Mitigate adverse social and economic impacts from land acquisition or restrictions on affected persons including informal settlers’ use of land by:
  + providing compensation for loss of assets at replacement cost;
  + ensuring that resettlement activities are implemented with appropriate disclosure of information, consultation, and the informed participation of affected communities;
  + improving or at least restoring the livelihoods and standards of living of displaced persons; and
  + improving living conditions among displaced persons through provision of adequate housing with security of tenure at resettlement sites;
* Protect and conserve biodiversity by avoiding habitat destruction or degradation particularly of natural and critical habitat as also protected areas; and ensure access of communities to natural resources on which their livelihoods depend;
* Avoid adverse impacts of its Operations on communities of Indigenous Peoples, or when avoidance is not feasible, to minimize, mitigate, or compensate for such impacts , and to provide opportunities for development benefits, in a culturally appropriate manner particularly:
  + ensure that the development process fosters full respect for the dignity, human rights, aspirations, cultures and natural resource-based livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples;
  + establish and maintain an ongoing relationship with the Indigenous Peoples affected by a the Company’s project;
  + foster good faith negotiation with and informed participation of Indigenous Peoples when projects are to be located on traditional or customary lands under use by the Indigenous Peoples; and
  + respect and preserve the culture, knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples; and
* Protect cultural heritage from the adverse impacts of its Operations and support its preservation.