

Environmental Safeguarding for Responsible Development



SESSION 6b: Interactive Capacity Building

Session Objectives:

Understand the main elements of “Biodiversity Safeguard Policies” of major development financing institutions, including their provisions relating to Protected Areas

Understand how best to use Environmental Impact Assessment as a tool for avoiding, reducing and mitigating negative development impacts on Protected Areas

Session format:

Short presentation

Q&A/Discussion/Experience Sharing

Case Study Exercise (if time permits)

“Safeguard Policies” – 2 step process:

- 1) Requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment = identify potential threats to biodiversity and appropriate mitigation measures
- 2) Application of specific policies/requirements/standards relating to biodiversity and ecosystems/habitats



Some Key aspects of Environmental Impact Assessment (*vis a vis* Protected Areas/Biodiversity)

Define project's "Area of Influence" (may extend significantly beyond project "footprint")

Identify Direct and also "reasonably foreseeable" Indirect/Induced Impacts; (including potential cumulative impacts

Baseline information (to evaluate biodiversity/ecological significance, enable monitoring of impacts and mitigation measures)

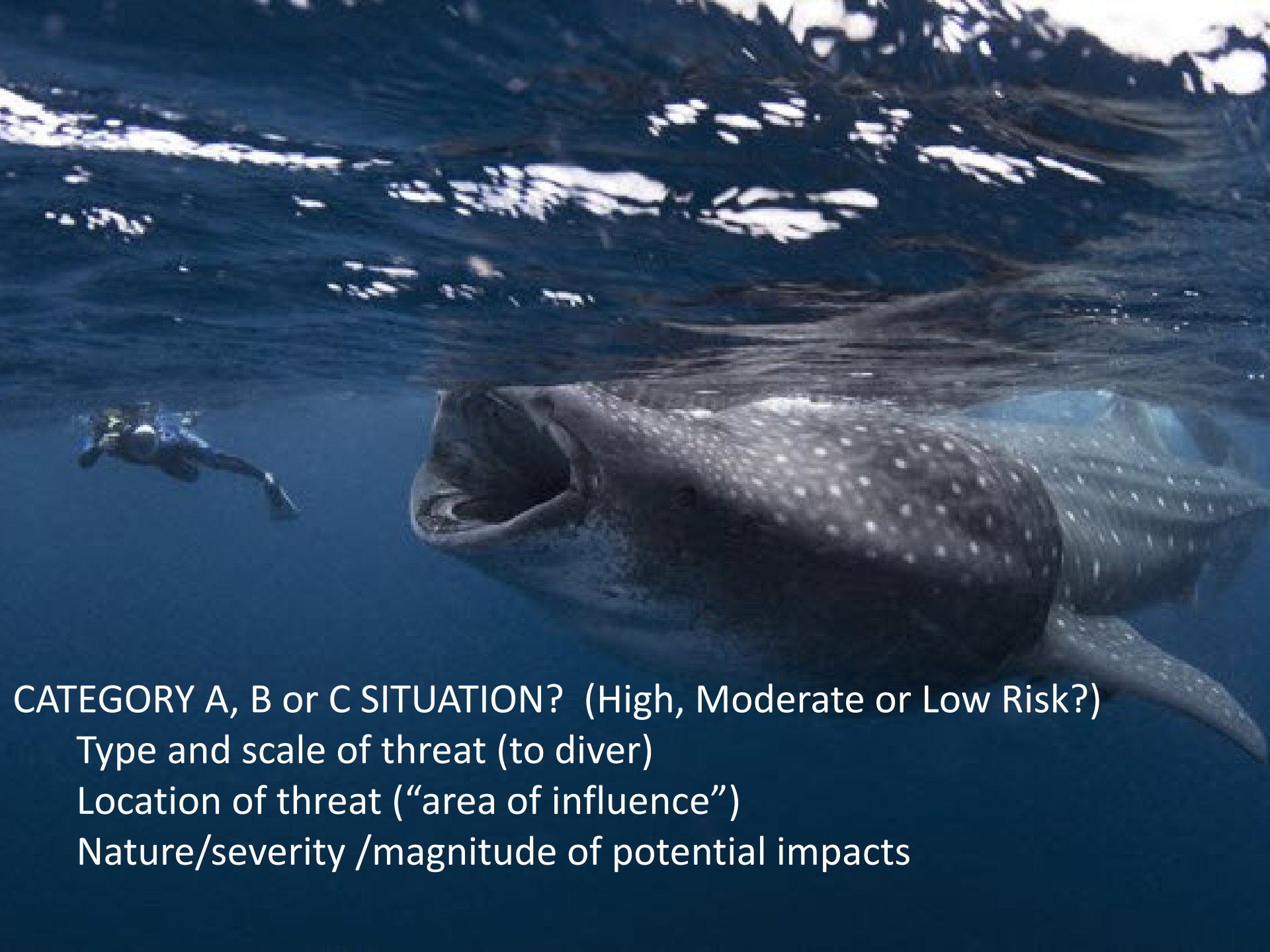
Analysis of alternatives (particularly options for project site and for design & technology aspects relating to space, resource consumption, waste generation...)

Institutional framework and capacity assessment (How much "strengthening" of existing system is needed to provide adequate protection? Park Management Plan in place?)

Stakeholder identification & consultation (capture economic and social value of threatened species/resources/areas)

Mitigation/Management Plan (do "reality check" on feasibility and sustainability)

Residual impacts (be clear on what is not avoidable or mitigatable)



CATEGORY A, B or C SITUATION? (High, Moderate or Low Risk?)

Type and scale of threat (to diver)

Location of threat (“area of influence”)

Nature/severity /magnitude of potential impacts

Good Terms of Reference is Key:

Good TOR + Good Team = useful EIA

- ▶ **Clarity on objectives** (analysis/conclusions and recommendations, not just data; practical and realistic EMP, etc.)
- ▶ **Clarity on scope and contents** (all project activities and associated activities; all project stages; direct & indirect & cumulative impacts; analysis of alternatives; social/environment interface; clear and feasible EMP; etc.). List known issues to be addressed, plus provision for consultant to identify others
- ▶ **Clarity on methodology/level of effort** (site visits, formal surveys, modeling, consultations, etc.)
- ▶ **Clarity on deliverables** (note value of inception Report)
- ▶ **Provide for sufficient time and resources** (for data collection, consultation, document revision, etc.)
- ▶ **Specific expertise required** (technical specialties; EIA experience)
- ▶ **Time Frame; budget and/or expected person-months**

Scoping step: importance of public / stakeholder consultation;

Examples of specific policies/standards for biodiversity & ecosystems

World Bank: Operational Policy/Bank Procedure 4.04: Natural Habitats*

**International Finance Corporation: Performance Standard 6:
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural
Resources**

**European Bank for Reconstruction and Development: Performance
Requirement 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of
Living Natural Resources**

**African Development Bank Group: Integrated Safeguards System:
Operational Safeguard 3: Biodiversity, Renewable Resources and Ecosystem
Services**

Others...

* Currently under revision/transition to “Environmental Sustainability Standard 6:
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Key elements of Biodiversity “Safeguard” policies/standards:

- Determine whether there is risk of causing significant biodiversity loss: i.e., potential “significant loss or degradation” of :

“critical habitat” --mainly defined by very high biodiversity value; presumption that Protected Areas are “critical habitat” unless demonstrated otherwise

Other natural habitats (WB) ; or habitats (natural or modified) with significant biodiversity/ecological value (IFC)

- WB OP 4.04: no support for projects involving significant conversion/degradation of critical natural habitat;
- IFC PS6: Client will not implement projects in Critical Habitats if project would: (i) lead to measurable adverse impacts on biodiversity values for which the CH was designated, and on ecological processes supporting those biodiversity values; (ii) leads to a net reduction in global and/or regional population of any Endangered/Critically Endangered species

- **IFC** : Incremental requirements for project proposed within Protected Area, client will:
 - demonstrate proposed project activities are legally permitted and consistent with area's Management Plan;
 - consult with PA managers, local /indigenous communities , other stakeholders
 - implement additional programs (as appropriate) to promote/enhance the conservation aims and effective management of the area

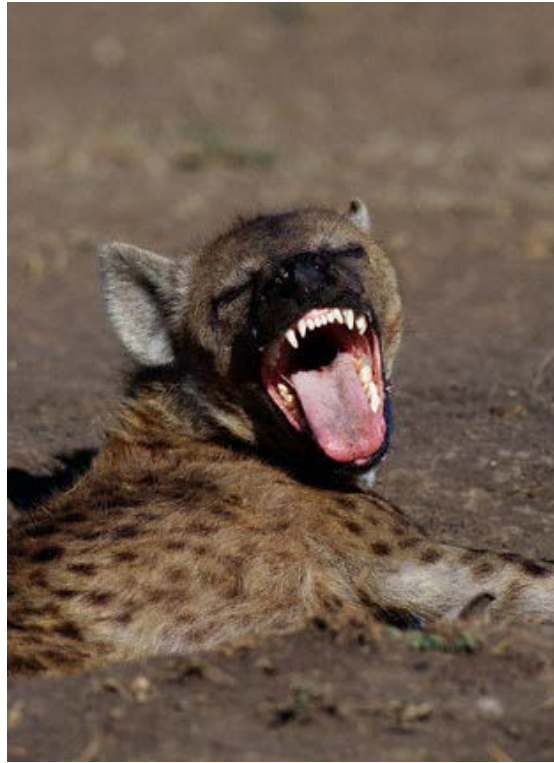
- **WB and IFC**: references to “Mitigation Hierarchy “
 - first seek to avoid impacts; locate projects on already converted land
 - “Offsets” as a last resort, only after appropriate avoidance, minimization and restoration measures have been applied

- **IFC**: mitigation measures to achieve “no net loss” of biodiversity where feasible, including corridors and other measures to minimize habitat fragmentation; post–project habitat restoration;

- WB: Assessment of Borrower's capacity to protect/manage biodiversity/PAs; support “gap-filling” measures as needed.
- IFC: Together with affected communities, Client will identify “**priority ecosystem services**” (loss results in adverse impacts on Affected Communities, and/or project depends directly on the ES); client to avoid negative impacts on priority ES when this is within his control



Ready for Case Study Exercise?



1. Choose and read a case study
2. Prepare a brief draft Terms of Reference for an EIA of the project
3. Present and discuss draft TORs