
SURVEY

on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits Projects

REPORTING COUNTRY INFORMATION**CHE-SERV-SURVEY-DEC-08**Reporting Country Reporting Institution Submission Date Version number **I GENERAL PRINCIPLES****Objectives**

- 1 In general, please describe the policies and practices that you have established to support the objectives of the Recommendation.

SERV's business policy is based on Swiss law (Act and Ordinance) and the strategic requirements of the Swiss government. The organisation's business policy implements the Swiss government's defined legal and strategic goals, thereby determining SERV's view of its own mission and the principles by which it conducts its business. The business policy is available (in German and French) on the internet under <http://www.serv-ch.com/en/about-us/business-policy/index.html>, and the policy on environmental compliance can be found on page 2. The practical procedure for our clients are explained in several documents published on the Internet (<http://www.serv-ch.com/en/ethical-principles/environment/index.html>).

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II SCREENING AND CLASSIFICATION OF PROJECTS

Exemptions

2 Are all applications screened?

Yes

Information requirements

3 What information is required for the screening process?

Application form

Please provide details of information required.

The application form requests detailed information about the project. Depending on the transaction and / or the answers provided, further information may be required of the applicant. The questionnaire can be found online on http://www.serv-ch.com/fileadmin/serv-dateien/Produkte/Exporteure/Antragsformular_Exporteur_EN.pdf

Responsibilities

4 Who is responsible for providing the information required to screen applications?

Applicant (in most cases)

Any other comments.

SERV has no other comments.

5 Who within your Export Credit Agency (ECA) is responsible for screening applications?

Environmental Practitioner (always)

Timing

6 At what stage does screening occur in the risk assessment process?

Immediately after SERV receives an application it is screened by the Environment Team.

Scope and criteria of screening

7 Please provide details of how the screening process considers, where appropriate, operational links with associated operations.

SERV identifies operational links through its Environment Team (such as fulfilling the OECD's Principles and Guidelines to Promote Sustainable Lending or SERV's "Anti-Corruption Measures") during the screening process. Primary documentation used for the initial screening are the application, Environmental Questionnaire (which may require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Development Questionnaire. Should clarification be required, the applicant is requested to furnish further information (secondary documentation, which may include an EIA) reflecting the potential categorization.

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- 8 Please specify any particular practices followed in screening applications in cases of:
- a) Co-insurance/co-finance with other ECAs or International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

May take account of screening by other ECAs or IFIs

Any other comments.

SERV has no other comments.

- b) Re-insurance as lead ECA.

Would always conduct own screening

Any other comments.

SERV has no other comments.

- c) Re-insurance as re-insurer.

Would rely on screening by lead ECA

Any other comments.

SERV has no other comments.

Scope and criteria of screening

- 9 What procedures and practices do you have in place to help identify exports of capital goods and services to existing operations[1]?

In answering the Environmental Questionnaire, the applicant should indicate under question 3 whether the supply contract involves a "new investment" or an "addition to an existing facility".
The plausibility of the answer is cross-checked against other documentation tendered by the applicant and any other information available to SERV (e.g. the internet).

New projects

- 10 What procedures and practices do you have in place to help identify exports of capital goods and services to projects[2]?

In answering the Environmental Questionnaire, the applicant should provide under questions 1 and 4 (among others) information on the project.
The plausibility of this information is cross-checked against other documentation tendered by the applicant and any other information available to SERV (e.g. the internet).

Other exports

- 11 How do you screen exports of capital goods and services that are neither to existing operations nor to projects?

SERV's screening process takes into account the potential impact based on the purpose and the nature of the exported goods and services, regardless of the terms of repayment. If the goods and or services have a potential serious impact, SERV would treat the transaction for which cover is being applied for as it would an application for the cover of a transaction with the respective classification (i.e. Category A or B).

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Classification system

12 Does your classification system vary from that of the Recommendation?

No

Scope of classification

13 Do you classify exports of capital goods and services

a) that are to existing operations?

Yes

Please provide details.

SERV reviews such applications for environmental risk. If there is any indication that there is material change in output or function, SERV would classify the transaction.

b) that are neither to existing operations nor to projects?

Yes

Please provide details.

The screening process takes into account the potential impact based on the purpose and the nature of the goods and / or services exported. If the goods and / or services have a potentially serious impact, SERV would treat the transaction for which cover is being sought as it would an application for the cover of a transaction with the respective classification (i.e. Category A or B).

14 In what circumstances do you classify projects in respect of which your share is below SDR 10 million?

At present, SERV classifies all projects of which its share is over MCHF 10. From 2008, SERV will classify according to the Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits. Projects without classification according to OECD Common Approaches will undergo a special environmental review process. If there is any indication of environmental risk, SERV would classify them accordingly.

Responsibilities for classification

15 Who is responsible for the classification of projects?

Environmental Practitioner (always)

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III ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Information requirements

- 16 Do your procedures prescribe the type of information necessary for the review process, or are projects reviewed on a case-by-case basis? Please provide details.

Prescribed procedures

Please provide details.

SERV follows the Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits: an EIAR according to Annex 2 for category A projects; relevant environmental information (preferably an EIAR, studies etc.) for category B projects.

Responsibilities

- 17 Who is responsible for providing the information required to review projects?

Applicant (in most cases)

- 18 Who within your ECA is responsible for reviewing projects?

Environmental Practitioner (always)

Scope and criteria

- 19 Please provide details of how your review process considers, where appropriate, operational links with associated operations.

If associated operations are of importance to the project in review, SERV would also review these operations. SERV's decision to review associated operations depends on 1) their direct link with the project in review, e.g. same owner or extended portion of the process; 2) the impact of the associated operations on the environment on a stand-alone basis; and 3) the impact of the associated operations on the environment in conjunction with the project in review.

- 20 Please specify any particular practices followed in reviewing projects in cases of:

- a) Co-insurance/co-finance with other ECAs, IFIs or your Development Agency.

May take account of review carried out by other ECAs, IFIs or Develop

Any other comments.

SERV reviews each case on a separate basis. Some defining factors may be the portion we co-insure; the plausibility of the information provided; or the implications of the project for Switzerland. Other factors would be taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis.

- b) Re-insurance as lead ECA.

Would always conduct own screening

Any other comments.

SERV has no other comments.

- c) Re-insurance as re-insurer.

May take account of review carried out by lead ECA

Any other comments.

SERV reviews each case on a separate basis. Some defining factors may be the portion we co-insure; the plausibility of the information provided; or the implications of the project for Switzerland. Other factors would be taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis.

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Category A projects

- 21 Under paragraph 9 of the Recommendation, Members should require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be undertaken for Category A projects. Are there any circumstances in which you might accept to review a Category A project for which an EIA has not been undertaken or for which either an EIA report is not available for review or does not adequately address all the issues set out in Annex II of the Recommendation?

No

Please note that SERV categorizes all transactions with a contract value of over MCHF 10 – including those with a repayment period of under two years. SERV requires an EIA for all transactions that have been categorised as an „A“ project with a repayment period of over two years. SERV's policy is – generally speaking – stricter than prescribed by the Recommendation.

- 22 a) Who is responsible for
i) Commissioning an EIA?

Project Sponsor (in most cases)

Any other comments.

SERV has no other comments.

- ii) Carrying out an EIA?

Independent Consultant (in most cases)

Any other comments.

SERV has no other comments.

- b) Who is responsible for providing you with a copy of an EIA report?

Applicant (in most cases)

Any other comments.

SERV has no other comments.

- c) Who is responsible for reviewing an EIA report?

Environmental Practitioner (always)

Category B projects

- 23 Under paragraph 10 of the Recommendation, the review of Category B projects should examine a project's potential negative and positive environmental impacts.
Please provide details of your general approach to reviewing Category B projects.

SERV reviews category B projects in much the same way it reviews category A projects – documentation permitting. First and foremost, the transaction's potential negative and positive environmental impacts including measures to prevent, minimise, mitigate or compensate adverse impacts are compiled and analysed from the documentation made available. This documentation may include our own research (mainly internet searches and information garnered from partners such as embassies, chambers of commerce or other ECAs). SERV uses the same benchmarks it uses for category A projects: local standards and the relevant World Bank Safeguard Policies must be fulfilled. Should we need further information (including, i.e. an EIA), the applicant – by applying for cover – has committed himself to providing any relevant information SERV requires to approve cover.

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Which, if any, of the items listed in Annex II of the Recommendation and which key environmental factors, such as those listed in paragraph 8 (tired 1) of the Recommendation, are taken into consideration?

Annex II:

Executive Summary

Policy, legal and administrative framework

Project description

Baseline data

Environmental impacts

Analysis of alternatives

Environmental Management Plan

Consultation

Paragraph 8 (tired 1):

significant air emissions, effluents, waste or noise

significant use of natural resources

involuntary resettlement

impacts on indigenous peoples

cultural property

Existing operations

- 24 What procedures and practices do you have in place to review the environmental risks associated with existing operations?

SERV compiles the information provided by the applicant and its own research (internet and partners, e.g. embassies, chambers of commerce and other ECAs) in its review and assessment of environmental risks associated with existing operations. The adherence to local standards and relevant World Bank Safeguard Policies (and any other relevant guidelines) are verified. If there are inconsistencies, SERV reserves the right – keeping in mind the extent of the environmental risks identified – to require further information to be furnished. If there is material change in output or function, we review according to the Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits.

Other exports

- 25 Do you review the environmental risks associated with Exports of capital goods and services that are neither to existing operations nor to projects?

Please provide details.

The review process takes into account the impact based on the purpose and the quality of the goods and/or services exported. If they are goods (or services) with an impact, SERV would link the export transaction operationally to the project and would review the export transaction as if it were to an existing operation or a project.

Standards

- 26 How do you ensure that a project is compliant with host country standards?

For all category A projects and those category B project for which we receive an EIAR, we assess the EIAR. Other documents that may ensure compliance are the respective authorisation and permits (letter of EIAR approval) from the host country confirming compliance with local standards.

Should we need further information, the applicant – by applying for cover – has committed himself to providing any relevant information SERV requires to approve cover.

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- 27 Paragraph 12 of the Recommendation sets out the general circumstances in which various international standards should be used for the purposes of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of projects. Please provide details of when, in practice, you would use the following international standards for Category A projects:

a) World Bank Safeguard Policies.

b) International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards.

c) Regional Development Bank standards.

d) Other relevant internationally recognised standards, such as European Community standards.

- 28 Please provide details of the circumstances, if any, in which you use the following technical international standards for the purposes of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of Category A projects (*i.e.* for sovereign, public / non-sovereign, corporate, limited or non-recourse project finance transactions).

a) The Pollution Prevention and Abatement Handbook.

Any other comments.

Sovereign

Public/non-sovereign

Corporate

Limited or non-recourse
project finance transaction

b) IFC Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines.

Any other comments.

Sovereign

Public/non-sovereign

Corporate

Limited or non-recourse
project finance transaction

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- 29 Paragraph 12 of the Recommendation sets out the general circumstances in which various international standards should be used for the purposes of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of projects. Please provide details of when, in practice, you would use the following international standards for Category B projects:

a) World Bank Safeguard Policies.

Always

b) International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards.

For private sector limited or non-recourse project finance cases (case-by-case basis)

Please provide details.

The project would be benchmarked against these performance standards after local and World Bank standards had been applied.

c) Regional Development Bank standards.

Where such institutions are supporting the project (case-by-case basis)

Please provide details.

The project would be benchmarked against these standards after local and World Bank standards had been applied.

d) Other relevant internationally recognised standards, such as European Community standards.

The project would be benchmarked against European Community standards only after local and World Bank standards had been applied.

- 30 Please provide details of the circumstances, if any, in which you use the following technical international standards for the purposes of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of Category B projects (*i.e.* for sovereign, public / non-sovereign, corporate, limited or non-recourse project finance transactions):

a) The Pollution Prevention and Abatement Handbook.

Any other comments.

Sovereign

Rarely

SERV has no other comments.

Public/non-sovereign

Rarely

SERV has no other comments.

Corporate

Rarely

SERV has no other comments.

Limited or non-recourse
project finance transaction

Rarely

SERV has no other comments.

b) IFC Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines.

Any other comments.

Sovereign

In most cases

SERV has no other comments.

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Public/non-sovereign In most cases

SERV has no other comments.

Corporate In most cases

SERV has no other comments.

Limited or non-recourse
project finance transaction

In most cases

SERV has no other comments.

- 31 Please provide details of any circumstances in which you might apply more than one set of international standards or guidelines.

In its review of transactions, SERV builds on the foundation of local standards, which must always be fulfilled. Furthermore, the relevant World Bank Safeguard Policies are used as benchmarks, ensuring that the more stringent of the two (local or WB) have been fulfilled. As the Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits prescribes, other appropriate standards may be used as benchmarks. As soon as an environmental aspect of the transaction is not covered by the World Bank Safeguard Policies or specific reasons are given as to why other international standards are to be incorporated into the review, SERV would consider applying more than one set of standards.

- 32 Please provide details on the circumstances in which you would use other internationally recognised sector specific or issue specific standards that are not addressed by the World Bank Group.

SERV would use other internationally recognised standards as soon as

- environmental aspects it deems to be of importance (e.g. specific emission limits) are not addressed by the World Bank Group; or
- specific reasons are given as to why another set of standards or guidelines are to be incorporated into the review.

SERV has benchmarked with European Union standards. In one transaction, SERV accepted the applicant's rationale for using European Union standards. Nevertheless, SERV ensured that all of the relevant World Bank Safeguard Policies had been fulfilled.

- 33 Please provide details of your procedures and practices in cases where projects do not meet the international standards or guidelines against which they have been benchmarked.

SERV's first step is to engage the applicant - and for projects with broad implications, the project sponsor - to explore and implement improvements to seal any gaps. SERV's goal is to cover transactions that comply with relevant local and applicable and appropriate international standards.

Should the transaction still not meet local and international standards and if the first step has not already done so, SERV would request the applicant (for projects with broad implications, SERV would insist on the involvement of the project sponsor) to justify the deviations.

Accepting deviations is not taken lightly by SERV. In such cases, SERV's board of directors decide on the worthiness of covering the transaction. This decision assures that the balance between the obligations Switzerland has assumed under international agreements and SERV's duty to promote exports and in so doing, to foster and preserve jobs in Switzerland are upheld. The Federal Council of Switzerland may – especially for projects with broad implications – confirm (and add to) the decision taken by SERV's Board of Directors.

Because SERV adheres to the prescribed procedures of the Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits, all such projects would be reported to the ECG according to Article 22.

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Site visits

- 34 Please specify in what circumstances you might carry out a site visit as part of the review process.

We carry out site visits for category A projects if the EIAR shows that standards as prescribed in the Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits have not been fulfilled. If SERV deems the extent of non-compliance for category B projects as broad, a site visit may be carried out.

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IV EVALUATION, DECISION AND MONITORING

Conditions to official support

- 35 How are conditions related to the environment incorporated into documentation prior to or after the decision on official support? Please provide details.

As a rule, conditions related to the environment are made prior to the decision on official support. Before definitive official support is given, SERV ensures that the conditions have been fulfilled.

SERV's General Terms and Conditions for all its products foresee either the exclusion of indemnification or the cancellation of the policy should the policyholder not fulfil its obligations. One of the obligations the policyholder has is to „...fully and accurately represent all material circumstances of relevance to the acceptance of the insurance and the entitlement to indemnification...“. These representations of material circumstances of relevance are part of the policy (although they are not generally itemised in the policy) and would include conditions related to the environment.

Please provide examples of any environmental covenants used.

SERV, in conjunction with Euler-Hermes and OeKB, have used covenants in the Ilisu project. These covenants have been incorporated in the policy by referring to Terms of Reference agreed upon between the project sponsor and the involved ECAs. In addition to stating what measures must be taken to meet environmental standards, these Terms of Reference require a monitoring process with the creation of a Project Implementation Unit and Committee of Experts. The monitoring process defines what occurs should any of the Terms of Reference not be fulfilled.

A complete description of these covenants / Terms of Reference goes beyond the scope of this survey. SERV refers to the presentation on the Ilisu project by Euler-Hermes and OeKB at the Environmental Practitioner's Meeting in December 2006.

Denying official support

- 36 Under what circumstances would you consider denying support on account of the environmental impacts of a project? Please provide details.

SERV's principle is to cover transactions that comply with relevant local and international standards.

This principle allows SERV to deny support for any transaction that does not fulfill environmental standards as prescribed by the Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits.

However, as stated in the answer to question 33 of Section III Review, SERV may, after attempting to alleviate or eradicate impacts, nonetheless decide to support a transaction after ensuring that the balance between the obligations Switzerland has assumed under international agreement and SERV's duty to promote exports and in so doing, to foster and preserve jobs in Switzerland is upheld.

Please provide any examples of experience.

Until the end of 2007 SERV has not denied support on account of the environmental impacts.

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Monitoring

- 37 Please provide details of your procedures for monitoring, as appropriate, the implementation of a project, regardless of its classification, to ensure compliance with the conditions of your official support, including monitoring frequency/period, content and reporting method.

Should the environmental review foresee monitoring, SERV expects that the project owner will implement the environmental monitoring and publish the respective reports. An independent committee of experts may be founded to monitor the project and provide the relevant reports and guidance.

Monitoring frequency/period:

SERV expects that reports on the progress of a project are to be issued at least two times a year during the construction phase and annually or bi-annually during the repayment period.

Content:

SERV expects that a report contains - among others - information on compliance and non-compliance of the actual situation with the values agreed upon; actual environmental data (measurement, surveys etc.); an evaluation of this data, comparing it with the values agreed upon and information on measures to mitigate environmental impacts.

Reporting method:

SERV expects a written report.

- 38 i) Who is responsible for undertaking monitoring of projects, including, if appropriate, site visits and preparing monitoring reports?

Other

Please provide details.

The monitoring of projects is undertaken by any combination of SERV's Environment Team, external consultants and committee of experts. The division of responsibility depends on the project.

- ii) Who is responsible for reviewing monitoring information and deciding on compliance?

Environmental Practitioner (always)

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Non-compliance measures

- 39 What actions are available to you in cases where monitoring reveals that conditions are not being complied with?

SERV's General Terms and Conditions for all its products foresee either the exclusion of indemnification or the cancellation of the policy should the policyholder not fulfill its obligations. The cancellation of the policy can be instigated "if the policyholder provides material grounds that render a continuation of the policy unreasonable for SERV, or the policyholder breaches its obligations under the policy in any other way..." SERV would set up the monitoring requirement as an obligation of the policyholder and thus be able to - as the most extreme remedy - cancel the policy.

On a practical level, SERV would first seek to engage the policy holder and the project sponsor in a discussion (and, of course, any other parties involved, such as other ECAs).

Who is responsible for deciding what actions are appropriate in order to restore compliance?

Other

Please provide details.

As a rule, it is the responsibility of the Environment Team to decide what actions are appropriate. These will, depending on the implications of the project, be approved by higher levels within SERV's organisation or by our guardian authority (and the possibility of an approval of the Federal Council).

Please provide any examples of experience.

SERV does not have any experiences to report.

Disclosure of monitoring reports

- 40 i) In what circumstances do you encourage project sponsors to make *ex post* monitoring reports and related information publicly available?

SERV encourages *ex post* monitoring reports when the underlying project has been categorised as an "A" project and either SERV or the policyholder can exert influence on the project sponsors. SERV also encourages *ex post* monitoring reports for "B" projects if an EIAR has been published and either SERV or the policyholder can exert influence on the project sponsors.

On the practical side, it must be stated that SERV rarely has a direct relationship with the project sponsors and therefore can only exert influence through the applicant / policyholder. This, of course, does not exclude the above mentioned encouragement.

- ii) In what circumstances, if any, does your ECA require project sponsors to make such information publicly available or itself seek to make such information publicly available?

SERV can require project sponsors to make information publicly available if this requirement is built into the policy. This is feasible with projects of broad implications, with which SERV's involvement is crucial to the fulfillment of local and international standards. In other cases, the possibility of SERV's influence would have to be explored.

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V EXCHANGE AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

Environmental procedural guidance

- 41 Have you published national ECA environmental policy statements and procedural guidance?

Yes

Where can they be found?

SERV publishes its environmental policy and procedures on the internet.

Please provide web address if relevant.

<http://www.serv-ch.com/en/ethical-principles/environment/index.html>

Exchanging information

- 42 Please provide details of your procedures and practices in exchanging information with other ECAs and IFIs in situations of

- a) co-insuring/co-financing.

In cases of co-insurance (SERV does not offer financing), SERV would attempt to follow its usual underwriting policy, ensuring, however, that the process of the co-insurer(s) are compatible. Because the decision for cover must be made multilaterally, SERV assumes that all information pertinent to the environmental review is shared between the involved ECAs.

- b) competition.

We would exchange the relevant information with other ECAs only with the permission of the exporter / financing institutions.

Disclosure of project information

- 43 Please provide details of your procedures and practices for disclosing publicly information on Category A projects before a final commitment to grant official support, including:

- a) The scope and content of information released.

SERV publishes a list on the internet showing all preliminary applications with a delivery value of MCHF 10 or more (and including projects with a repayment term of less than two years) in the environmental categories A + B (according to the OECD Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits). SERV includes the following information (if available) in this list: country, sector, export goods, project name, a link to additional information and the publication date. On the internet site, a contact person is given should further information be required.

- b) The form and language of the information released.

The list in the form of a table in a pdf-document and all information is provided solely in the English language.

including website address, if relevant.

http://www.serv-ch.com/fileadmin/serv-dateien/Ethik-Umwelt/Ex_Ante_Q1-07.pdf

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- c) The required number of days the information should be made available prior to commitment.

SERV is committed to implementing the Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credit and therefore, according to Article 19 insists on public disclosure of at least 30 calendar days before a final commitment to grant official support has been made.

- d) Any legal constraints to *ex ante* disclosure of such project information (*i.e.* is your ECA legally precluded from making such information publicly available).

There are no legal constraints to *ex ante* disclosure for SERV. Although SERV's policy is to publicly disclose all *ex ante* projects with a contract value of MCHF 10 or more (and including those with a repayment term of under two years) in categories A, B and C, SERV will publish information only for those transactions for which it has received permission from the exporter and/or financing institute. It is SERV's policy to require the exporter and/or financing institute to justify their refusal. The lion's share of refusals are due to competition during the bidding phase which SERV accepts. Nevertheless SERV will ask the exporter and/or financing institute if any information can be published. In the „worst“ case SERV will state that a transaction has been covered in the relevant category without providing any information. For our *ex ante* list, please see http://www.serv-ch.com/fileadmin/serv-dateien/Ethik-Umwelt/Ex_Ante_Q1-07.pdf.

- e) Any circumstances in which project information relating to Category A projects is not disclosed prior to commitment.

SERV cannot foresee any circumstances in which project information relating to category A projects is not disclosed prior to commitment.

- f) Any comments not covered by sub-sections (a)-(e) above.

SERV does not have any comments.

Disclosure of environmental impact information

- 44 Please provide details of your procedures and practices for requiring that environmental impact information on Category A projects be made publicly available before a final commitment to grant official support, including:

- a) Responsibility for making such information publicly available.

ECA

- b) If the ECA or Guardian Authority is not responsible for such disclosure, please provide details of

- i) how third parties are required to make such information publicly available;

Although SERV is responsible for such disclosure, it may require or request that environmental impact information for category A projects are available on another internet site. In this case, the Environment Team ensures that a link to the other site is available on SERV's website. There are cases in which an electronic version of the environmental impact information is not available. In this case, SERV clearly publishes the fact and asks any interested party to contact SERV for a copy.

- ii) how this is monitored;

For the cases mentioned above, the Environmental Team ensures that the public disclosure is upheld during the 30 calendar days prior to granting official support.

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iii) what measures are available in cases of non-compliance:

The first remedy SERV has is not to grant official support. The „30“ day term would most certainly be extended. If this proves too complex, SERV would disclose the information itself (on its internet site).

iv) please provide any examples of experience.

SERV has never experienced any noteworthy problems with public disclosure.

c) The scope and content of information that should be released.

SERV will always ensure that the EIA report is publicly disclosed. If available, the summary of such report, other relevant information, including a link to a project site would also be disclosed.

d) The form and language of the information that should be released (including website address, if released by ECA or Guardian Authority).

SERV provides internet links to the documents if they can be made available on the internet. If the documents are not available in electronic form, SERV mentions in its project information that a member of the Environment Team should be contacted for further information. The information is provided solely in English.

website address, if relevant.

http://www.serv-ch.com/fileadmin/serv-dateien/Ethik-Umwelt/Ex_Post_Q1-07.pdf

e) The required number of days the information should be made available prior to commitment.

SERV is committed to implementing the Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credit and therefore, according to Article 19 insists on public disclosure of at least 30 calendar days before a final commitment to grant official support has been made.

f) Any legal constraints in *ex ante* disclosure of environmental impact information (*i.e.* is your ECA legally precluded from requiring the project sponsor to provide the disclosure as a condition of receiving ECA support).

There are no legal constraints to *ex ante* disclosure for SERV. Although SERV's policy is to publicly disclose all *ex ante* projects with a contract value of MCHF 10 or more (and including those with a repayment term of under two years) in categories A, B and C, SERV will publish information only for those transactions for which it has received permission from the exporter and/or financing institute. It is SERV's policy to require the exporter and/or financing institute to justify their refusal. The lion's share of refusals are due to competition during the bidding phase which SERV accepts. Nevertheless SERV will ask the exporter and/or financing institute if any information can be published. In the „worst“ case SERV will state that a transaction has been covered in the relevant category without providing any information. For our *ex ante* list, please see http://www.serv-ch.com/fileadmin/serv-dateien/Ethik-Umwelt/Ex_Ante_Q1-07.pdf.

g) Any circumstances in which environmental impact information relating to Category A projects is not disclosed prior to commitment.

No, all Category A projects that are subject to the Common Approaches are disclosed prior to final commitment.

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h) Any comments not covered by sub-sections (a)-(g) above.

SERV has no other comments.

Ex post disclosure

45 Please provide details of your procedures and practices for making available to the public information on projects classified in Category A and Category B for which you have made a final commitment to provide official support, including:

a) How often you make publicly available *ex post* information on projects classified in Category A and Category B.

Information is provided on a regular basis, at least annually and includes category C projects. Projects that are reported have a contract value of MCHF 10 or more and include those with repayment periods of less than two years.

b) What is the scope and content of such information, including environmental information.

SERV lists the following information: country, exporter, type of export goods, project, delivery value category, tenor (short/medium/long term years), environmental category; additional information.

c) Who is responsible for disclosing such information.

ECA

d) The form and language of the information released

The list in the form of a table in a pdf-document and all information is provided solely in the English language.

including website address, if relevant.

http://www.serv-ch.com/fileadmin/serv-dateien/Ethik-Umwelt/Ex_Post_Q1-07.pdf

e) How long the information remains publicly available.

The information remains available for at least one year.

f) Any comments not covered by sub-sections (a)-(e) above.

SERV has no other comments.

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VI REPORTING AND MONITORING OF THE RECOMMENDATION

Accountability of your guidelines

- 46 Please provide details of any appropriate measures and mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with your policies and procedures.

The structure and most important information of a case are entered into our database by the case manager (an underwriter). The case manager hands over pertinent information to the Environment Team, who, after completion of the environmental review, will enter the results (including, i.e. the categorisation) in the data base. Any documentation is handed back to the case manager who files it in an appropriate manner. Before a case is approved for cover a second underwriter checks the entire case. Only when this check has been completed, does the Head of Business Underwriting Office / CEO approve the cover after ensuring that all underwriting guidelines have been upheld. (The decision process may then require an approval from the insurance committee and the board of directors - even a political decision at the level of the Federal Council, depending on the case. For these approvals, evidence of compliance with our policies and procedures must be presented.)

Monitoring and Evaluation

- 47 a) Please provide details of any procedures and practices in place to monitor and evaluate your experience of the Common Approaches at a national level.

During the course of 2007, SERV conducted an internal review of its procedures and found that its procedures and practices were too abstract. At the end of 2007, it was decided to revise the procedures and practices. SERV's Environment Team are currently revising these procedures with the support of an external consultant. This revision includes feedback of both internal and external stakeholders.

- b) Please provide details of any procedures and practices in place to share experiences with other Members.

SERV shares experiences with other Members in two ways:

- SERV has always been willing to divulge details of experience(s) on a bilateral basis with other Members as long as SERV does not infringe on any laws or agreements by doing so.
- SERV is committed to participating in the activities of the Environmental Practitioners.

Revising procedures :

- 48 i) When was the last review or update of your environmental procedures conducted? (mm/yy)

December 2007

- ii) What was the motivation for the last review or update of your environmental procedures?

SERV's motivation came from the the Revised Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits of June 2007 and the transition from ERG to SERV.

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49 Are any modifications foreseen in the near future?

Yes

For what
reason?

We are revising our process for projects which do not fall under the Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits.

When ? (mm/yy)

June 2008

Resources

50 i) What resources have been required as a result of the implementation of your environmental procedures?

SERV has an Environment Team with one environmental specialist and one advisor . If needed, external consultants are called upon.

ii) if appropriate, please provide the number of dedicated Environmental Practitioners

2

iii) if appropriate, please provide the number of external consultants employed by your ECA.

Cost-sharing

51 What costs are shared both during the risk assessment process and after the financing agreement has been concluded?

The Swiss Export Risk Insurance Ordinance, Article 9, Tired 3, allows SERV to reimburse itself fully or partially from the applicant for any costs it incurs collecting information for its risk assessment and / or decision to provide support.

SERV is legally not required to share or bear any costs.

However, in practice, SERV bears some costs itself because part of the premium SERV charges includes costs for its assessment. In the past, SERV has made decisions on a case-by-case basis as to if – at all – costs are to be shared with or passed on to the applicant.

Reporting

52 How frequently do you report *ex post* to the ECG, in accordance with paragraph 22 (tired 1) of the Recommendation, all Category A and Category B projects for which a final commitment has been issued?

Semi-annually

Body of experience

53 Do you have any practices and procedures in place to collate experience and/or knowledge from individual cases? If so, please provide details.

Within SERV, there is only an informal practice of filing a copy of all applications which have been categorised A or B. This is, however, used to verify our reports to the ECG and our own „transparency reports“.

Externally, SERV exchanges experience and/or knowledge in assessing hydropower projects through the working group within the Environmental Practitioners.

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- 54 How do you store and transfer knowledge on environmental issues between Environmental Practitioners and between Environmental Practitioners and Underwriters?

Each application is assigned to an underwriter, the case manager. The case manager sets up a file in which all physical documentation, e.g. hard copies, is stored. It is the case manager's responsibility to ensure that all documentation is filed away in an appropriate fashion. The structure and most important information of a case are also stored in our database. All underwriters/case managers and the Environment Team have access to this information. Both the case managers and the Environment Team are responsible for the information in the database.

The case manager hands over to the Environment Team any relevant information he has received. Once the Environment Team has completed its review, all documents are handed back to the case manager, who files them appropriately. The Environment Team will then ensure that the categorisation – if any – and a summary of the review – if any – is entered into the database. During weekly meetings, information on current transactions are exchanged directly between case managers and the Environment Team.

Please note that the Environment Team consists of two people in the same office.

- 55 Do you produce any reports on environmental issues in addition to those required by the Recommendation?

Yes

Please provide
details.

SERV has a special section in its annual report covering environmental issues.

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VII OTHER COMMENTS**Scope**

- 56 How are environmental issues relating to exports of capital goods and services and the locations to which these are destined addressed for officially supported export credits with a repayment term of less than two years?

[We have a simplified environmental procedure to assess those exports.](#)

Any Additional Comments

- 57 Please provide any additional comments.

[None](#)