

# Farm Welfare Project Report

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## The Asian Development Bank (“ADB”)

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**Last Updated: November 3, 2025**

## Farm animal welfare standards, implementation and reporting in the Asian Development Bank's livestock projects

**Project:** Assam Sustainable Wetland and Integrated Fisheries Transformation Project<sup>1</sup>

**Recipient:** India

**Amount:** US\$ 71,900,000

**Location:** India

**Date approved:** N/A

**Project summary:** Supports “private sector led fisheries commercialization.”<sup>2</sup>

**Environmental Safeguards Category:** B

**Farm animal welfare standards:** No evidence found.

**Project:** Climate Resilient Livestock Development Project<sup>3</sup>

**Recipient:** Uzbekistan

**Amount:** US\$ 120,000,000

**Location:** Uzbekistan

**Date approved:** N/A

**Project summary:** “The project will help the Government of Uzbekistan (GOU) to achieve its climate actions set in its Updated Nationally Determined Contribution report, including (i) reducing GHG emission intensity by 35% below the 2010 level in 2030; (ii) improving water management system; (ii) expanding forest areas; (iii) restoring degraded pastures and introduce sustainable pasture management mechanisms.” Outputs include: “Regenerative pasture and supplementary feed base made climate resilient,” “climate-smart husbandry and veterinary services strengthened”, and “finance to livestock sector extended and climate-sensitized.”<sup>4</sup>

**Environmental Safeguards Category:** B

**Farm animal welfare standards:** No evidence found.

**Project:** Digital Agriculture Management for Improved Food Security Project<sup>5</sup>

**Recipient:** Tajikistan

**Amount:** US\$ 14,000,000

**Location:** Tajikistan

**Date approved:** N/A

**Project summary:** The project outcome is a “productive, digitally enabled, and environmentally sustainable livestock sector [is] developed” and the project outputs are “Strengthening legislation and institutions on livestock supported,” “Digital livestock management platform developed, and services for health of animals enhanced,” and “Climate-resilient pasture management strengthened.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/57042-001/main>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/57079-002/main>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/57307-001/main>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

**Environmental Safeguards Category: B**

**Farm animal welfare standards:** No evidence found.

**Project:** Promoting Sustainability and Productivity for Enterprise Resilience and Upscaling in the Philippines (ProSPER) Project (formerly Mindanao Agro-Enterprise Development Project)<sup>7</sup>

**Recipient:** Philippines

**Amount:** US\$ 61,000,000

**Location:** Philippines

**Date approved:** N/A

**Project summary:** “The project will support the Government of the Philippines to enhance agricultural diversification and food value chain development in Mindanao through (i) promoting private investments in agro-industry; (ii) improving agricultural logistics and services; and (iii) enhancing product quality and competitiveness.”<sup>8</sup> Livestock is referenced in the Project Concept Paper.<sup>9</sup>

**Environmental Safeguards Category: B**

**Farm animal welfare standards:** No evidence found.

**Project:** Northern China Agriculture and Food Ecosystem Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Development Project<sup>10</sup>

**Recipient:** China

**Amount:** US\$ 200,000,000

**Location:** China

**Date approved:** N/A

**Project summary:** This financial intermediary project has the aim to “leverage and mobilize private sector capital from institutional investors for the formation of a hybrid public-private climate-themed investment fund to finance investments in low-carbon and climate-resilient development in the agriculture and food ecosystem.” Aquaculture is specifically referenced. There is no information whether the project will support terrestrial animal production.<sup>11</sup>

**Environmental Safeguards Category:**

**Farm animal welfare standards:** No evidence found.

**Project:** Sichuan Climate Smart Low Carbon Agriculture Development Demonstration Program<sup>12</sup>

**Recipient:** China

**Amount:** US\$ 150,000,000

**Location:** China

**Date approved:** N/A

**Project summary:** “The proposed results-based lending (RBL) program will support sectoral and time slice of the broader government program through three outputs: (i) climate smart

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/53273-001/main#tabs-0-2>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/53273/53273-001-cp-en.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/58086-001/main>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/58086/58086-001-esms-en.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/58091-001/main>

agriculture capacity developed, (ii) sustainable and climate resilient agriculture production modernized; and (iii) sustainable low carbon agriculture systems developed in 10 districts/counties.”<sup>13</sup> Livestock, including poultry, is referenced in the Environmental Safeguard Systems Assessment.<sup>14</sup>

**Environmental Safeguards Category: B**

**Farm animal welfare standards:** No evidence found.

**Project:** Marine Ecosystems for Blue Economy Development Program (Subprogram 1)<sup>15</sup>

**Recipient:** Philippines

**Amount:** US\$ 400,000,000

**Location:** Philippines

**Date approved:** N/A

**Project summary:** One of the project’s subsectors is “Fishery.”<sup>16</sup>

**Environmental Safeguards Category: C**

**Farm animal welfare standards:** No evidence found.

**Project:** Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited<sup>17</sup>

**Recipient:** Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

**Amount:** US\$ 200,000,000

**Location:** India

**Date approved:** July 2025

**Project summary:** Loan to a financial institution. “ADB financing will be used for onlending (i) to micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), with a target for MSMEs owned or led by women; (ii) to the agriculture sector, including for the purchase of farm equipment.”<sup>18</sup>

**Environmental Safeguards Category: FI-C**

**Farm animal welfare standards:** No evidence found.

**Project:** BIDV Supporting Sustainable Agriculture and Expanding Access to Finance for Women-Owned Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Lending Project<sup>19</sup>

**Recipient:** Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam

**Amount:** US\$ 620,000,000

**Location:** Vietnam

**Date approved:** June 2025

**Project summary:** Loan to a financial institution. “The project will help facilitate long-term finance for sustainable agriculture, enabling BIDV to support agricultural producers and energy-efficient models.”<sup>20</sup>

**Environmental Safeguards Category: FI**

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/58091/58091-001-pssa-en\\_0.pdf](https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/58091/58091-001-pssa-en_0.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/58379-001/main>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/58379/58379-001-cp-en.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/58327-001/main>

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/57338-001/main>

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

**Farm animal welfare standards:** No evidence found.

**Project:** Thai Union Sustainable Shrimp Value Chain Project<sup>21</sup>

**Recipient:** Thai Union Group

**Amount:** US\$ 50,000,000

**Location:** Thailand

**Date approved:** April 2025

**Project summary:** The loan “will finance TU's permanent working capital needs for the procurement of sustainable shrimp in Thailand and operating expenses associated with TU's sustainability budget for its sustainable shrimp commitment. Sustainability activities will include extension services, training and advisory, R&D, certifications support, and pilot sustainability projects in Thailand. A complementing TA (funded by trust funds) will support the capacity building of shrimp farmers in Thailand in climate-smart aquaculture practices.”<sup>22</sup>

**Environmental Safeguards Category:** B

**Farm animal welfare standards:** Farm animal welfare standards are encouraged but do not appear to be mandatory: “TU is one of the first partners with the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) to implement its Aquaculture Improvements Projects (AIPs) under the ASC Improver Programme. These aims to transform the aquaculture industry towards environmental sustainability and social responsibility. AIPs are implemented through regular checks and assessments, KPI reporting and benchmarking against the required standards. ASC is a certification body that designs, manages, monitors and reports on AIP progress. The AIP topics which a shrimp farmer can choose are: Water & Waste management, Animal Welfare, Community Relationship, Wildlife & Habitat, Living & Working Conditions, Feed Uses, GHG Emissions.”<sup>23</sup>

**Project:** Rural Resilience and Livelihood Improvement Sector Project<sup>24</sup>

**Recipient:** Timor-Leste

**Amount:** US\$ 6,000,000

**Location:** Timor-Leste

**Date approved:** December 2024

**Project summary:** The project “will support [the] enhancing resilience of rural households that rely predominantly on agriculture by improving access to water, increasing the productivity of farms and agroforestry through climate-smart approaches, enhancing market linkages, and developing diversified livelihood opportunities.”<sup>25</sup> Cattle, pigs and sheep are referenced.<sup>26</sup>

**Environmental Safeguards Category:** C

**Farm animal welfare standards:** No evidence found.

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/58263-001/main>

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/58263/58263-001-escar-en.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/55139-001/main>

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/55139/55139-001-earf-en.pdf>

**Project:** Greater Mekong Subregion Cross-Border Livestock Health and Value Chains Improvement Project<sup>27</sup>

**Recipient:** Laos

**Amount:** US\$ 12,000,000

**Location:** Laos

**Date approved:** November 2024

**Project summary:** The three project outputs are: “Livestock health and value chain infrastructure expanded and upgraded in a climate-friendly manner; Capacity for improved production and health of livestock and livestock products strengthened; [and] Enabling policies for better supply, health, safety and trade in livestock and livestock products enhanced.”<sup>28</sup>

**Environmental Safeguards Category:** B

**Farm animal welfare standards:** According to the Safeguards Due Diligence Report for the Luang Namtha Slaughterhouse subproject: “Animal welfare standards are also not being complied with. A new slaughterhouse facility will be constructed in Luang Namtha province with best practice meat hygiene and livestock slaughtering methods, and compliant environmental waste management systems.”<sup>29</sup> There is no other reference to farm animal standards in project documents including the specific farm animal welfare standards that should be implemented in the aforementioned slaughterhouse.

**Project:** Veyselöglu Modern Retail Expansion Project<sup>30</sup>

**Recipient:** Araz Supermarket, Oba Market, Veyselöglu

**Amount:** US\$ 10,000,000

**Location:** Azerbaijan

**Date approved:** November 2024

**Project summary:** The loan will finance the Veyselöglu Modern Retail Expansion Project, a supermarket chain.<sup>31</sup>

**Environmental Safeguards Category:** B

**Farm animal welfare standards:** No evidence found.

**Project:** APU Dairy Inclusive Value Chain Development Project<sup>32</sup>

**Recipient:** APU Dairy

**Amount:** US\$ 20,000,000

**Location:** Mongolia

**Date approved:** October 2024

**Project summary:** The loan “will finance the construction of [a] new factory building, expansion of dairy processing and packaging capacity, establishment of raw milk collection centers and working capital needs.”<sup>33</sup>

**Environmental Safeguards Category:** B

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<sup>27</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/53240-002/main>

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/53240/53240-002-sddr-en.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/57290-001/main>

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/58144-001/main>

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

**Farm animal welfare standards:** No evidence found.

## The Asian Development Bank's farm animal welfare policy

The ADB's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) (2024), Environmental and Social Standard 6, Biodiversity Conservation, and Sustainable Natural Resources Management, 39 states: "Where a project involves industrial livestock activities, the borrower/client will identify potential risks and address impacts to animal welfare as necessary. While respecting the host country's applicable laws, the borrower/client will take all reasonable steps to minimize risks to animal welfare and promote animal welfare standards that are consistent with GIP [Good International Practice] including the prevention of antimicrobial resistance."<sup>34</sup>

The ESF defines GIP, or Good International Practice, as follows: "The exercise of professional skill, diligence, prudence, and foresight that would reasonably be expected from skilled and experienced professionals engaged in the same type of undertaking under the same or similar circumstances globally or regionally. World Bank Group Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs) will be one of the primary GIPs along with other specific guidelines and standards as agreed between borrower/client and ADB."<sup>35</sup>

## The Asian Development Bank's environmental safeguard categories

"Category A. A proposed project is classified as category A if it is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts that are irreversible, diverse, or unprecedented. These impacts may affect an area larger than the sites or facilities subject to physical works. An environmental impact assessment is required.

Category B. A proposed project is classified as category B if its potential adverse environmental impacts are less adverse than those of category A projects. These impacts are site-specific, few if any of them are irreversible, and in most cases mitigation measures can be designed more readily than for category A projects. An initial environmental examination is required.

Category C. A proposed project is classified as category C if it is likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental impacts. No environmental assessment is required although environmental implications need to be reviewed.

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<sup>34</sup>

<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/1033311/environmental-social-framework.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

Category FI. A proposed project is classified as category FI if it involves investment of ADB funds to or through a FI.”<sup>36</sup>

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<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/32056/safeguard-policy-statement-june2009.pdf>