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Capacity Building for Wildlife Safeguards in Asia

"THE LISA PROJECT"

Dr. Amrita Neelakantan,
Capacity Assessment Lead

Grace Stonecipher,
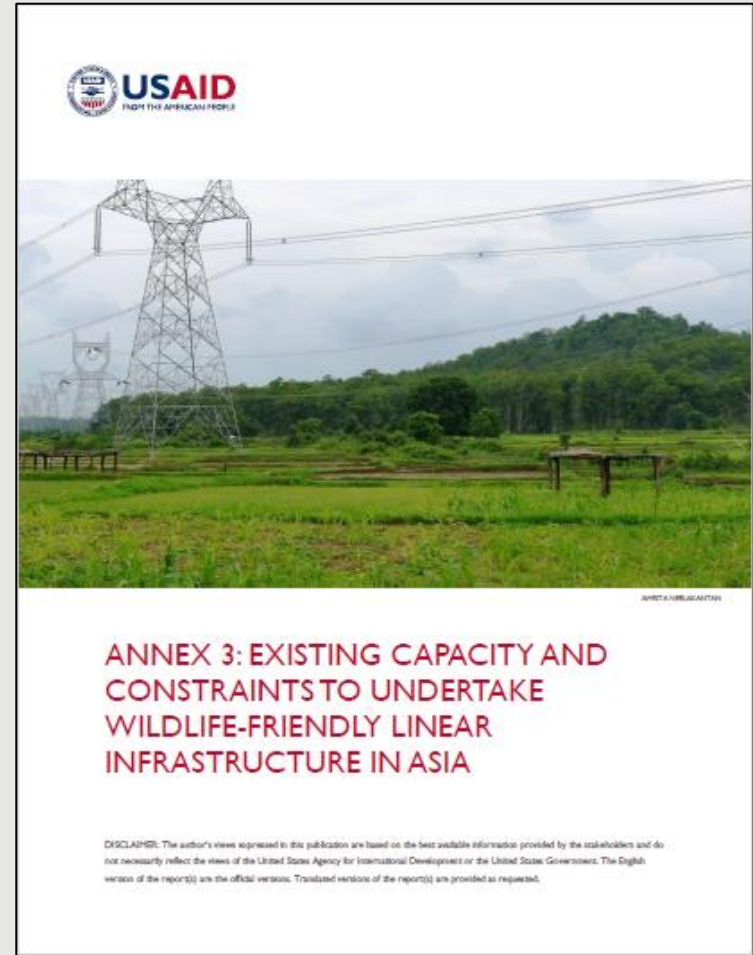LISA Project Coordinator

Aaron Laur

AGENDA

Methods

Existing Capacity

Q & A

Barriers to Implementing Wildlife Safeguards

Opportunities for Building Capacity

Q & A

ANNEX 3: EXISTING CAPACITY AND CONSTRAINTS TO UNDERTAKE WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY LINEAR INFRASTRUCTURE IN ASIA

DISCLAIMER: The author's views expressed in this publication are based on the best available information provided by the stakeholders and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government. The English version of the report(s) are the official versions. Translated versions of the report(s) are provided as requested.

ASIA: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS, MEGA-BIODIVERSITY, MODERN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Asia-wide Expansion of LI results in:
- Decreasing species' movement
- Increasing wildlife mortality
- Degrading critical habitats

BALANCING ASIA'S MULTIPLE GOALS: SDG #17 FOR COORDINATION

LISA speaks to the following SDGs:

METHODS FOR ASSESSING CAPACITY FOR WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY LINEAR INFRASTRUCTURE

CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

Goal:
- Examine capacity: policies, regulations, and resources for adopting LI safeguards
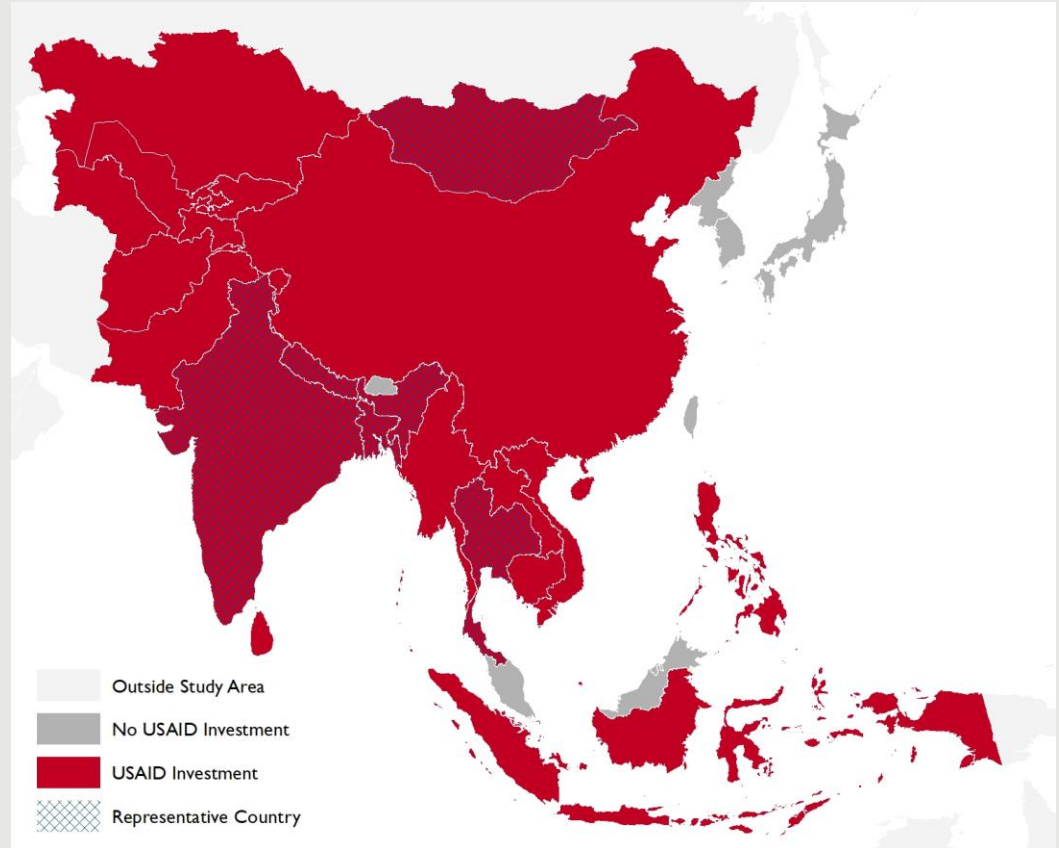
- Identify barriers to implementation

Methods:
- Asia-wide Assessment

- National Level Assessments

© Rob Ament

STUDY AREA & REPRESENTATIVE COUNTRIES

- Asia-wide - 28 Countries

- National Analysis - 5 Countries, namely:

  ➢ Bangladesh
  ➢ India
  ➢ Mongolia
  ➢ Nepal
  ➢ Thailand

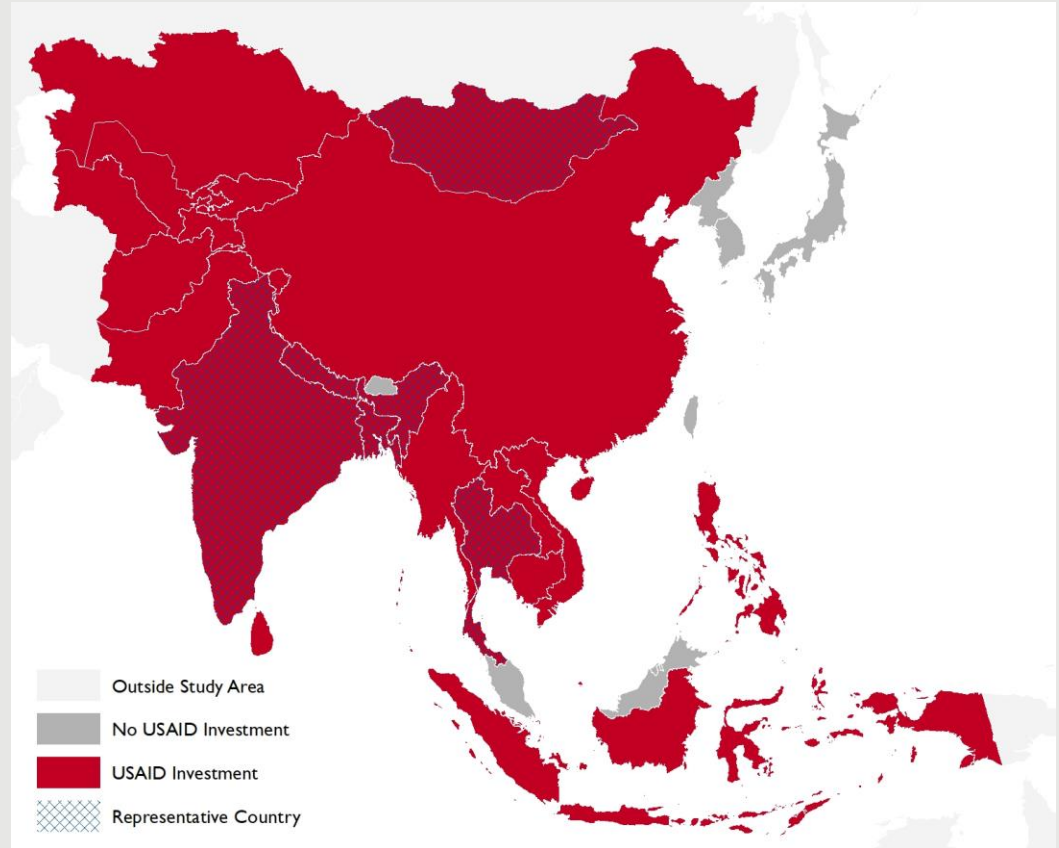| | Outside Study Area |
	No USAID Investment
	USAID Investment
	Representative Country

ASIA-WIDE

Internet research across major stakeholder groups

Evidence of existing capacity, data vacuum, capacity training

National legislation and commitments

Interviews and surveys of financiers and NGOs

The influence of China as a lender + builder

Outside Study Area

No USAID Investment

USAID Investment

Representative Country

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NATIONAL ANALYSIS – 5 COUNTRIES

- Local liaisons (national experts) and USAID missions

- Identifying key contacts and experts to survey across those involved in LI at the national level

- Formulating a robust survey (>300 respondents)

MONGOLIA

NEPAL

INDIA   BANGLADESH

THAILAND

Outside Study Area

No USAID Investment

USAID Investment

Representative Country

LIAISON TEAMS IN 5 REPRESENTATIVE COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH	**INDIA**	**MONGOLIA**	**NEPAL**	**THAILAND**
Farid Uddin Ahmed	Shiv Marwaha Ambika Sharma	Kirk Olson Bolortsetseg Sanjaa Narangua Batdorj	Padam B. Chand Biraj Shrestha	Petch Manopawitr Eileen Larney

CONSTITUENT GROUPS AND THEIR ROLES: GOVERNMENT

- Government agencies: transportation, energy, and environmental and/or conservation agencies

- Governments are decision makers (permitting and siting) and legislators (laws relevant to WFLI)

- Monitor international commitments to development as well as conservation

# CONSTITUENT GROUPS AND THEIR ROLES: INTERNATIONAL FINANICAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)
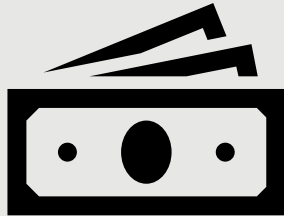
- IFIs provide funding for LI projects, typically in the form of loans

- IFIs often have Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies that borrowing countries must adhere to

- Host gold standards for practice and trainings with global inputs

CONSTITUENT GROUPS AND THEIR ROLES: INDUSTRY

- Industry includes infrastructure planners, engineers, and builders responsible for construction infrastructure and implementing safeguards

- Industry also includes environmental impact assessment consultants

# CONSTITUENT GROUPS AND THEIR ROLES: NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)
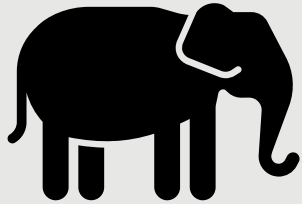
- NGOs have data on wildlife or habitat that can illuminate the potential impacts of LI projects in a given area

- NGOs also follow the development and construction of LI to ensure accountability regarding whether safeguards are implemented

CAPACITY ASSESSMENT: IDENTIFYING BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTING WILDLIFE SAFEGUARDS

Used survey questions to identify barriers in the project development process like:

- What part(s) of the project development process is your institution typically involved in?
- What part(s) of the linear infrastructure project development process are of greatest concern for ensuring that adequate wildlife safeguards are implemented?
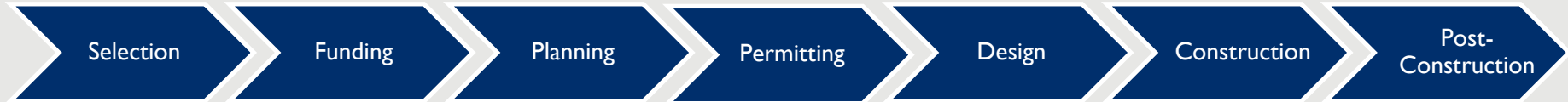
Project Development Process

| Selection | Funding | Planning | Permitting | Design | Construction | Post-Construction |

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Stage	Description
Selection	Avoid selecting projects that pass through important wildlife areas.
Funding	Include funding for wildlife safeguards in the project budget
Planning	Develop EIA and understand potential impacts to species.
Design	Evaluate mitigation options and choose designs that are effective
Permitting	Ensure Information sufficiency to acquire proper permits for wildlife impacts
Construction	Utilize best practices to minimize construction impacts to wildlife
Post-Construction	Monitor wildlife post-construction to evaluate mitigation effectiveness.

THE MITIGATION HIERARCHY

Avoid
- The initial focus of the hierarchy is on avoidance, or not building LI in locations that are important for wildlife.

Minimize
- If avoidance is not possible, the next step is minimization, which means implementing best practice measures to reduce the impacts as much as possible both during and after construction.

Mitigate
- Next is mitigation, which addresses the adverse impacts that were not avoided or those that remain even after minimization actions were taken to avoid a project's harmful effects.

Offset
- If the previous steps are not possible, offsetting, or compensation for residual impacts, may be carried out either inside or outside the project area.

— What is already in place to balance LI with wildlife needs?

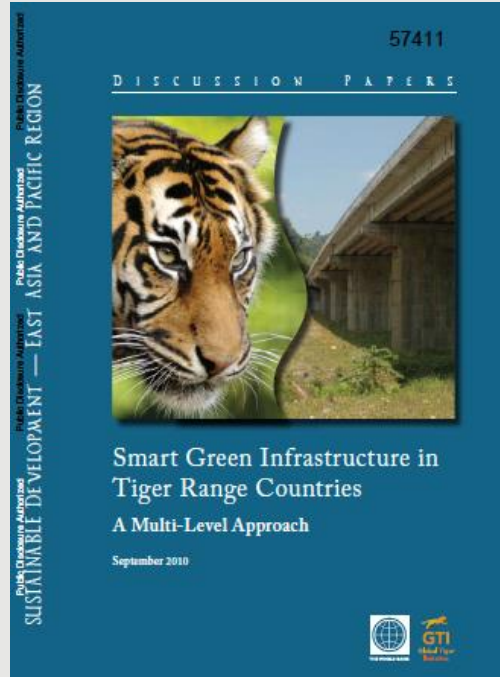# EXISTING CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT WILDLIFE SAFEGUARDS FOR LI

CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS

Capacity Assessment Methodology

User's Guide

Capacity Development Group
Bureau for Development Policy
November 2008

57411

DISCUSSION PAPERS

Smart Green Infrastructure in Tiger Range Countries

A Multi-Level Approach

September 2010

UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.2: Guidelines

Annex

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia

These guidelines have been written to provide guidance on avoiding and mitigating impacts of linear infrastructure development on large mammal migratory species in Central Asia and encouraging the development of international, regional and national policies.

James Wingard, Peter Zahler, Ray Victurine, Onon Bayasgalan, Bayarbaatar Buuveibaatar

CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS
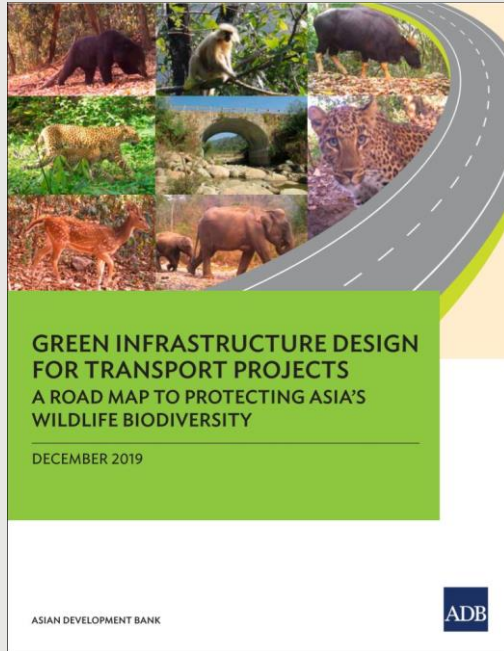
Find a curated list of Asia-wide and specific country resources in the LISA training handbook.

CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS

➢ Guidance documents all champion the mitigation hierarchy; *use it early and use it to guide important decisions through the whole project development process*

➢ Centered around a key species or landscape; *irrefutable evidence that whole landscape connectivity approaches are the future of wildlife safeguarding*

➢ Guidelines present realities of transboundary and landscape level through globally recognized examples of best practice and past learnings

ACTIONABLE POINTS

➢ Point to key cases of knowledge vacuum: cost-benefits of avoidance as the first mitigation step (*for example*).

➢ To be realized: 'no net loss' / 'net positive' policy settings can enhance coordination across and within constituents

➢ Point to a future with more – Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), higher public consultation and stakeholder engagement

REMAINING KNOWLEDGE GAPS

➢ HOWEVER – largely centered around roads, very few mentions of rails / power lines (key LI expansions in many Asian countries)

➢ Rely on protected area networks but point the need to highlight the role of connectivity in human-dominated Asian landscapes that don't enjoy protection / status of importance

HOW MUCH CAPACITY IS THERE?

HOW MUCH CAPACITY IS THERE?
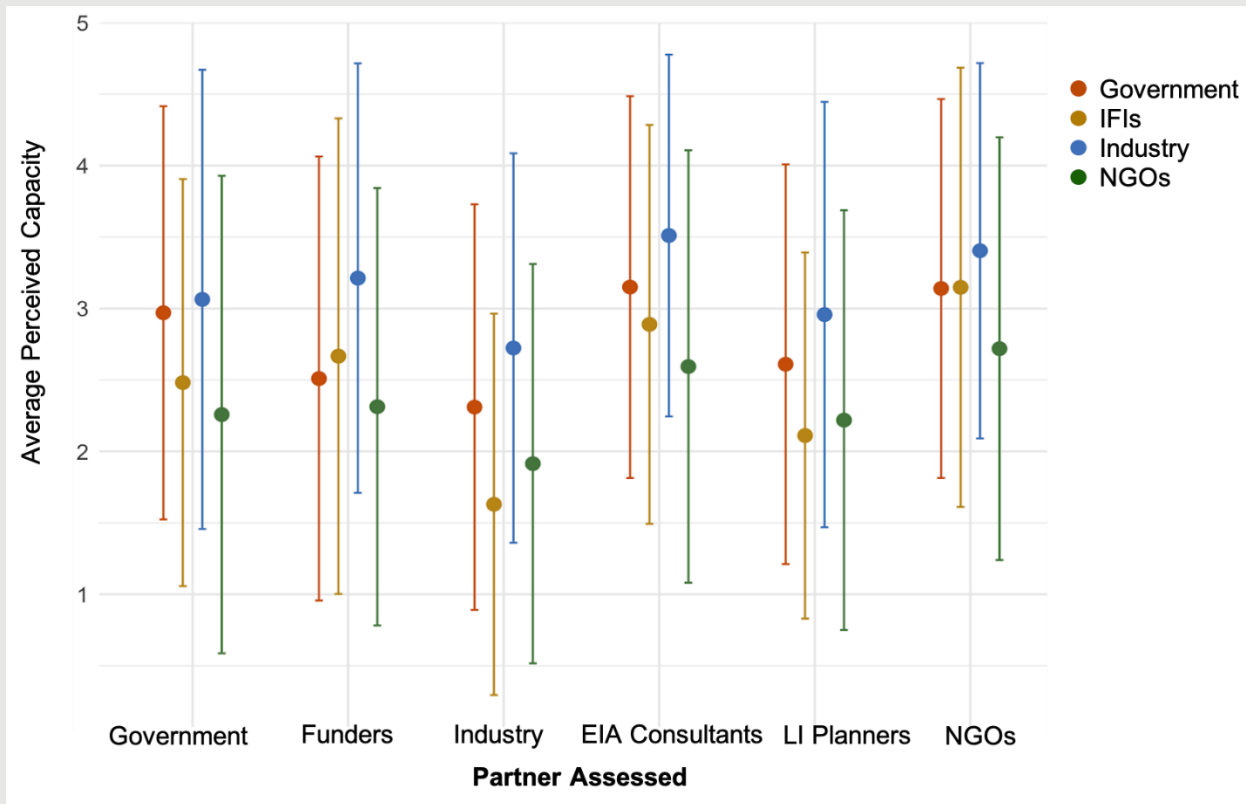
NGOs are recognized to have higher capacity – but NGOs don't think so(!)

CAPACITY ASSESSMENT: KEY RESULTS

➢ NGOs are recognized to have higher capacity – but NGOs don't think so

➢ Industry ranked everyone else has with more capacity than themselves

➢ Government recognizes industry and planners have low capacity

➢ IFI's and NGOs both consistently ranked everyone to have lower capacities than other constituents

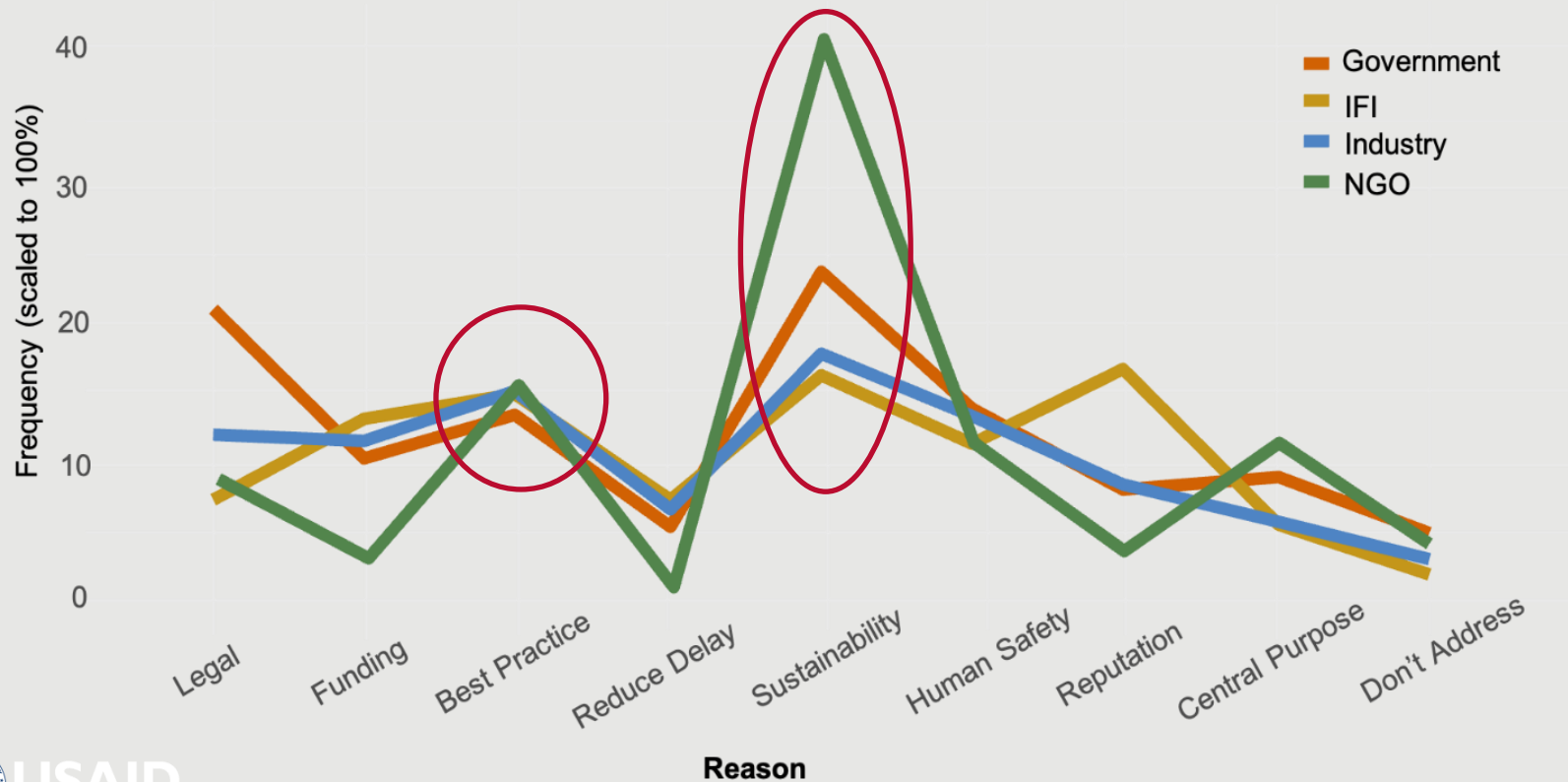# INDIA has multiple examples of WFLI. What key factors do you think led to such mitigation features being included in LI within conservation landscapes?
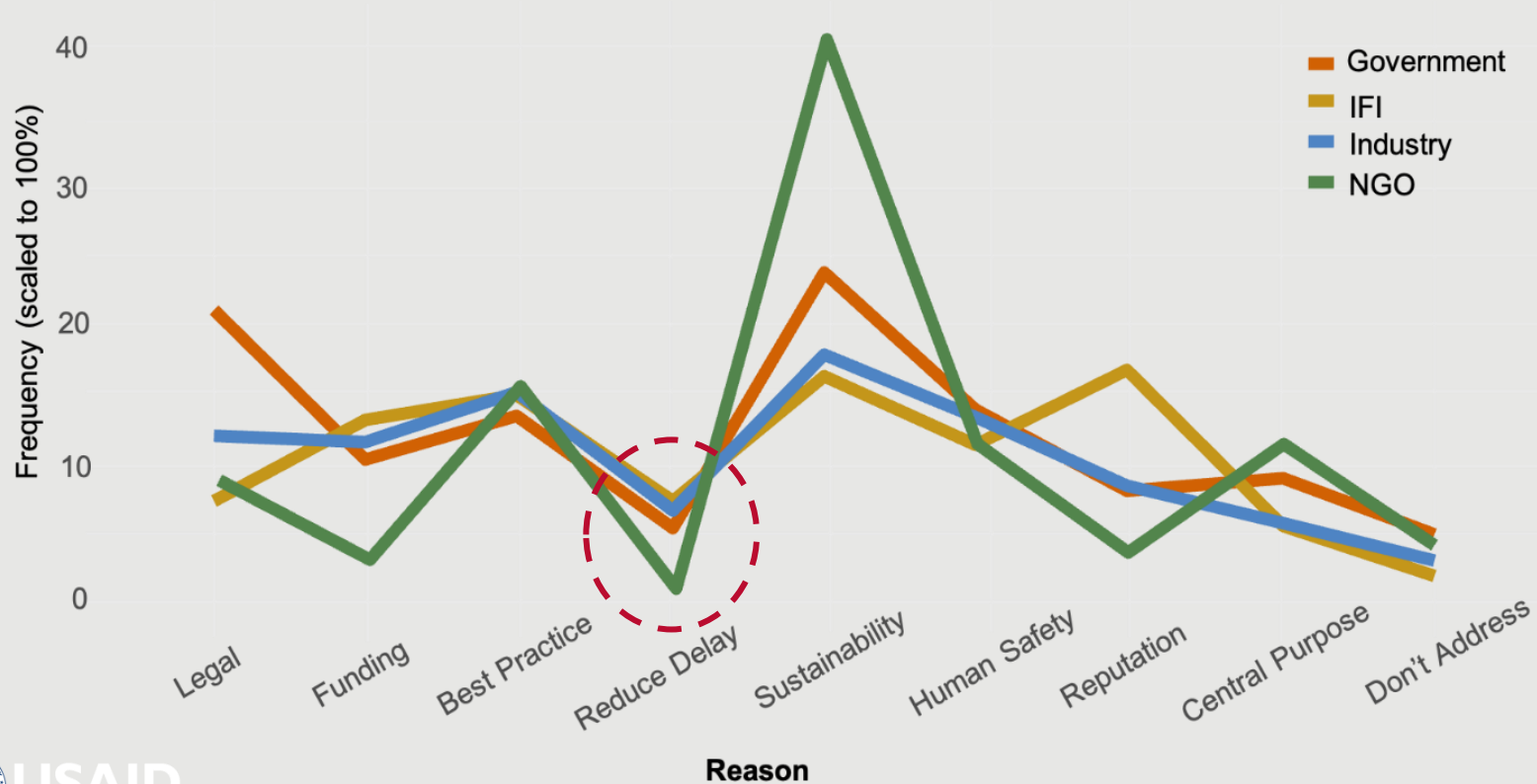

Bilal Habib, Wildlife Institute of India

SHIV MARWAHA, INDIA LIAISON

WHY DO CONSTITUENTS CARE ABOUT WFLI?

WHY DO CONSTITUENTS CARE ABOUT WFLI?

KEY FINDINGS

➢ Overall, safeguarding wildlife was a priority

➢ 48% of >300 respondents indicated that applying LI safeguards was difficult

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What are the three greatest issues facing migratory ungulates such as khulan, argali sheep and gazelles as **Mongolia** continues to expand its roads and railways?
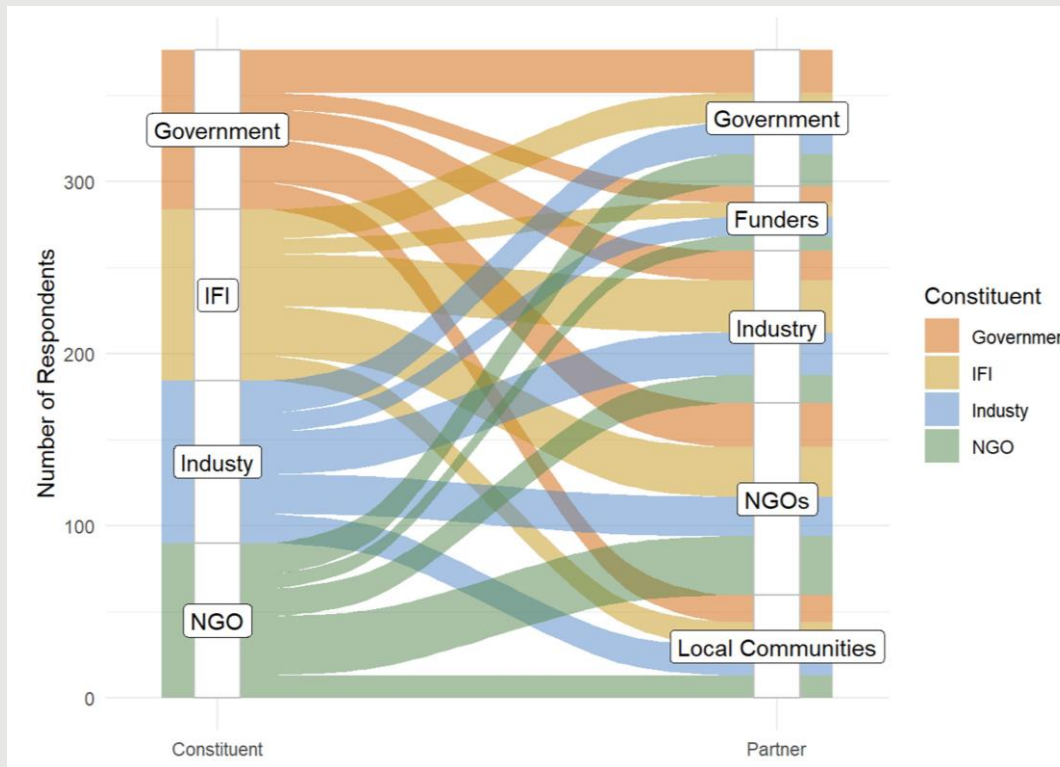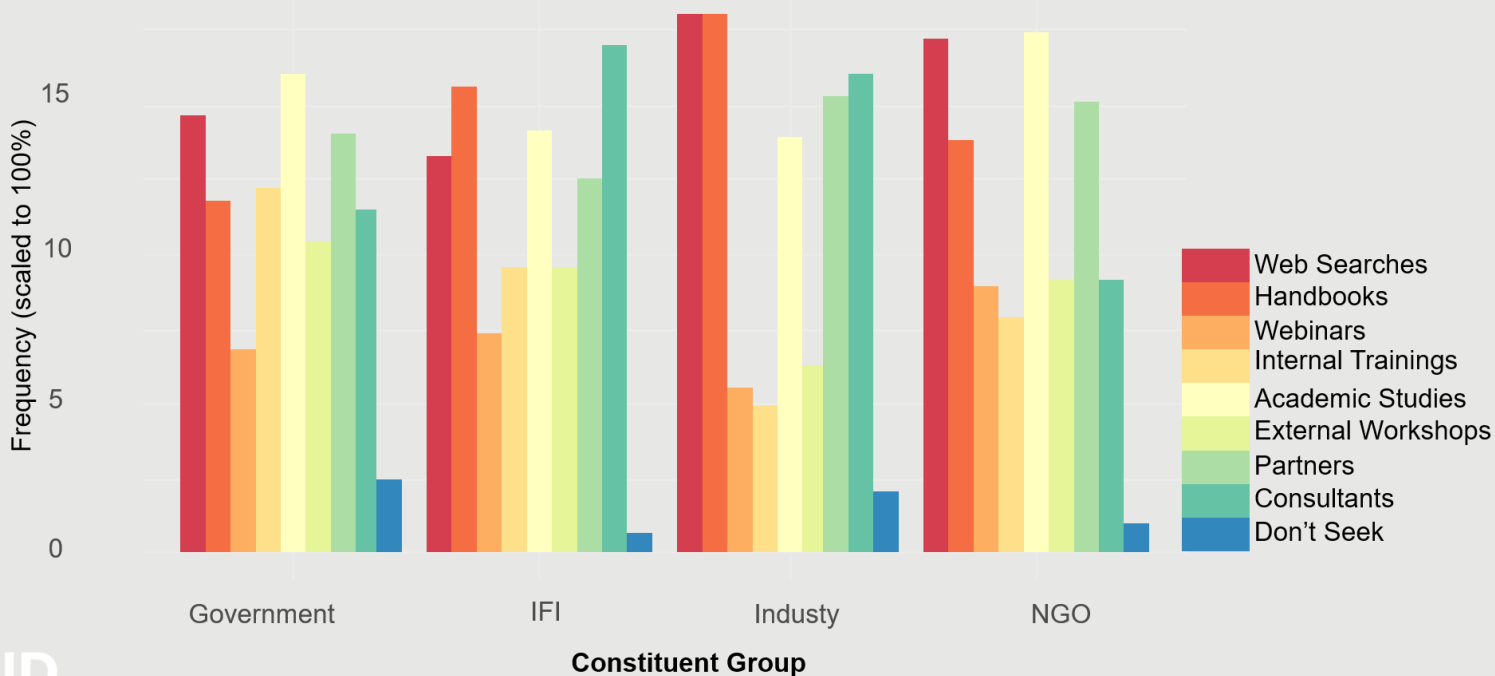

Kirk Olson

KIRK OLSON, MONGOLIA LIAISON

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CONSTITUENT GROUPS

CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS: CURRENT INFORMATION SOURCES

Information sources for various constituents

WLFI LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

➢ International Agreements

➢ National Laws

➢ IFI Standards

➢ Industry Standards

➢ Environmental Impact Assessments

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

➢ Countries are signed on to 7 key agreements for WFLI

➢ Only 12 are signed onto the Convention on Migratory Species: key for transboundary WFLI and for migratory species

NATIONAL LAWS AND GUIDELINES ACROSS ASIA

Country↓	EIA Laws	EIA Guidelines	ROAD Laws	ROAD Guidelines	RAILWAY Laws	RAILWAY Guidelines	POWER LINE Laws	POWER LINE Guidelines	SCORE
India									8
Japan									8
Mongolia									8
South Korea									8
Tajikistan									8
Bangladesh									8
Malaysia									8
Timor-Leste									8
Turkmenistan									7
Nepal									7
China									6
Uzbekistan									6
Bhutan									5
Afghanistan									5
Kazakhstan									5
Brunei									4
Sri Lanka									4
Pakistan									4
Thailand									4
Cambodia									2
Indonesia									2
Vietnam									1
Singapore									1
Myanmar									0
Laos									0
Kyrgyzstan									0
North Korea									0
Philippines									0
Total	19	18	18	17	15	14	12	12	

Legend: 1 = Included · 0.5 = Likely Included · 0 = Not Included · 0 = Information Unavailable*

*Information regarding laws for all countries is not easily available online in English. Gray squares do NOT mean that a country does not have legal provisions.

IFI STANDARDS

➢ IFC PS 6 is the main performance standard related to safeguards for wildlife and is mainstreamed

➢ Some banks modify to enhance the IFC PS6

➢ Newer or smaller funders may only adhere to national regulations for WFLI
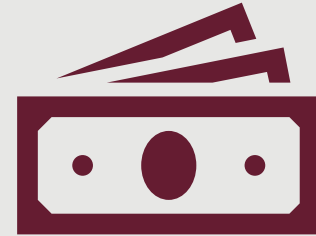
INDUSTRY STANDARDS

➢ Asia-wide we found little evidence of mainstreaming wildlife concerns in industry publications or trainings

➢ However – in our 5 country survey we found high awareness of the importance of WFLI

➢ Little evidence of reward to build WFLI

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)

➤ Cannot continue on a case-by-case basis to realize landscape wide social and environmental goals (wildlife included)

➤ The future is Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), even more than the already sought after cumulative impacts assessments

➤ Gains from conducting robust EIAs not well understood

If you were able to improve the EIA process for LI development in Nepal, especially in the Terai Arc Landscape, what would be your top three recommendations?
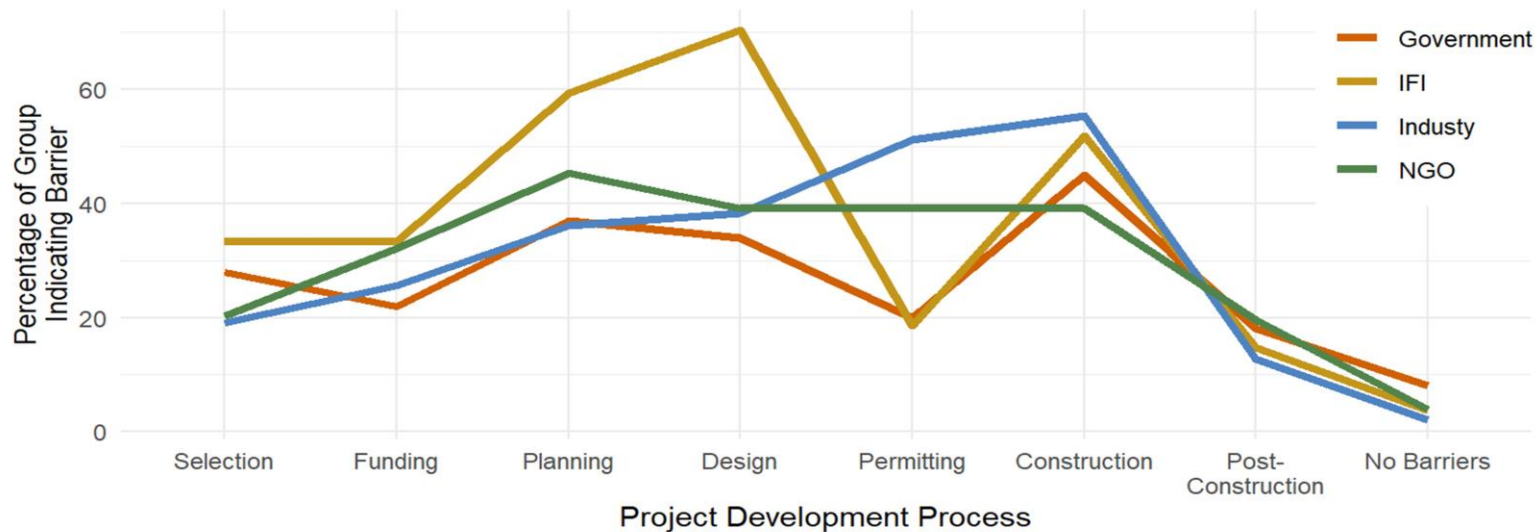
BIRAJ SHRESTHA, NEPAL LIAISON

QUESTIONS?

— What is missing?

BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTING WFLI

CONSTITUENT BARRIERS DURING PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
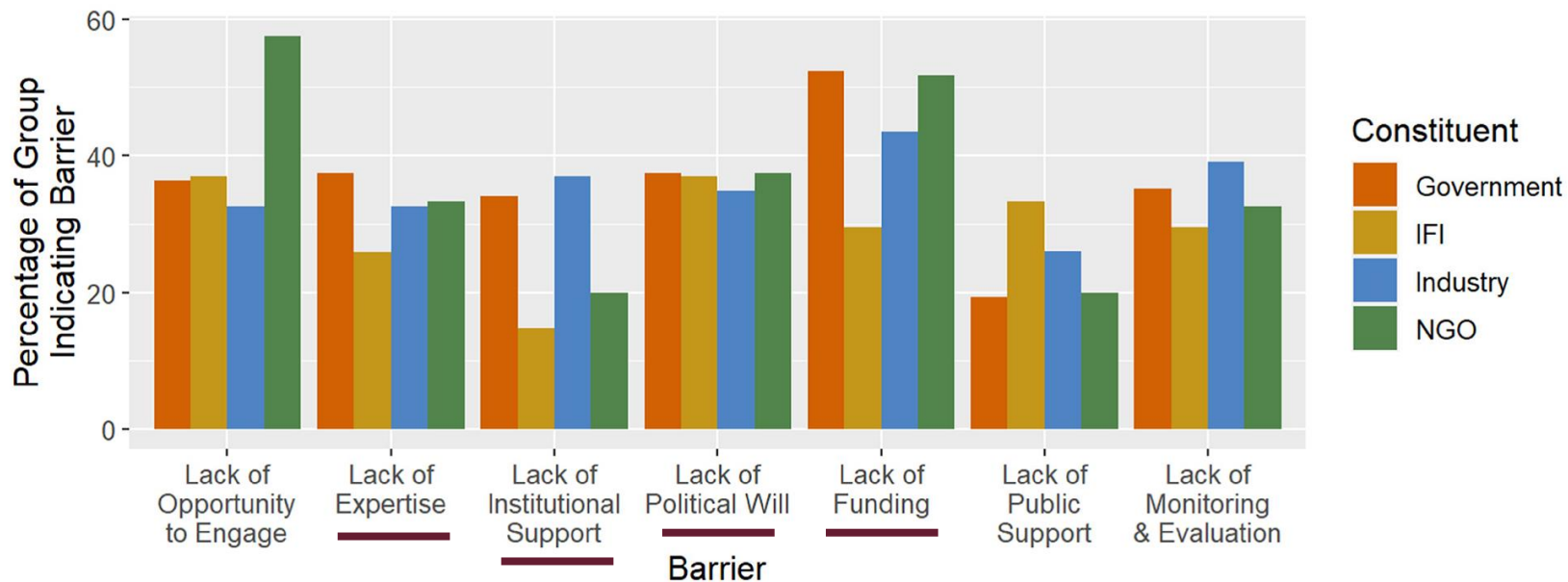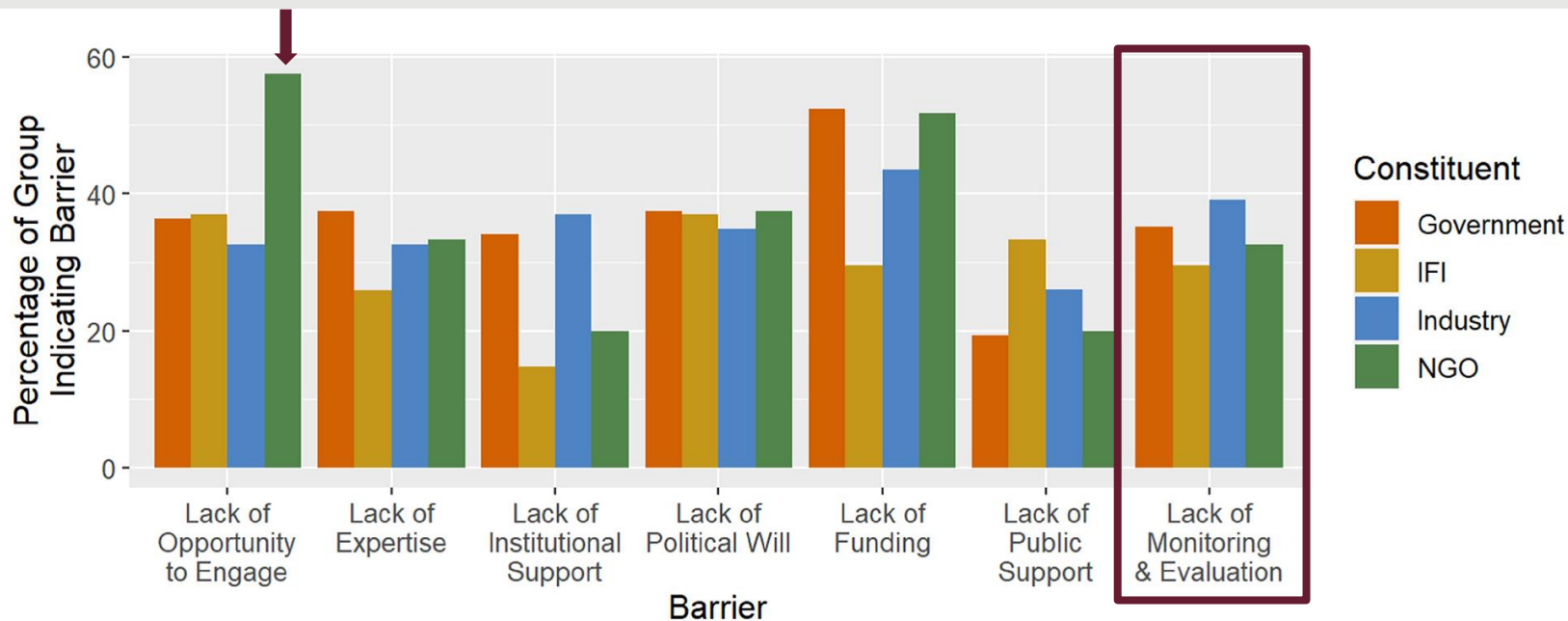
BARRIERS ACROSS CONSTITUENTS

The four constituent groups identified barriers to wildlife safeguards in 4 areas:

➢ Funding
➢ Political willingness
➢ Institutional support
➢ Lack of expertise / data deficiency

CONSTITUENT OVERALL BARRIERS
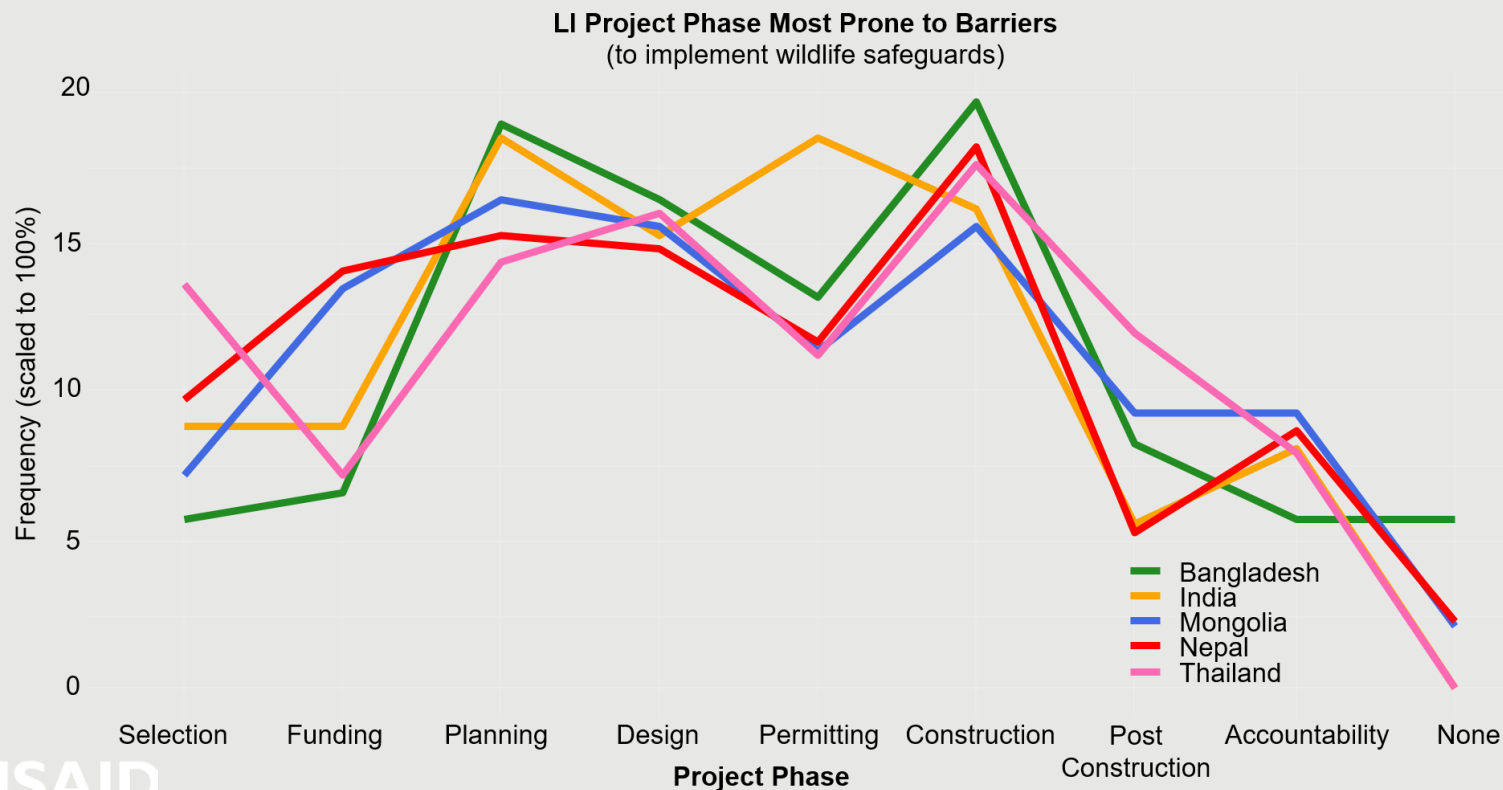
CONSTITUENT OVERALL BARRIERS

BARRIERS IN THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Five countries' survey identified major barriers to WL safeguard during three phases:

➢ Planning
➢ Design
➢ Construction

Asif Imran

COUNTRIES BARRIERS DURING PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

LI Project Phase Most Prone to Barriers
(to implement wildlife safeguards)

With many new LI projects slated for **Bangladesh**, what are three major capacity issues that must be addressed to assure that they will provide adequate safeguards for wildlife?

FARID UDDIN AHMED, BANGLADESH LIAISON

BARRIERS: GOVERNMENT

How to meet international commitments of greening and wildlife alongside the overarching goal of development to enhance human well-being?

- *laws, regulation, permitting*

➢ The whole landscape approach

➢ Strategic Environmental Assessments

➢ Asian countries as leaders for future-ready infrastructure

BARRIERS: IFIs

Uneven enforcement of safeguards compliance

Limited financing designated specifically for wildlife safeguards

(especially with newer banks)

Padam B. Chand

BARRIERS: IFIs

China's multilateral banks and its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are beginning to ramp up capacity building to address WFLI

Rely on recipient countries to pay for and implement their own wildlife safeguards and WFLI capacity building efforts

BARRIERS: INDUSTRY

- Limited knowledge regarding design or engineering for WFLI safeguards

- Few incentives to implement WFLI safeguards

BARRIERS: NGOs

Lack of:

- Engagement

- Knowledge

- Funding

— A path forward for Asian countries

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUILDING CAPACITY

# OPPORTUNITIES (ACROSS CONSTITUENTS)

- ➢ Formalizing coordination is key to enhance capacity

- ➢ Open-access knowledge platforms with opportunities for peer-to-peer learning

- ➢ Rewarding engagement to realize WFLI as part of SDG goals and international commitments

CAPACITY BUILDING: GOVERNMENT

Government >	IFIs >	Industry >	NGO

- Support the establishment and maintenance of information-sharing platform

- Identify existing provisions in national laws

- Follow the lead of Asian governments; provide recognition to industry leaders

- Promulgate nationwide laws and regulations

CAPACITY BUILDING: IFIs

Government > **IFIs** > Industry > NGO
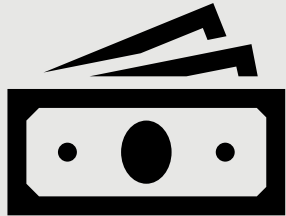
- Harmonize infrastructure development with the conservation of biodiversity

- Considering the gaps in knowledge regarding the impacts of LI projects and effectiveness of potential solutions

- Provide adequate funding to build WFLI capacity
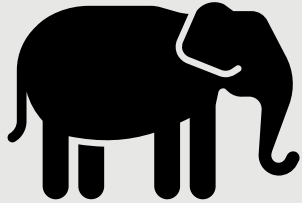
CAPACITY BUILDING: INDUSTRY

Government > IFIs > **Industry** > NGO

- Provide workforce training for LI planners and consultants

- Offer capacity-building training for developing Asia's LI practitioners

- Institutionalize the inclusion of wildlife's needs into all project plans, designs, and operations

- Establish more public recognition and incentives

- Capitalize on Industry potential

CAPACITY BUILDING: NGOs

Government	IFIs	Industry	**NGO**

- Offer increased capacity-building opportunities to members of the NGO

- Facilitate partnerships between NGOs and LI project proponents and funders

- Advocate for early adoption of open knowledge, data driven planning with involvement of experts to meet multiple goals

ASIA IS NOT STARTING FROM SCRATCH
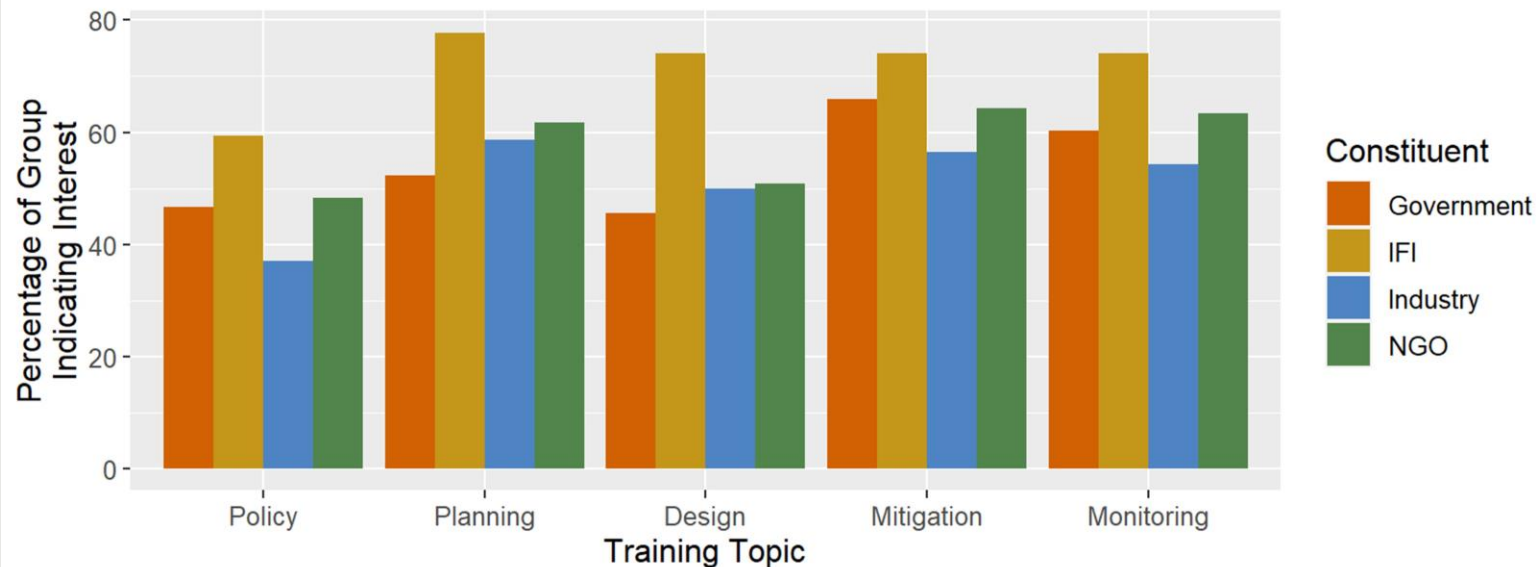
Southern Bhutan
National Highway 2

Nagpur, India
National Highway 44

Yunnan Province, China
Simao-Xiaomengyang
Espressway (G213)

Credit: Norris Dodd

Wildlife Institute of India / Dr. Bilal Habib

Credit: Rob Ament

TRAINING BY CONSTITUENT GROUP

CONCLUSIONS: KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FORMALIZE COORDINATION FOR WFLI INTO WORK KPIs*

➢ Joint trainings

➢ Landscape-wide connectivity indicated plans for WFLI

➢ Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs)

*Key Performance Indicators

PLANNING, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION

➢ NGOs, Industry and IFIs – ALL want training on salient topics for future-ready projects to be realized in sustainable landscapes

➢ IFIs and Government can mandate such trainings and set-aside funds for the same

➢ IFIs and Government can also create contingency funds as R&D for future ready infrastructure requires some experimentation and innovation. *Will help all of us learn more about how best to mitigate projects in Asian landscapes*

A CALL FOR OPEN CENTRAL REPOSITORIES

➢ Address DATA vacuum

➢ HOST trainings

➢ Create living best practice libraries

➢ Awards and recognition

➢ Asian countries and professional associations can collaborate more effectively for both development and conservation goals

THE MITIGATION HIERARCHY

➢ The mitigation hierarchy saves costs and sets-up future ready SMART green infrastructure that will be the gold standard / award winning in the future.

➢ USE it early in the project development process

➢ USE it throughout the project development process

Avoid

Minimize

Mitigate

Offset
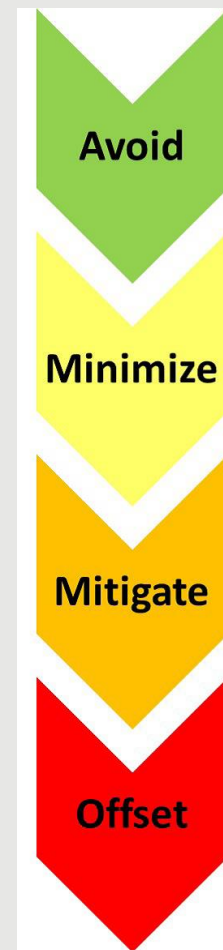
QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU

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