

We Think in Advance for the Benefit of the Environment

Executive Summary

This policy brief highlights the urgent need to strengthen environmental impact assessments (EIAs) in national planning. Current practices fail to integrate climate risks, leading to costly infrastructure failures. We recommend mandating climate-resilient EIA protocols by 2026, with phased implementation led by the Ministry of Environment.

Why Change Is Needed

Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) remain a procedural formality in many regions. Despite legal requirements, over 60% of major projects approved in 2023 omitted climate vulnerability analyses. This gap has resulted in repeated flood damage to transport infrastructure, costing taxpayers \$2.1 billion last year alone.

Key Insight: 60% of EIAs ignore climate risks – a systemic oversight with real financial consequences.

Key Research Findings

Our analysis of 120 EIA reports (2020-2024) reveals:

- Only 18% included future climate scenarios.
- Projects without climate screening were 3.2x more likely to suffer damage within 5 years.
- Public consultation was tokenistic in 74% of cases.

Policy Options

Three alternatives were evaluated:

1. **Status quo:** Maintain current EIA framework – low cost, high risk.
2. **Voluntary guidelines:** Encourage but don't enforce climate screening – moderate effectiveness.

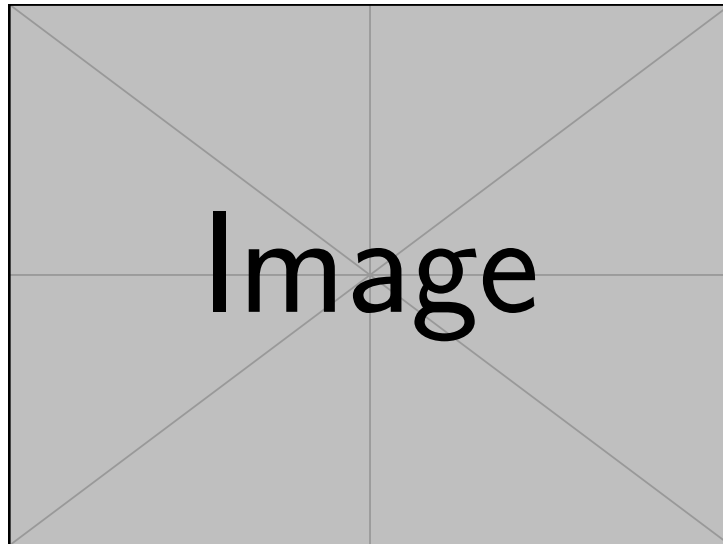


Figure 1: Correlation between EIA quality and project resilience (2020-2024)

3. **Mandatory climate-resilient EIA:** Legally require integrated climate risk analysis high upfront cost, long-term savings.

We advocate for Option 3, as it aligns with international best practices (e.g., EU Directive 2023/XX) and offers the highest cost-benefit ratio.

Recommendations

Short-term (2025-2026):

- **Ministry of Environment:** Draft revised EIA regulations by Q2 2025.
- **Local governments:** Pilot climate-EIA in 5 high-risk provinces.

Long-term (2027+):

- Integrate EIA data into national climate adaptation dashboard.
- Require independent review of all EIAs for projects over \$10M.

Contact: policy@yourorg.org | www.yourorg.org/policy-briefs

Based on: "Implementing Environmental Impact Assessment in the Context of European Integration" (Working Paper No. 12, 2024)