

Current/present situation/status of EIA (Environmental Impact Analysis) in Bangladesh.

As of my last knowledge update in September 2021, I don't have access to real-time data, and the situation may have evolved since then. As of that time, here is an overview of the status of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Bangladesh

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Bangladesh:

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an important process for evaluating the potential environmental impacts of development projects in Bangladesh. The country has recognized the need for environmental protection and sustainable development, leading to the implementation of EIA regulations and guidelines

Key Points

Legal Framework: Bangladesh has laws and regulations in place that mandate EIA for certain types of development projects. The Environmental Conservation Act of 1995 and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines of 1997 provide the legal basis for EIA in the country.

EIA Process: The EIA process typically involves screening, scoping, impact assessment, public consultation, preparation of an EIA report, and decision-making by regulatory authorities.

Project Types: Major infrastructure and industrial projects such as power plants, highways, ports, and industrial facilities often require mandatory EIA studies.

Challenges: However, the effectiveness of EIA in Bangladesh has faced challenges, including inadequate public participation, lack of monitoring and enforcement, limited technical capacity, and inconsistent quality of EIA reports.

Public Awareness: Public awareness and understanding of the EIA process and its significance have been areas of concern.

Adverse Effects: Some environmental activists have raised concerns about the potential for inadequate or biased assessments leading to the approval of projects with significant environmental impacts.

Government Initiatives: The government has taken steps to improve the EIA process, including capacity-building initiatives, improving public participation, and reviewing and updating EIA guidelines.

International Support: International organizations and development partners have aided in enhancing Bangladesh's EIA capabilities and promoting sustainable development.

Current/present situation/status of SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) in Bangladesh.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process used to assess the potential environmental impacts of policies, plans, and programs. It aims to integrate environmental considerations into decision-making at a higher level to promote sustainable development.

Key Points:

Legal Framework: Bangladesh has recognized the importance of SEA and has taken steps to incorporate it into the environmental assessment framework. The Environmental Conservation Act of 1995 and the National Environment Policy of 1992 provide the legal basis for SEA.

Implementation: SEA is relatively less common in practice compared to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for individual projects. However, there has been an increasing emphasis on considering the environmental implications of policies, plans, and programs.

Scope: SEA can apply to a wide range of sectors, including urban planning, transport, energy, and agriculture. It is designed to assess the potential cumulative and indirect impacts of multiple projects and actions.

Challenges: Challenges to effective SEA implementation in Bangladesh include limited awareness, technical capacity, resources, and the need for clearer guidelines and procedures.

Capacity Building: Efforts have been made to build the capacity of government agencies and relevant stakeholders to conduct SEA and integrate environmental considerations into planning processes.

Public Participation: Public participation and stakeholder engagement are important aspects of SEA, and there have been efforts to involve communities and stakeholders in the process.

International Support: International organizations and development partners have provided support and assistance in strengthening SEA processes in Bangladesh.

Integration with Development: The government has recognized the need to align development plans and strategies with environmental considerations to achieve sustainable development goals.

What are social impacts?

By social impacts we mean the consequences to human populations of any public or private actions that alter the ways in which people live, work, play, relate to one another, organize to meet their needs and generally copes

members of society. The term also includes cultural impacts involving changes to the norms, values, and beliefs that guide and rationalize their cognition of themselves and their society.

Define Social Impact Assessment (SIA). Give brief history of SIA.

SIA first emerged in the 1970s in the U.S, as a way to assess the impacts on society of certain development schemes and projects before they go ahead - for example, disaster management, new roads, industrial facilities, mines, dams, ports, airports, and other infrastructure projects. It has been incorporated since into the formal planning and approval processes in several countries, in order to categorize and assess how major developments may affect populations, groups, and settlements.

State the aims, objectives and scopes of SIA.

Aims and objectives of SIA

- Analyze how proposals affect people
- Identify and mitigate adverse impacts
- Enhance benefits
- Help manage social change

Scope of SIA

- SIA conducted under EIA legislation and procedure
- Scope of SIA differs with jurisdictional arrangements
- Initially limited to environmentally-related changes
- Larger range of social impacts now considered
- Comprehensive SIA often a separate process
- Focuses on social issues of sustainable development, poverty alleviation and justice

Define SEA. Why is SEA important?

- systematic, transparent process
- instrument for decision-making
- addresses environmental effects of strategic proposals
- includes policy, plans and programmed decisions
- undertaken when alternatives are still open
- applies EIA aims and principles
- flexible, diversified process.

Structure of UN Environment

UN Environment's structure includes seven substantive Divisions:

- Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA)
- Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)
- Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE)
- Regional Cooperation (DRC)
- Environmental Law and Conventions (DELCO)
- Communications and Public Information (DCPI)
- Global Environment Facility Coordination (GEFC)

Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA):

Purpose: IEA is a comprehensive approach that aims to assess the interactions between the environment, society, and the economy. It provides a holistic view of the sustainability of human activities and their impacts.

Scope: IEA considers a wide range of environmental, social, and economic factors to assess the overall sustainability of activities, policies, and projects.

Approach: IEA integrates environmental, social, and economic data to understand the complex interactions within a system. It aims to provide a balanced assessment of multiple dimensions of sustainability.

Compare and contrast between EIA, SEA and IEA.

EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment), SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment), and IEA (Integrated Environmental Assessment) are all tools used in the field of environmental assessment and management. While they share some similarities, they have distinct purposes, scopes, and approaches. Here's a comparison and contrast between the three:

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):

Purpose: EIA is a process used to assess the potential environmental impacts of specific projects, policies, or activities before they are implemented. It aims to identify and evaluate the potential positive and negative effects on the environment and human health.

Scope: EIA focuses on assessing the environmental impacts of individual projects or activities, such as construction projects, infrastructure development, industrial facilities, etc.

Approach: EIA involves a systematic process of identifying potential impacts, predicting their significance, and proposing mitigation measures to minimize adverse effects. It is usually conducted during the planning phase of a project.

GEO Objectives

1. Provide decision-makers with access to the best available scientific knowledge.
2. Facilitate interaction between science and policy.
3. Build geographic and gender-balanced relationships for environmental decision making

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):

Purpose: SEA is a process used to assess the potential environmental and sustainability implications of policies, plans, and programs. It aims to integrate environmental considerations into decision-making processes at a higher level.

Scope: SEA considers the broader implications of policies, plans, and programs, such as urban development plans, transportation strategies, and regional development policies.

Approach: SEA involves evaluating the environmental, social, and economic implications of different policy options. It provides a framework for considering alternative scenarios and their potential impacts.

What are the mandates of UN Environment?

UNEP's Assessment Mandate:

UNEP's Assessment Mandate Since 1972, UNEP has had a mandate to review the global environment.

This was to be fulfilled in two main ways:

- 1) establish a common methodology for the assessment of environmental developments and prepare reports;
- 2) prepare reports on the state of and outlook for the environment for regions and internationally.

Describe IEA framework/ DPSIR framework.

The IEA framework and the DPSIR framework are both conceptual models used in environmental assessment and analysis to understand the interactions between human activities and the environment. They provide a structured way to analyze and describe the causal relationships between various elements within a complex system.

What is GEO? Write the objectives of GEO.

The Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) is a series of reports published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) that provides comprehensive assessments of the state of the global environment. The reports are intended to provide policymakers, governments, and the general public with information about the current environmental trends, challenges, and potential pathways for sustainable development.

GEO reports are typically published every few years and aim to analyze a wide range of environmental issues, including air quality, water resources, biodiversity, land degradation, climate change, and more. These reports are based on a combination of scientific data, research, and expert assessments from around the world.

Write the background of UN Environment.

List the activities of UN Environment.

Activities of UN Environment UN Environment's main activities are related to:

- Climate change; – including the Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC);
- Disasters and conflicts;
- Ecosystem management;
- Environmental governance;
- Chemicals and waste;
- Resource efficiency;
- Environment under review.

What do you know about United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)?

- The United Nations (UN) took up the environmental issue as early as in 1972 and set up United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the responsibility of overseeing environmental issues for UN agencies.
- The United Nations Environment Programme is an agency of United Nations and coordinates its environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.
- It was founded by Maurice Strong, its first director, as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) in June 1972 and has overall responsibility for environmental problems among United Nations agencies.

What are the steps in a strategic environmental impact assessment (SEIA)?

- Screening
- Scoping
- Identification and comparison of alternatives
- Inform and involve the public
- Analyze and evaluate the impacts
- Review the quality of the information
- Document the findings
- Carry out follow up

Describe the causes of social impacts.

Causes of social impacts

- Demographic change
- Economic change
- Environmental change
- Institutional change

Mention different types of social impacts.

Types of social impact

- Lifestyle – behavior and relationships
- Cultural – customs, values and religious beliefs
- Community – infrastructure, services and networks
- Amenity/ quality of life – sense of security, livability and futurity
- Health – mental and physical well being

Name the steps in the SIA process.

Steps in the SIA process

- Public involvement plan
- Identification of alternatives
- Profiling of baseline conditions
- Scoping of key issues
- Projection of estimated effects
- Prediction and evaluation of responses to impacts
- Estimate indirect and cumulative impacts
- Recommend changes to alternatives
- Develop and implement a mitigation plan
- Develop and implement a monitoring programme

Why is SEA important?

- EIA of projects insufficient by itself
- effects of strategic decisions not assessed
- SEA rounds out coverage to this level
- enables better identification of sources of environmental impacts
- responds to sustainable development agenda

What are the guiding principles for SEA process design and implementation?

Guiding principles for SEA process design and implementation

- Fit-for-purpose – customize to decision-making
- Objectives-led – identify environmental goals and priorities
- Sustainability-driven – ensure proposal promotes sustainable development
- Comprehensive scope – cover policies, plans and programmes
- Decision-relevant – focus on issues that matter
- Integrated – include social, health effects
- Transparent – clear, easy to understand requirements
- Participative – provide for public information and involvement
- Accountable – implement fairly, impartially and professionally
- Cost-effective – meet objectives within time and budget limits

A strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of Bangladesh would involve evaluating the environmental impacts of various policies, plans, and programs on the country's environment. This assessment would consider factors like air and water quality, biodiversity, land use, and natural resource management. It would aim to identify potential environmental risks and propose strategies to mitigate them, ensuring sustainable development and minimizing negative impacts. Keep in mind that conducting a comprehensive SEA would require detailed data and expertise in environmental sciences and policy analysis.