

Question 11

Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is a tool to aid environmental decision making. It is a process that allows for public involvement when positive and negative impacts (opportunities and constraints) that are associated with a proposed course of action are assessed. The aim of this is to determine the best practicable course of action.

It is an environmental impact assessment process which assess the effect of proposed development on the environment.

Strategic Environmental Assessment. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the process by which environmental considerations are required to be fully integrated into the preparation of plans and programmes prior to their final adoption.

It looks at the hindering or limiting factors that the environment provides on future developments.

In models of SEA, there is EIA based SEA or consent- based SEA. There is also integrated based model.

Cumulative effects assessment is important especially at project level. It has been widely recognized that determining the complex casual-effect relationships between multiple actions and resources should be done hence consideration has moved from EIA to regional cumulative nature of environmental impacts.

Cumulative effects assessment (integrated SEA with EIA) effectively addresses the concern of gradual environmental degradation from range of activities and multiple stresses, and the interaction of multiple projects, program, and policy decisions.

Strategic environmental assessments will help in the generation of EIA by connecting to the strategic planning authorities who are more aware of a particular area in which this will reduce the possibilities of the formation of secondary pollutants.

strategic environmental assessments can result in the EIAs being more proactive in identifying and minimizing the potential for cumulative effects. This could be beneficial because the strategic environmental assessment allows the minimization to be at an early stage of a particular project.

The SEA on the other hand identifies and cumulative environmental problems before they occur and allow EIA to attend to the issues at a high level of detail. EMP only meet minimum environmental requirements to save the clients' money.