



# EXERCISE ON EIA

## PRACTICAL 8

# INTRODUCTION TO EIA

- ▶ **The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is an interdisciplinary and multistep procedure to ensure that environmental considerations are included in decisions regarding projects that may impact the environment.**
- ▶ **EIA process helps identify the possible environmental effects of a proposed activity and how those impacts can be mitigated.**
- ▶ **The EIA document itself is a technical tool that identifies, predicts, and analyses impacts on the physical environment, as well as social, cultural, and health impacts.**

# DEFINITION OF EIA

- ▶ **Definition of EIA : An environmental impact assessment is a planning tool that is used for identifying, predicting and communicating information about the environmental effects (on the environment and human health) of a proposal.**
  
- ▶ **It is designed to:**
  - **Anticipate and prevent environmental problems**
  - **Identify ways to increase environmental benefits**
  - **Support informed decisions on project options and trade-offs**
  - **Integrate environmental considerations into the planning, design and construction of projects at all scales.**

# OBJECTIVES OF EIA

- To disclose significant environmental effects of proposed projects to decision-makers and the public
- To identify ways to avoid or reduce environmental damage.
- To prevent adverse environmental impacts by requiring implementation of feasible alternatives or mitigation measures.
- To disclose reason of approvals for the projects with significant environmental impacts to the public.
- To foster interagency co-ordination and enhance public participation.
- To document and ensure that environmental aspects such as potential physical, biological, social and health effects are addressed for the planned activity.

# BENEFITS OF EIA

- Potentially screens out environmentally-unsound projects.
- Proposes modified designs to reduce environmental impacts.
- Identifies feasible alternatives.
- Predicts significant adverse impacts.
- Identifies mitigation measures to reduce, offset, or eliminate major impacts.
- Engages and informs potentially affected communities and individuals.
- Influences decision-making and the development of terms and conditions.

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# EIA KEY PROCESS

## **a. Identifying and Defining the Project**

- ▶ The goal of this step is to define the project with enough specificity to accurately determine the zone of possible impacts
- ▶ To include activities that are closely connected with the proposal so that the entire scope of environmental impacts is evaluated.

## **b. Screening**

- ▶ The screening process determines whether a particular project needs preparation of an EIA.

# EIA KEY PROCESS

## c. Scoping

- ▶ Scoping is a stage, usually involving identifies the key environmental issues that should be addressed in an EIA.
- ▶ This step provides one of the first opportunities for members of the public or NGOs to learn about a proposed project and to voice their opinions.
- ▶ The goal of this step is to define the project with enough specificity to accurately determine the zone of possible impacts



# EIA KEY PROCESS

## d. Impact analysis

### ► Identification of key impacts:

This brings together the previous steps with a view to ensuring that all potentially significant environmental impacts (adverse and beneficial) are identified and taken into account in the process.

### ► The prediction of impacts:

This step aims to identify the likely magnitude of the change (i.e. impact) in the environment when the project is implemented in comparison with the situation when the project is not carried out.

# EIA KEY PROCESS

**e. Mitigation:** This involves the introduction of measures to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for any significant adverse impacts.

**f. Public Participation:**

- ▶ Best EIA practice involves and engages the public at numerous points throughout the process with a two-way exchange of information and views.
- ▶ Public participation may consist of informational meetings, public hearings, and opportunities to provide written comments about a proposed project.

**g. Preparing Draft EIA report:**

- ▶ A draft EIA is prepared in accordance with the Terms of Reference and/or the range of issues identified during the scoping process.
- ▶ The draft EIA must also meet the content requirements of the overarching EIA law or regulations.

# EIA KEY PROCESS

## **g. Preparing Draft EIA report:**

- ▶ This step will ideally engage a wide range of technical specialists to evaluate, predict the likely impacts of the project, and design mitigation measures.

## **h. Preparing Final EIA:**

- ▶ This step produces a final impact assessment report that addresses the viewpoints and comments of the parties that reviewed the draft EIA. These comments may prompt revisions or additions to the text of the draft EIA.

## **i. Decision:**

- ▶ A decision to approve or reject a mining project is generally based on the final EIA,

# CASE STUDY

