

These Slides Accompany the YouTube Video Tutorial:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fbEVytyJCK>

Environmental Impact Assessment

EIA

EIA -Definition

- Tool to identify environmental, social and economic impacts of a project prior to decision-making – UNEP
- In India, Started in 1978-79 by river valley projects
- EIA has now been made mandatory under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986 for 29 categories of developmental activities that involves investments of Rs. 50 crores & more

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Stages Involved in EIA

- Screening
- Scoping
- Assessment & Evaluation
- Report EIA: Non-technical summary for the general audience
- Review EIS
- Decision Making: Whether to approve project or not
- Monitoring, Compliance, Enforcement
- Environmental Auditing

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Which projects fall under EIA?

- Which can significantly alter the landscape, land use pattern & lead to concentration of working population
- Which need upstream development activity like assured mineral and forest products supply
- Which need downstream industrial process development
- Those involving manufacture, handling and use of hazardous materials
- Those sited near ecologically sensitive areas, urban centers, hill resorts, places of scientific and religious importance
- Industrial Estates which could cumulatively cause significant environmental damage

What to Address?

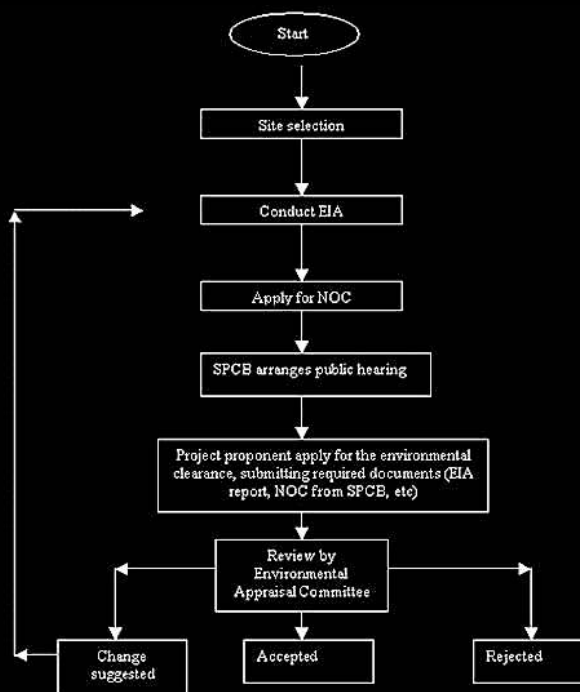
- Meteorology and air quality
- Hydrology and water quality
- Site and its surroundings
- Occupational safety and health
- Details of the treatment and disposal of effluents and the methods of alternative uses
- Transportation of raw material and details of material handling
- Control equipment and measures proposed to be adopted

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Benefits of EIA

- Environmental benefits
- Economic benefits
- Reduced cost and time of project implementation and design
- Avoided treatment
- Clean-up costs
- Impacts of laws and regulations

Procedure



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Follow Up

- Precautionary Principle: If an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public, or environment, in the absence of scientific consensus, the burden of proof falls on those taking the action. Part of Rio Declaration & Kyoto Protocol.
- Polluter's Pay Principle: To make the party responsible for producing pollution responsible for paying for the damage done to the natural environment. Support from OECD and European Community.

Strategic EIA

- Formalized, systematic & comprehensive process to identify & evaluate environmental consequences of proposed policies, plans or programs
- Ensure full inclusion
- Address at earliest possible stage of decision-making on a par with economic & social considerations
- Can be applied to entire sector

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Environment impact assessment

- At end of decision-making cycle
- Reactive approach
- Identifies specific impacts on the environment
- Considers limited number of feasible alternatives
- Limited review of cumulative effects
- Emphasis on mitigating and minimizing impacts
- Narrow perspective, high level of detail
- Well-defined process, clear beginning and end
- Focuses on standard agenda, treats symptoms of environmental deterioration

Strategic environment assessment

- At earlier stages of decision making cycle
- Pro-active approach
- Identifies environmental implications, issues of sustainable development
- Considers broad range of potential alternatives
- Early warning of cumulative effects
- Emphasis on meeting environmental objectives, maintaining natural systems
- Broad perspective, lower level of detail
- Multi-stage process, overlapping components, continuing, iterative
- Focuses on sustainability agenda, gets at sources of environmental deterioration