



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is used to identify the environmental impacts of a project prior to decision-making. It aims to predict environmental impacts at an early stage in project planning and design, find ways and means to reduce adverse impacts, shape projects to suit the local environment and present the predictions and options to decision-makers.

Reasons for Using EIA

EIA has been developed as a result of the failure of traditional project appraisal techniques to account for environmental impacts. Many development projects in the past were designed and constructed in isolation from any consideration of their impacts on the environment, resulting in:

- higher costs,
- failure of projects,
- significant environmental change, and
- Negative social effects.

The Key Elements to EIA

- Scoping: identify key issues and concerns of interested parties;
- Screening: decide whether an EIA is required based on information collected;
- Identifying and evaluating project alternatives: list alternative sites and techniques and the impacts of each;
- Mitigating measures dealing with uncertainty: review the proposed actions to prevent or minimise the potential adverse effects of the project;
- Issuing environmental statements: report the findings of the EIA.
- Predict environmental impact of projects
- Find ways and means to reduce adverse impacts
- Shape project to suit local environment
- Present the predictions and options to the decision-makers

Summary of the Process

Before any work on the actual project proceeds, the proposal must be registered with the Ministry of Regional Municipality, Environment and Water Resources (MRMEWR) on a form provided by the Department. The project is then reviewed to determine whether an EIA is warranted. .

In some cases, the Ministry may request additional information from the proponent before deciding whether an EIA for the proposed undertaking is necessary.

When sufficient information relating to the proposal has been received, a maximum of thirty days is allowed for examination of this material to evaluate the environmental issues surrounding the proposed project.

If an EIA is not necessary, the Ministry will notify the proponent that the undertaking may be carried out, subject to terms or conditions established by the Ministry.

If the Ministry decides that an EIA is warranted, the proponent will be required to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment study prior to proceeding with the undertaking.

For Further Information's on EIA:

<http://www.gdrc.org/uem/eia/impactassess.html>

For PDO projects EIA:

<http://sww1.pdo.shell.om/dept/cd/csm/environment/eiareports.htm>