

Chapter One

Basic Concept of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

1.1 THE CONCEPT OF ENVIRONMENT

- The *environment* is surroundings of an individual organism or a community of organisms, ranging on up to the entire biosphere, the zone of Earth that is able to sustain life.
- Environment is the surrounding which encompasses all the external conditions influencing development or growth of people, animals, and /or plants.
- The natural factors such as land forms, soil, climate, vegetation, minerals, water, air, etc together influence the human factors like demography, economy, culture, social attitudes and institutions.
- Therefore, the term environment includes physical, social, cultural, economic and aesthetic dimensions.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- This includes the physical, chemical and biological factors, both natural as well as man made which include:
 - land and climate, vegetation, wildlife and natural areas,
 - surrounding land use and physical character of the area,
 - infrastructure
 - air pollution
 - noise pollution
 - water pollution levels

B. SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

- This include large number of factors such as
 - population density,
 - community composition,
 - social cohesion,
 - educational factors,
 - religion,
 - norms,
 - values,
 - sanctions,
 - governing the people,
 - family structure,
 - politics ,etc

C. ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

- This includes all economic factors like
 - employment and unemployment,
 - levels and sources of income, etc

D. Aesthetic environment

- This subcategory includes factors such as
 - historical,
 - archeological and
 - architectultural objects or sites.

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY

- Environmental inventory is a complete description of the environment as it exists in an area where a particular proposed action is being considered. The inventory is compiled from a check of descriptors for:
 - the physical-chemical environment
 - biological environment
 - cultural environment, and
 - socio-economic environment
- Environmental Inventory is a complex description of the env't as it exists in an area where a particular proposed actions of is being considered.

1.3 Definition of EIA

What is EIA?

- There are many definitions of EIA.
- The following are the sample of some of these definitions which indicate the nature of the process, including;
- *"an assessment of impacts of a planned activity on the environment" (United Nations)*
- *"EIA is the systematic process of identifying the future consequences of a current or proposed action" (IAIA)*
- Environmental impact assessment is the methodology or instrument of identifying, analyzing and evaluating and forecasting in advance any impact, be it positive or negative, which results from the implementation of a proposed project or public instruments.

Definition cont...

- "EIA is the systematic, reproducible and interdisciplinary evaluation of the potential effects of a proposed action and its practical alternatives on the physical, biological, cultural and socio-economic attributes of a particular geographical area" (USEPA, 1993)
- "a procedure for assessing the potential environmental impacts of a project before it is built, so that these impacts can be properly considered during the decision-making process and so that mitigative measures for detrimental impacts can be defined" "a tool to use in integrated planning of development proposals, policies and programs: (Sadar et al., 1994)
- "an activity which identifies, predicts, interprets and communicates information, and proposes ameliorative measures, about impacts of a proposed action or development proposal on human health and the well-being of the ecosystem upon which human survival depends" (Sadar et al., 1994)

DEFINITION CONT...

- It is also defined as a formal process for identifying the likely effects of particular activities or projects on the biogeographical environment, and on human health and well-being, along with interpreting and communicating information about these likely impacts.
- EIA is a management tool, like economic analysis and engineering feasibility studies for official and managers who must make important decisions about major development projects.
- From this definition we can understand that EIA is for projects.
- To include other things we need Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that expands EIA from projects to policies, programmes and plans.

•SEA is a systematic and comprehensive process of evaluating the environmental impacts of a policy, program, and plan prior to their implementation. In short, EIA is for projects and SEA for policies, plans and programs (public instruments).

•The definition of the EIA, though includes the impact assessment of all types of programmes, policies, and projects, but it is more certainly applied to the developmental projects, such as the installation of a new industry, large scale animal farming projects, or a power plant, or a major airport, or a major township, etc.

•Most of the countries of the world, nowadays, almost mandatorily require preparations of environmental impact assessment and to get clearance from the environmental authorities before they are granted permissions to proceed with the designated classes of the work.

Implications of an EIA Definition

EIA is defined as a systematic process of:

- Determining and managing (identifying, describing, measuring, predicting, interpreting, integrating, communicating, involving, and controlling) the Potential (or real) impacts (direct and indirect, individual and cumulative, likelihood of occurrence) of Proposed (or existing) human actions (projects, plans, programs, legislation, activities) and their alternatives on the Environment (physical, chemical, biological, ecological, human health, cultural, social, economic, built, and interrelations)

Implications of an EIA Definition cont...

- This definition demonstrates that EIA is a process that blends numerous activities. It shows that EIA encompasses a broad definition of the environment, of alternatives, and of proposed actions.
- The systematic exploration of interrelationships (e.g., among environmental components, between the proposal and the environment, among alternatives, among impacts) is clearly crucial in EIA.

ALL OF THESE DEFINITIONS SHARE THE BASIC CONCEPTS OF:



1. EIA as a process



2. EIA as a part of project planning



3. EIA as a proactive way of addressing environmental concerns

1.4 Historical Origins of EIA

- The main objective, however, ***was to ensure that public safety and health were adequately protected.***
- Separate documents, however, were used to be submitted to each of the regulatory agencies involved, such as the water authority, air pollution control authority, etc; and no attempt was made in those earlier years to prepare a comprehensive overview.
- The EIA of major developments have been undertaken in developed countries, particularly in USA, Europe, and Japan, etc; since 1950s or so.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the environmental movement resulted in environmental groups becoming more active in many countries.

Responding to the demands of these pressure groups, the governments accepted the principle that ***citizens organizations should get an opportunity to participate in the decision making process of those major developments that could have significant environmental impacts.***

HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF EIA CONT...

- Environmental impact assessment was first formally established in the USA in 1969 and has since spread, in various forms, to most other countries
- The U.S. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 was the first legislation to provide a robust framework for allowing all recognized environmental concerns to be addressed simultaneously.
- As a consequence, the USA enacted the first comprehensive environment legislation- the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on January 1, 1970.
- This US action was followed by Canada, when the Canadian Federal government established an environmental assessment and review process in 1973. Many other countries then followed suit, particularly after the creation of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Historical Origins of EIA cont...

- The EIA process has, thus, evolved since the early 1970s.
- In the initial years, however, the emphasis was on *assessing the impacts on measurable factors, particularly those for which some prescribed standards are available (such as the air quality, water quality, solid waste disposal, etc).*
- After a few years, the EIAs began to include *biological and ecological factors*.
- More recently, the EIAs have been broadened even further to include socio-economic factors (such as employment opportunities, cultural impacts, recreational factors, etc.), so that the trade-offs among socio-economic and environmental factors could be evaluated.

Historical Origins of EIA cont...

- It is pertinent to note that NEPA predated the 1972 UN conference in Stockholm where global concerns about the state of the environment emerged, an indicator in its own right of the mould as having the greatest international impact of any American legislation.
- Thus, the initiation of EIA indicates that it was environmental crisis in the industrialized countries.
- So for developing countries, like ours, it is the right time to apply EIA proactively than after crisis learning from others.

1.5 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

1.6 AIMS OF EIA

- Despite differences in individual EIA systems throughout the world, the EIA process shares certain aims:
 - **to provide decision-makers with analysis of the total environment**
so that decisions can be made based on as nearly complete and balanced information as possible;
 - **to assess and present intangible/unquantifiable effects**
that are not adequately addressed by cost/benefit analysis and other technical reports;

AIMS OF EIA CONT....

- **To provide information to the public** on a proposal;
- **To formalize the consideration of alternatives to a proposal** being considered, in order that the least environmentally harmful means of achieving the given objective can be chosen;
- **To improve the design of new developments and safeguard the environment** through the application of mitigation and avoidance measures

1.7 EIA objectives

EIA objectives can be categorized in to **long term** and **short term**.

The **long term objectives** include the following:

- Conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- Protection and enhancement of the quality of all life forms
- Integration of environmental considerations in development planning processes

The **short term objectives** include the following:

- To assess the nature, intensity and duration of impact of proposed development projects
- To promote local community and public participation in the EIA processes of a project
- To promote social and cultural considerations in project design
- To provide a methodology for prevention and mitigation of expected impacts due to the presence of a project

1.8 The purpose of EIA

1. An aid to decision-making

The primary purpose of EIA is to ensure that impacts of projects, policy and programs, etc are adequately and appropriately considered and mitigation measures for adverse significant impacts incorporated when decisions are taken.

2. An aid to the formulation of development actions

Many developers no doubt see EIA as another set of hurdles to jump before they can proceed with their various activities; the process can be seen as yet another costly and time consuming activity in the permission process. However, EIA can be of great benefit to them, since it can provide a framework for considering location and design issues and environmental issues in parallel.

3. An instrument for sustainable development

Underlying such immediate purpose is of course the central and ultimate role of EIA as one of the instruments to achieve sustainable development: Development that dose not cost the Earth!

Generally, the primary and secondary purposes of EIA include:

- safeguarding valued ecological processes and heritage areas;
- avoiding irreversible and unacceptable loss and deterioration of natural capital;
- ensuring development is adjusted to the potentials and capacities of the resource base;
- optimizing natural resource use, conservation and management opportunities;
- protecting human health and community well being;
- addressing distributional concerns related to the disruption of people and traditional lifestyles;
- improving coordination among participating agencies and actions;
- fostering better designed and planned development projects, i.e., greener and more cost effective;
- empowering community development and building local capacity through public participation;
- instilling environmental values and accountabilities across a range of institutions; and
- internalizing environmental costs and damages in industry consistent with the polluter pays principle.

1.9 MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT EIA

- The introduction of EIA has encountered resistance on the part of many planners and engineers, who have seen it as an unneeded change to traditional practices, in spite of its intended role in improving the project planning process.
- EIA has been severely criticized in some parts of the developing world as being inappropriate for application there.
- Some of these criticisms include:

MISCONCEPTIONS CONT...

“EIA is too complex”



“EIA is too expensive”



“EIA delays projects”



“EIA will be misused to stop development”



MISCONCEPTIONS CONT...



MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT EIA AND COUNTER ARGUMENTS

1. "EIA is too expensive"

- This is not true. Costs of EIA are commonly around 1%, sometimes up to 5% in complex cases of project costs, often within normal variability of project costs.
- In contrast, EIA often results in cost saving through reduced changes to the project at later stages, or through identification of easier and more efficient ways to meet project goals.
- EIA should be carried out efficiently, just like any other part of the planning process.

2. "EIA is just an add-on and occurs too late to do any good"

- EIA certainly has less value if done too late in the project cycle; it must be done early enough so that results can be incorporated into the detailed design.
- If EIA is done too late, costs for redesign of the project can be high, or the EIA is ignored.

3. "EIA delays projects"

- If properly phased, EIA should no more delay projects than any part of the planning process.
- It should be done in parallel with other activities.

4. "EIA is too complex"

- This is not true.
- EIA is a simple process. Sometimes, however, the potential impacts can be complex and therefore difficult to quantify.
- The degree to which you must investigate these questions as part of the planning process must be relative to the overall significance of the impacts.

CONT...

5. "EIA doesn't produce useful results"

Often this has been true. This can be due to lack of a practical focus, and/or poor training of practitioners. When carried out properly, EIA is a valuable part of project planning.

6. "EIA will be misused to stop development"

There have been cases where EIA has been misused to stop development. However, this does not invalidate the use of EIA; it indicates a problem with how it is being coordinated. A properly carried out EIA process is much more likely to generate support for development.

7. "We're too poor to afford EIA"

This is never true. No country is "too poor" to do its planning properly. Bad planning means failing projects, and these are often projects paid for by the country through development loans. Bad planning means lack of sustainability. Bad planning means extra costs to society. Poor countries can't afford such costs. May be wealthy, developed countries can arguably afford to waste and destroy resources, but poor ones definitely can't. EIA is therefore even more important for developing countries than for developed ones.

1.10 What are the characteristics of a good EIA?

➤ The characteristics of environmental impacts vary. Typical parameters to be taken into account in impact prediction and decision-making include:

- nature (positive, negative, direct, indirect);
- magnitude (severe, moderate, low);
- extent/location (area/volume covered, distribution);
- timing (during construction, operation, decommissioning, immediate, delayed, rate of change);
- duration (short term, long term, intermittent, continuous);
- reversibility/irreversibility;
- likelihood (probability, uncertainty or confidence in the prediction); and
- significance (local, regional, global).

1.11 The Legal and Regulatory framework of EIA

policies-are plan of actions adopted by an individual or social group

-A line of argument rationalizing the course of action of a government

Strategies-An elaborate and systematic plan of action

Laws-The collection of rules imposed by authority

guidelines-A detailed plan or explanation to guide you in setting standards or determining a course of action

-A rule or principle that provides guidance to appropriate behavior

standards-A basis for comparison; a reference point against which other things can be evaluated

-The ideal in terms of which something can be judged

Legal framework- Established by or founded upon law or official or accepted rules

Convention- (diplomacy) an international agreement

Proclamation-A formal public statement

❖ **Environmental impact assessment needs:**

- policy/policy making body
- legislation/legislation body
- directives
- enforcement
- coordination of the different authorities/ ministries/
bodies involved

❖ It is also imperative to know/define:

- Who conducts EIA?
- Who reviews EIA?
- Which projects need EIA?
- What /which are the guidelines, norms etc to prepare EIA?

All the above mentioned points require a well-established legal system pertaining to environmental impacts of development activities in a country or region.

INTERNATIONAL BANKS' REQUIREMENTS

- The Regional Development Banks, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), all have environmental policies and guidelines which in most respects resemble those of the World Bank Policies.
- The Regional Development Banks use environmental screening to place projects as category A, B or C (ADB & EBRD) or as category I, II or III (AfDB). These categories are similar in principle to those of the World Bank with only minor differences between each Bank. ADB and EBRD procedures are developed from the World Bank procedures (Hydro power development, Environmental effects, 1995)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

- The broad aim of **UNECE**'s environment activities is to safeguard the environment and human health, and to promote sustainable development in its member countries in line with Agenda 21.
- Agenda 21 calls on all countries to assess the environmental suitability of infrastructure for human settlements, to ensure that relevant decisions are preceded by EIAs and to take into account the costs of any ecological consequences. It also calls on countries
- to integrate environmental considerations in decision-making at all levels and in all ministries and to ensure that transparency and accountability prevail when economic or other policies have environmental repercussions.

DECLARATION

- The principles of the **1972 Stockholm Declaration** did not expressly identify EIA as an instrument of national or international policy.
- However, the rationale underlying EIA can be identified in **the Principle 14, which states:** *rational planning constitutes an essential tool for reconciling development and environment needs.*
- **In the same spirit, Principle 15 reads:** *planning must be applied to human settlements and urbanization with a view to avoiding adverse effects on the environment and opting maximum social, economic and environmental benefits for all.*

- **Agenda 21** in Paragraphs 8.5(b) and 10.8(b) also endorses comprehensive analytical procedures for prior and simultaneous assessment of the impacts of decisions, including their environmental impacts and the assessment of costs, benefits and risks, and the systematic application of techniques and procedures for assessing environmental impacts.
- EIA is also encouraged in specific Agenda 21 programs, including deforestation, conservation of biodiversity and management of biotechnology.
- Agenda 21 supports the need for individuals, groups and organizations to participate in the EIA process.

WORLD BANK

- The safeguard policies of the Bank are operationalizing the 'do good' approach to the Bank investment lending operations and are fundamental in meeting the three pillars of the World Bank Environment Strategy:
 - Improving the quality of life
 - Improving the quality of growth
 - Protecting the quality of the regional and global commons.
- **Environmental Assessment**, one of ten Safeguard Policies, is used in the Bank to examine the potential environmental risks and benefits associated with Bank investment lending operations. It is an essential tool for integrating environmental and social concerns into development policies, programs and projects by providing the minimum requirements that all Bank-supported operations must meet

THE WORLD BANK'S REQUIREMENTS

- Common to all Regional Development Banks, including the World Bank, is that the responsibility for meeting the environmental requirements rests on the hand of the borrower.
- The World Bank has ten “Safeguard Policies” whose primary objective is to ensure that Bank operations do not cause adverse impacts. The ten safeguard policies are grouped into Environment & Social Policies.
- **Of these ten safeguard policies, three are not applicable as they relate to international law on waters and disputed areas, and the safety of dams.**

EXAMPLES OF THE WORLD BANK SAFEGUARD POLICIES

○ OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment

- The core requirement of this policy is that screening should be done as early as possible for potential impacts and select appropriate instrument to assess, minimize and mitigate potentially adverse impacts.
- Environmental Assessment (EA) ensures that appropriate levels of environmental and social assessment are carried out as part of project design. It also deals with the public consultation process and ensures that the views of PAPs and local NGOs are incorporated as early as possible for Category A and B projects.
- It is worth noting that OP 4.01 applies to all components of a project with financing from the World Bank, including co-financed components by the Borrower or by other funding agencies.

OP/BP 4.11 PHYSICAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Protection of cultural, historical archeological sites
- The policy requires the project avoid or mitigate adverse impacts of development projects on physical cultural resources.
- The policy bases itself on investigating and inventorying any chance finds and cultural resources potentially affected. It includes mitigation measures when there are adverse impacts on physical cultural resources.
- The Borrower assesses the project's potential impacts on physical cultural resources as an integral component of the Environmental Assessment (EA).
- The Bank avoids projects that will significantly damage non-replicable cultural property, and will assist only those projects that are sited or designed so as to prevent such damage

OP/BP 4.12 INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT

- Avoid or minimize involuntary resettlement where feasible, exploring all viable alternative project designs.
- The policy covers not only physical relocation, but any loss of land or other assets resulting in:
 - (i) relocation or loss of shelter;
 - (ii) loss of assets or access to assets; and
 - (iii) loss of income sources or means of livelihood, whether or not the affected people must move to another location.
- Concerning public consultation, resettlers as well as the host communities should be consulted for the successful implementation of the resettlement process. The views of the consulted re-settlers and the host communities should be incorporated into the resettlement action plan (RAP) including the list of their choices.

BANK'S POLICY ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- It is a requirement of the Bank that the peoples residing in the project areas have the Right to be informed of the proposed development project(s) in their respective areas. Therefore, prior to project appraisal, the summary of the study of projects along with other relevant information should be disclosed at the Bank's as well as project area (local) level.
- The Disclosure Policy requires that Category B Environmental Assessment reports should be self-standing documents, and thus disclosure is a prerequisite for appraisal of the project.

CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT (ESPOO, 1991)

- Environmental threats do not respect national borders. Governments have realized that to avert this danger they must notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that might have adverse environmental impact across borders.
- The Espoo Convention is a key step to bringing together all stakeholders to prevent environmental damage before it occurs. The Convention entered into force in 1997



CONT...

- The Espoo (EIA) Convention sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning.
- It also lays down the general obligation of States to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries



1.12 Policy Framework for EIA in Ethiopia

- Until 1997, Ethiopia did not have a comprehensive environment policy as such.
- The Environmental Policy of Ethiopia was issued in 1997 to provide overall guidance in the conservation and sustainable utilization of the country's environmental resources in general.
- The overall objective of the environmental policy is to promote the sustainable social and economic development of the country through, *inter alia*, *sustainable management and utilization* of the natural resources of the country.
- The specific objectives of the environmental policy seeks to achieve are ensuring the conservation, development and sustainable use of essential ecological processes and life support systems, biological diversity and the empowerment and participation of the people in environmental management.
- The environmental policy lays the foundation for EIA in the country.

EIA ETHIOPIA CONT

- EIA is a recent phenomenon in Ethiopia.
- It became a legally required procedure toward the end of year 2002, though emerged *de facto before 2002* when a few land developers, including state-owned agencies, approached the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to have their environmental impact studies reviewed.
- Since the Environmental Impact Assessment Proclamation № 299 of 2002 was adopted by the House of Peoples' Representatives, some efforts have been made to implement the law by the EPA and the relevant regional environmental organs, which were themselves established by Proclamation № 295 of 2002.
- In spite of these efforts, EIA in Ethiopia has until now remained weak.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR EIA IN ETHIOPIA

1. The FDRE Constitution

The concept of sustainable development and environmental rights are enshrined in Article 43, 44 and 92 of the Federal Constitution states the following people's environmental concerns.

Article, 43: The Right to Development

The peoples of Ethiopia as a whole and each Nation, Nationality and people in Ethiopia in particular have the right to improve living standards and to sustainable development.

Nations have the right to participate in national development and, in particular, to be consulted with respect to policies and projects affecting their community.


All international Agreements and relations concluded, established or conducted by the state shall protect and ensure Ethiopia's right to sustainable development.

The basic aim of development activities shall be to enhance the capacity of citizens for development and to meet basic needs.

ARTICLE, 44: ENVIRONMENT RIGHTS

- All persons have the right to live in a clean and healthy environment.
- All persons who have been displaced or whose livelihoods have been adversely affected because of state programs have the right to commensurate monetary or alternative means of compensation, including relocation with adequate state assistance.

Article, 92: Environmental Objective

- Government shall endeavor to ensure that all Ethiopians live in a clean and healthy environment.
 - The design and implementation of programs and projects of development shall not damage or destroy the Environment.
 - People have the right to full consultation and the expression of views in the planning and implementation of environmental policies and projects that affect them directly.
 - Government and citizens shall have the due to protect the environment.
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2. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT LAW

- Following the provisions of the environment policy, the Ethiopian government introduced the Environmental Impact Assessment Proclamation (Proclamation No 299 of 2002).
- ***The Environmental Impact Assessment Proclamation (federal proc. No. 299/2002)***: has made it mandatory that development projects are required to be subjected to EIA scrutiny.
- It means that EIA is a legal requirement.



3. THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND STRATEGY

- National environmental policies, conservation strategy as well as the Regional Conservation Strategy (RCS) provide a number of guiding principles that indicate and require a strong adherence to sustainable development. Concerning the needs of EIA, the following basic issues are contained indicated in these documents.
- An early consideration of environmental impacts in project and program design
- Reorganization of public consultation, including mitigation plans and contingency plans
- Provision of auditing and monitoring is a legally binding requirement and needs to be institutionalized.

4. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

- In addition to national environmental legislations, the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia is also a party to a number of regional and international conventions and protocols on environment.
- The government has established an Environmental Protection Authority, and this Authority is designated as focal point for the implementation of these conventions and protocols.
- Accordingly; Article 9(4) of the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia provides that once an international agreement is ratified through the accepted or established procedure, it automatically becomes an integral part of the law of the land.
- Consequently, the convention and the protocol are the laws of this land.

CONVENTIONS CONT...

Therefore; the following international conventions and protocols are relevant to any proposed EIA project

I. International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Guidance on Performance Standards on Social & Environmental Sustainability

II. Convention on Biological Diversity

III. Framework Convention on Climate Change

IV. The United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification

V. The Basel Convention - to control and regulate the Trans boundary movement of hazardous wastes.

VI. The Stockholm Convention

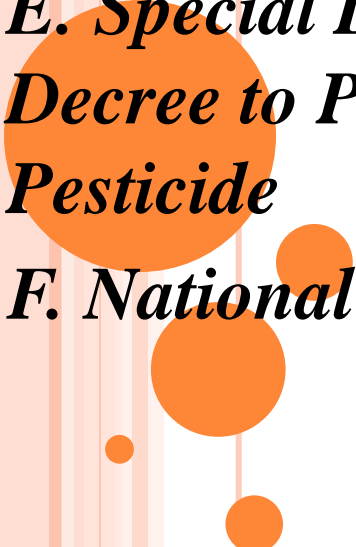
VII. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora

The guide to EIA document that was prepared by EPA provides a background to EIA and environmental management in Ethiopia .

The basic objectives of the guide are:

- Providing all interested parties with a consistent approach in EIA
- Providing background information for the context of EIA in Ethiopia
- Assisting proponents in identifying their EIA responsibility
- Assisting communities and NGO groups in realizing their environmental rights with regard to EIA
- Assisting the authority in determining their roles and responsibility as decision makers in the EIA process:

5 SECTORAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

- A. *Water Resources Management Policy and Strategies***
 - B. *National Rural Land Administration and Use
(Proclamation No. 456/2005)***
 - C. *Measures Related to Occupational Health Control***
 - D. *Proclamations No. 42/1993 Labor Proclamation***
 - E. *Special Decree No, 20/1990 Council of State Special
Decree to Provide for the Registration and Control of
Pesticide***
 - F. *National Biodiversity Policy and Strategies***
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6 LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENTS

1. Environmental Impact Assessment (Proclamation No. 299/2002)

- This Proclamation (No 299/2002) aims primarily at making the EIA mandatory for categories of projects specified under a directive issued by the EPA.

2. Environmental Pollution Control (Proclamation No. 300/2002)

3. Solid Waste Management (Proclamation No. 513/2007)

4. Labour Proclamation (Proc. No. 377/2003)

5. Public Health Proclamation (Proc. No. 200/2000).

6. Compensation

- Proclamation No. 455/2005), the basis and amount of compensation is clearly explained.



ETHIOPIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- EPA was established under the Ministry of Natural Resources Development and Environmental Protection (MNRD&EP), in May 1994.
- Later, EPA as environmental regulatory and monitoring body has become independent institution and re-established by proclamation no. 295/2002.
- **Vision**
- Ensure that a participatory environmental management for sustainable development governs the use of environmental resources by the present and future generations in each sector at each administrative level.



MISSION

- Put in place an environmental management system that could support the national development efforts by avoiding duplication of efforts among stakeholders, promoting sustainable utilization of environmental resources and strengthening coordinated but differentiated responsibilities through:
 - • Preparing the State of Environment Report;
 - • Development of environmental strategic plan;
 - • Formulation of environmental laws and standards;
 - • Provision of support for environmental regulatory bodies and implementers; and
 - • Undertaking monitoring and effectiveness evaluation of the environmental system in place

OBJECTIVE

- The objective of the Authority is to formulate policies, strategies, laws and standards, which foster social and economic development in a manner that enhance the welfare of humans and the safety of the environment sustainably, and to spearhead in ensuring the effectiveness of the process of their implantation.



1.13 Guiding principles of EIA

The basic principles of EIA are

Early application: - protective consideration and integration of environmental concerns at the earliest stages of the conceptualization of the projects, programs or policies.

Participation:- appropriate and timely access and opportunity to the process for all interested and affected parts.

Issues based:- the focus of an EA is on the resolution of major issues of significant impacts.

Alternatives:- all feasible options to a projects, policies, programs or its component like site, processes, products, raw materials, designs, etc including the “no go” option should be considered.

Accountability:- refers to answerability of proponent consultant and environmental agencies for their respective roles and responsibilities.

Flexibility: - the assessment process should be able to adapt to deal efficiently with changing circumstances and decision making situation.

Credibility: - assessments reviews are under taken with professionalism and objectivity.

Time and cost effectiveness: - the assessment process, its out comes and decision taking will ensure environmental protection at the least cost and within reasonable time to society and developer alike.

Transparency: - all assessment decisions, and their basis, should be open and accessible to the public.

Supportive: - the review and decision making process should enhance and support sustainable development and environmentally friendly investment efforts.

Conservation based:- the EIA process should strive to promote conservation based development

Practicality: - the information and out puts provided by the assessment process are readily usable in the decision making and planning.

1.14 Benefits of EIA

The potential benefits of EIA are

- saving in capital and operating costs
- environmentally sound and sustainable design
- increase project acceptance
- facilitate better decisions
- better compliance with standards
- better protection of the environment and human health