

INDIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIONS

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Ministry of Environment & Forests

The Nodal Agency under the Central Government,
undertaking the following activities:

- **Conservation & survey of:**
 - Flora & Fauna
 - Forests & Wildlife
- **Prevention & Control of :**
 - Pollution
 - Afforestation
 - Regeneration of degraded areas
 - Protection of environment

Issues under Constant deliberations

- **Ensuring sustainable livelihoods**
- **Financing development**
- **Governance structures and processes for sustainable development**
- **Managing natural resources for society**
- **Defining the stakes, engaging the stakeholders**
- **Creating business models for the poor**
- **Food security and basic human needs**
- **Climate change and sustainable energy**
- **Technological leapfrogging**
- **Ministers of the environment: challenges at Rio +10**
- **Leadership for sustainable livelihoods**

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Introduction:

With a view to ensure Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, the Ministry has taken several policy initiatives. One such initiative is the Notification on **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** of developmental projects.

- EIA is mandatory for 29 categories of developmental projects.

Objectives:

- To foresee the potential environmental problems
- Address the problems in the project planning and design phase

The EIA Cycle and Procedures

The EIA process in India is made up of the following phases:

- **Screening**
- **Scoping and consideration of alternatives**
- **Baseline data collection**
- **Impact prediction**
- **Alternatives, delineation of mitigation measures**
- **Public hearing**
- **Environment Management Plan**
- **Decision making**
- **Monitoring the clearance conditions**

1. Screening:

- Screening is done to see whether a project requires environmental clearance as per the statutory notifications
- Screening Criteria are based upon :
 - Scales of investment
 - Type of development
 - Location of development

2. Scoping:

- Scoping is a process of detailing the terms of reference of EIA
- The Ministry has published guidelines for this for different sectors.

3. Baseline Data:

- Baseline data describes the existing environmental status of the identified study area
- The site-specific primary data should be monitored for the identified parameters and supplemented by secondary data if available.

4. Impact Prediction:

It is mapping the environmental consequences of the significant aspects of the project and its alternatives.

The following impacts of the project should be assessed:

- **Air**
- **Noise**

- **Water**
- **Land**
- **Biological**
- **Socio-Economic**

5. Alternatives, Mitigation Measures & Environmental Impact Assessment Report

- Alternatives for projects should be identified.
- Their environmental attributes compared.
- Should also consider 'no project' option.
- A mitigation plan should should be drawn for the selected option.

- An **Environmental Management Plan (EMP)** should be formulated to guide the proponents towards environmental improvement.
- EMP should include details of monitoring.

6. Public Hearing:

- Public should be informed & consulted after the completion of EIA report
- Anyone affected by the project should have access to the EIA
- The affected persons may include:
 - Bonafide local residents
 - Local associations
 - Environmental groups: active in the area
 - Any other person located at the project site / sites of displacement

7. Decision Making:

- Decision making process involve consultation between the project proponent and the impact assessment authority
- The decision on environmental clearance is arrived at through a number of steps including evaluation of EIA and EMP

8. Monitoring the Clearance Conditions:

- Monitoring should be done during both construction and operation phases of a project.
- To ensure that the commitments made are complied.
- To ascertain that the predictions made in the EIA reports were correct or not.

Components of EIA

The EIA report should contain all or some of the following components:

- **Air Environment**
- **Noise Environment**
- **Water Environment**
- **Biological Environment**
- **Land Environment**
- **Socio-economic and Health Environment**
- **Risk Assessment**
- **Environment management Plan**

Roles in the EIA Process

EIA involves the following parties, grouped by their role definitions:

- **The Project Proponent**
- **The Environmental Consultants**
- **The State Pollution Control Board / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs)**
- **The Public**
- **The Impact Assessment Agency**

1. The Role of the Project Proponent:

- Decides on the type of project
- Prepares Project Report / Feasibility Report
- Prepares findings of EIA study
- Submits application to IAA for environmental clearance

2. Role of Environmental Consultant:

- Guide the proponent through initial screening
- Finalize the scope of EIA study required
- Supply all the environmental related information to SPCB and IAA
- Justify the findings in EIA and EMP

3. Role of the State Pollution Control Board (PCB) / Pollution Control Committee (PCC):

- Assessing the compatibility of a proposed development with current operational and prescribed standards
- If the development is in compliance, issue its NOC
- Hold the public hearing

4. The Role of the Public:

- Review information and provide their views on the proposed development requiring environmental clearance.

5. The Role of the Impact Assessment Agency (IAA)

- Evaluate and assess the EIA
- Prepare a set of recommendations and conditions for its implementation.
- Environmental Monitoring process



Thank You