



The Basics of — IEE'S —

(Initial Environmental Examination)



During the project design process, the project team must undertake an environmental screening. The screening identifies the level of risk/impact to the environment and the next step of analysis needed.



If the activity is very
LOW RISK/IMPACT



In most cases, no further environmental review is necessary.



If the activity is
**NEITHER VERY LOW NOR
VERY HIGH RISK/IMPACT**
or if it isn't clear



Conduct an IEE.



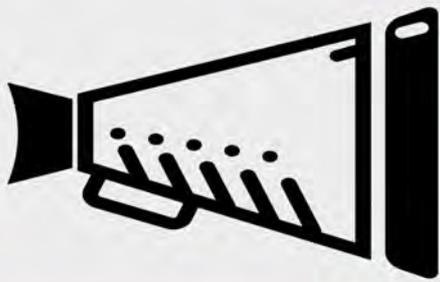
If the activity is relatively
HIGH RISK/IMPACT



You have two choices:
1) redesign the project and conduct an IEE; OR
2) conduct a full Environmental Assessment.

22 CFR 216

Requires an environmental impact assessment to be conducted for all programs, projects, activities and amendments prior to obligation of USAID funds.



The What, Why, When, How and Who of IEEs

WHAT

An IEE makes a recommendation as to whether a proposed activity will have a significant impact on the environment.

WHY

The IEE provides the factual basis for a Threshold Decision as to whether a more detailed Environmental Assessment is required.

WHEN

An IEE is conducted as part of the project design process, and is included in the PAD. It must be completed before funds are obligated.

HOW

The project design team must complete the IEE template as provided in the environmental compliance resources on USAID/India pages: <https://pages.usaid.gov/india/cleeo-resources>

The template is also available at GEMS website: <http://www.usaidgems.org/compliance.htm>

WHO

1. The project design team develops an IEE.
2. The Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) advises the process, reviews and coordinates with the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO).
3. The BEO approves the IEE.

KEY TERMINOLOGY



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

An activity, such as training, providing technical assistance or conducting a survey, that does not affect the environment.

In contrast, activities that involve the use of pesticides, creation of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), or introduction of non-native species do not qualify for a categorical exclusion.

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION (IEE)

A review of the reasonably foreseeable effects of a proposed action on the environment. Its function is to provide the factual basis for a Threshold Decision as to whether an Environmental Assessment is required.



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)



A detailed study of the reasonably foreseeable significant effects, both beneficial and adverse, of a proposed action on the environment of a foreign country or countries (similar to an Environmental Impact Statement but for foreign countries).

Where Can I Learn More?

ADS 204: Environmental Procedures

ADS 201.3.16.3 Stage 2: Process - Analytical Stage

Website of USAID's Global Environmental Management Support:
<http://www.usaidgems.org>

Environmental compliance resources on USAID/India pages:
<https://pages.usaid.gov/india/cleeo-resources>