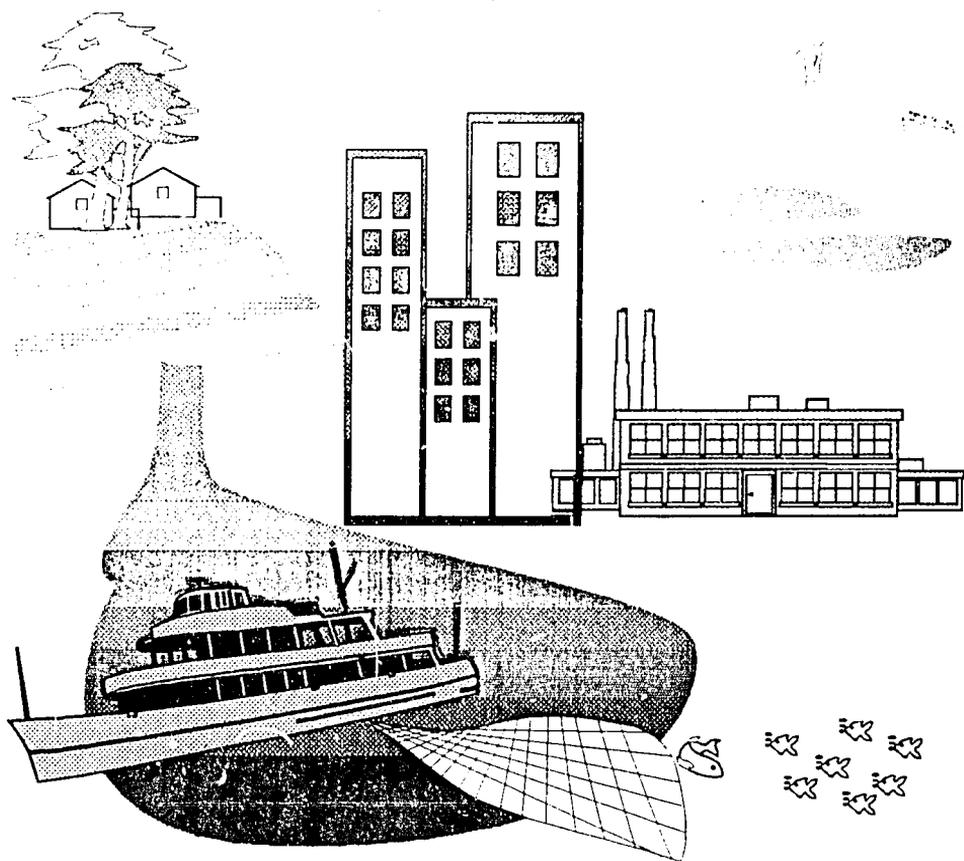


PA-ABP-916

A PRIMER ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

THIS PRIMER WAS PREPARED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT UNIT, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU (EMB), AND WAS COMPLETED THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PROJECT (IEMP) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) AND THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID). THE VIEWS, EXPRESSIONS, AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE NOT INTENDED AS STATEMENT OF POLICY OF EITHER THE USAID OR IEMP.

EMB WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL THOSE WHO IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE FINALIZATION OF THIS PRIMER.

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GROWTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Clean water and air, productive lands and natural areas, and stable communities to live and work are essential for sustained growth and development. However, growth and development consume natural resources, produce wastes that pollute the environment, and in turn, reduce opportunities for growth and development. Development projects require planning in order to achieve a balance between resource consumption and resource conservation, and waste management.

The basic concepts of sustainable development address the dual goals of environmental protection and continued economic growth. Through the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process, the goals of sustainable development are met. The environmental consequences of project development on the physical, biological, and socioeconomic environment and trade-offs of development are systematically evaluated through EIA. EIA identifies both detrimental consequences to the environment and

opportunities to use natural resources. It is a constructive, pro-development tool for management that improves the success and lengthens the life of projects.

What is environmental impact assessment?

Environmental impact assessment is part of project planning and is conducted to identify and evaluate important environmental consequences and social factors that should be incorporated into project design and operations.

The major objectives of environmental impact assessment are:

- ✓ Understand the likely consequences of new projects or activities on the environment.
- ✓ Identify alternatives and measures which can minimize these consequences.
- ✓ Provide sufficient data, choices, and options for informed decision-making.

The EIA process begins once the project proponent has developed a coherent conceptual project plan. The process requires:

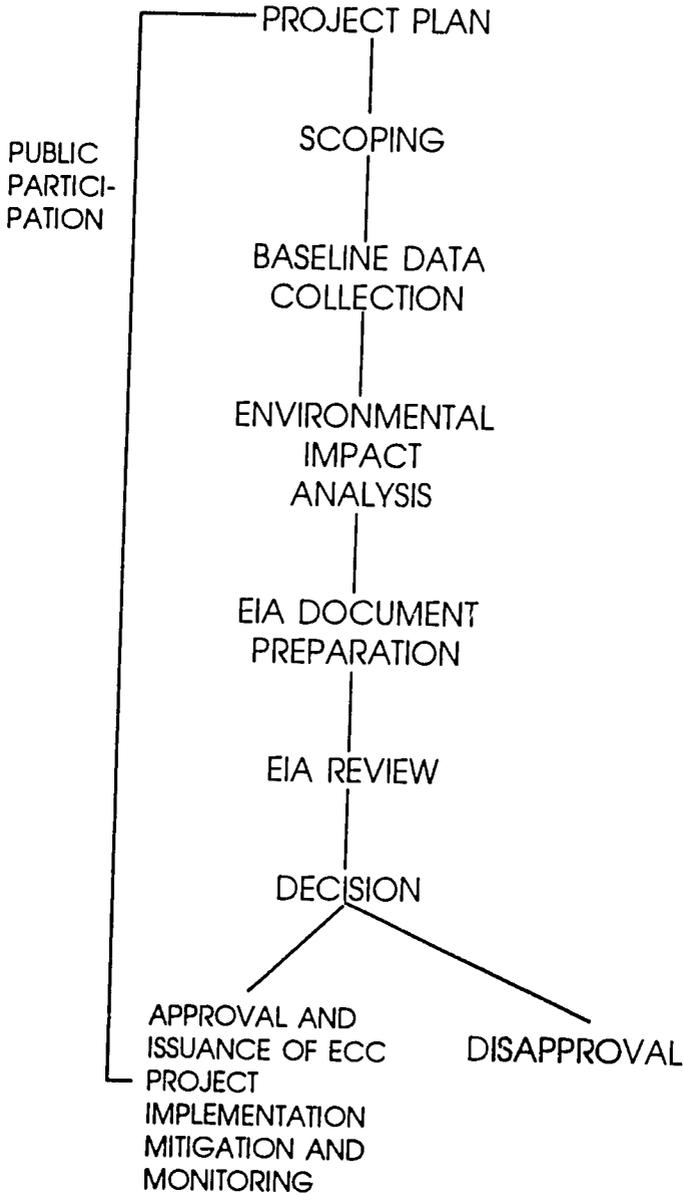
- ① Collection of environmental and social baseline data;
- Environmental impact analysis that includes:
 - impact assessment and prediction, selection

of alternatives, and provision of mitigating measures;

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) preparation, if warranted, or Project Description (PD);
- Review of the EIS or PD by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), review committee, and the public.
- Decision on environmental compliance by DENR.

Public involvement is encouraged throughout the process, particularly in determining the scope of analysis for the EIS. The EIA process is ongoing, in that following implementation, monitoring of the project is conducted to determine compliance with the conditions of the environmental compliance certificate (ECC). An overview of the EIA process is shown in the next page.

OVERVIEW OF THE EIA PROCESS



What are the benefits of environmental impact assessment?

When properly implemented, EIA results in a broad range of benefits related to sustainable development, environmental management, public involvement, and accountability in decision-making. To date, no other method of environmental planning has been implemented that addresses multiple environmental and social concerns.

What is the role of environmental impact assessment in environmental management?

EIA serves as a management tool for integrating a broad array of environmental protection objectives. Generally, environmental management is regulated by a variety of programs implemented by different government agencies. Inter-agency coordination and cooperation are sound planning principles that may not be implemented on a regular basis. Integrating the respective goals and objectives of various government programs can become a complex problem, from an environmental management perspective. EIA considers the entire legal framework for environmental management in a single process.

What are the benefits of public involvement in the EIA process?

The EIA process maintains provisions for public involvement. The primary benefit of public involvement is the exchange of information and views and the resolution of conflicts relating to proposed projects.

How does environmental impact assessment provide a basis for decision-making?

EIA provides the decision-maker a range of reasonable choices for a proposed development activity. These choices will have different environmental consequences and trade-offs. EIA provides decision-makers with an objective basis for weighing the consequences of these choices and making informed decisions.

What is the EIS System?

The EIS System refers to the organization, administration, and procedures institutionalized for the purpose of conducting environmental impact assessment.

The EIS System provides the legal and procedural framework for conducting environmental impact assessment in the Philippines.

Presidential Decree (PD) 1151 issued in 1977 mandates all agencies and instrumentalities of

the national government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, as well as private corporations, firms, and entities to prepare environmental impact statements for any project or undertaking which significantly affects the quality of the environment.

The Environmental Impact Statement System in the Philippines was established by PD 1586 in June 1978. PD 1586 defines the scope of the EIS System and broadly defines environmentally critical projects (ECP) and environmentally critical areas (ECA) that are included in the EIS System. PD 2146 specifically defines ECPs and ECAs and lists the types of projects and areas covered by the EIS System. Lists of ECPs and ECAs are shown below.

**PROJECTS DEFINED AS ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL,
AND REQUIRE AN EIS**

- ❖ Heavy Industries
 - non-ferrous metal industries
 - iron and steel mills
 - petroleum and petro-chemical industries
 - smelting plants

- ❖ Resource Extractive Industries
 - major mining and quarrying projects
 - forestry projects
 - fishery projects

- ❖ Infrastructure Projects
 - major dams
 - major power plants
 - major reclamation projects
 - major roads and bridges

Executive Order No. (EO) 192, promulgated in June 1987, identified EMB as the implementing agency of the EIS System. Section 16 of EO 192 calls for EMB to recommend rules and regulations for environmental impact assessments and to provide technical assistance for their implementation and monitoring.

**PROJECTS THAT REQUIRE A PROJECT DESCRIPTION BUT
MAY REQUIRE AN EIS ARE THOSE LOCATED IN
ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS**

Environmentally critical areas include the following:

- ❖ National parks, watershed reserves, wildlife reserves and sanctuaries;
- ❖ Potential tourist spots;
- ❖ Habitat for any endangered or threatened species of indigenous Philippine wildlife (flora and fauna);
- ❖ Areas of unique historical archaeological or scientific interest;
- ❖ Areas traditionally occupied by cultural communities or tribes;
- ❖ Areas frequently visited and/or hard-hit by natural calamities;
- ❖ Areas with critical slopes;
- ❖ Prime agricultural lands;
- ❖ Recharge areas of aquifers; and
- ❖ Water bodies.

In June 1992, DENR Administrative Order 21 (DAO 21) amended the revised rules and regulations implementing PD 1586. DAO 21 decentralized the EIS System by giving the DENR Regional Offices the responsibility for review and approval of non-critical projects located in ECAs and described the procedures for processing ECC applications.

Who is involved in the EIS System?

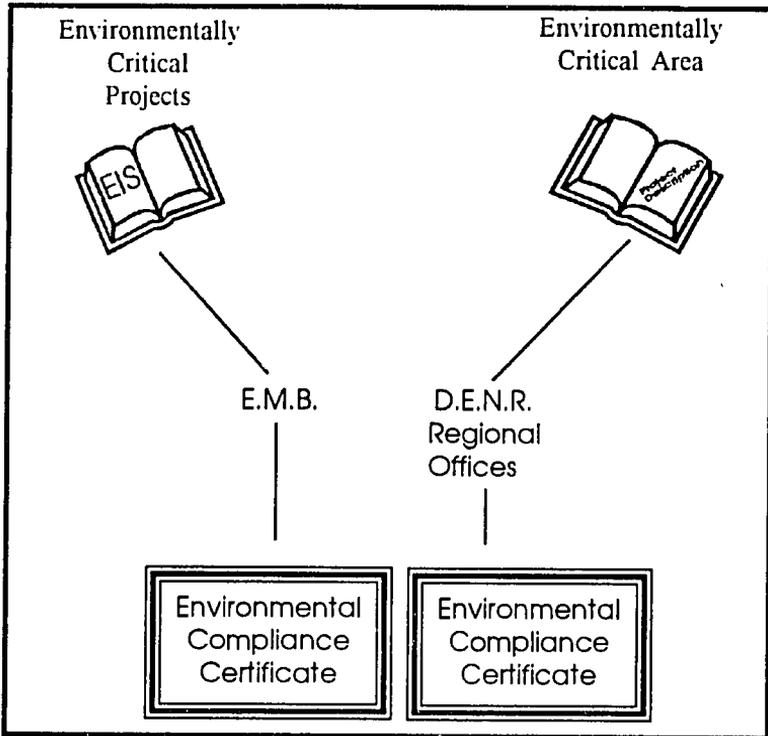
The DENR is mandated to implement the EIS System. The EMB of DENR provides overall direction and review of the EISs and issues the ECC when a project is approved. EMB is responsible for the review and issuance of ECCs for all ECPs.

Projects not classified as ECPs are reviewed and approved at the DENR Regional level. DENR Regional Offices are mandated to implement the EIS System pursuant to DENR Administrative Order 21. DENR Regional Offices are responsible for the review and issuance of ECCs for all Project Descriptions and EISs for non-critical projects located in ECAs. DENR Regional Offices are also responsible for issuance of exemption certificates for projects not under the purview of the EIS System.

Permits or approvals may also be required by other national, regional, and local department and authorities. Coordination between all levels

of government departments and authorities should be initiated early in the planning process of the projects. A national network of departments and authorities has been identified to support the EIS System.

An important component of the EIS System is public involvement. Non-governmental organizations, affected parties and interested individuals provide information and views about the proposed project that should be addressed in the overall project design and implementation. The primary benefit of public involvement is the exchange of information and views and the resolution of conflicts relating to proposed projects.



What are the steps of the EIS System?

The EIS System includes a series of steps consisting of screening, ocular inspection, document preparation, and document review.

Project screening determines whether a project falls within the EIS System, what level of analysis and documentation (Project Description or EIS) will be required, and who will issue an ECC. The project proponent submits ENFORM I to serve as the basis for determining whether the project is within the purview of the EIS System. The project proponent should coordinate with the EMB or the DENR Regional Office to determine if the project falls under the EIS System.

A project that is categorized as an ECP falls under the authority of EMB and must follow the steps identified for preparation of an EIS. A non-critical project located in an ECA falls under the authority of DENR Regional Offices and must follow the steps identified for preparation of a Project Description and possibly an EIS.

What are the types of documents in the EIS System and what should they contain?

The two types of documents in the EIS System are as follows:

- Project Description

This document is required if a project is not an Environmentally Critical Project but shall

be located in an environmentally critical area. It contains a brief description of the project, its size and scale, the process involved, the description of the site and mitigating measures to address possible impacts.

It also includes socio-economic issues which are expected to be generated by the project. The Project Description will form the basis for issuing an ECC, or for requiring a detailed study like an EIS.

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The EIS is a detailed and in-depth analysis of the environmental consequences of a proposed project and should contain the following:

- a description of the project;
- description of the existing environment;
- discussion of potential environmental consequences;
- evaluation of alternatives;
- mitigating measures; and
- identification of unavoidable impacts

What is an Environmental Compliance Certificate

The Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) is a document issued by the DENR to certify that the project proponent has complied with the EIS System. The ECCs for ECP's are issued by the EMB and signed by the DENR Secretary while the ECCs for projects located in ECAs are issued by the Regional Offices and signed by the Regional Executive Director.

How can I learn more about the EIS System?

For more detailed information and guidance on the EIS System, contact DENR Regional Offices or the EMB.

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DENR Regional Offices

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

*Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Navotas,
Parañaque, San Juan, Valenzuela*

The Regional Technical Director/Environment
EL-AL Building, 188 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
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DENR Regional Offices (continued)

CORDILLERA AUTONOMOUS REGION

Benguet, Kalinga Apayao, Ifugao

The Regional Technical Director/Environment

Diego Silang Street, Baguio City

Tel. No. 442-6107/442-2346

REGION 1 (Ilocos)

Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan

The Regional Technical Director/Environment

3rd Floor, Marcos Building, San Fernando, La Union

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Fax No. 413-833

REGION 2 (Cagayan Valley)

Batanes, Cagayan, Isabel, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino

The Regional Technical Director/Environment

Nursery Compound, Tuguegarao, Cagayan

Tel. No. 75-271/73-416/446-1718/446-1316/446-1946

REGION 3 (Central Luzon)

Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija,

Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales

The Regional Technical Director/Environment

Cleofere Building, Gen. Hizon Ave.,

San Fernando, Pampanga

Tel. No. 612-858/613-358

REGION 4 (Southern Tagalog)

Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Marinduque, Occ.

Mindoro, Or. Mindoro, Palawan, Quezon, Rizal,

Romblon, Aurora sub-province

The Regional Technical Director/Environment

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521-2253

DENR Regional Offices (continued)

REGION 5 (Bicol)

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Norte Masbate, Sorsogon*

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Rawis, Legaspi City

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REGION 6 (Western Visayas)

*Akian, Antique, Guimaras, Iloilo, Negros Occ., sub-
prov Capiz*

The Regional Technical Director/Environment

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REGION 7 (Central Visayas)

Bohol, Cebu, Negros Or., Mandaue

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Fax No. 461002

REGION 8 (Eastern Visayas)

*Eastern Samar, N. Samar, W. Samar, Leyte, Southern
Leyte, Biliran sub-province*

The Regional Technical Director/Environment

Sto. Niño Extension, Tacloban City

Tel. No. 321-3383

REGION 9 (Western Mindanao)

*Sub-region 1X-A (Regional Center: Jolo), Basilan, Sulu,
Tawi-Tawi*

*Sub-region 1X-B (Regional Center: Zamboanga City),
Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del
Norte*

The Regional Technical Director/Environment

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DENR Regional Offices (continued)

REGIONAL 10 (Northern Mindanao)

*Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Bukidnon,
Camiguin, Misamis Occ., Misamis Or., Surigao del
Norte*

The Regional Technical Director/Environment
Puntod, Cagayan de Oro City

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REGION 11 (Southern Mindanao)

*Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental,
South Cotabato, Surigao del Sur*

The Regional Technical Director/Environment
Lanang, Davao City

Tel. No. 7895/81355/73416

REGION 12 (Central Mindanao)

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North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat*

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