

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction to EIA
- When EIA is necessary
- Steps in the EIA process
- Decisions on EIA by the Authority
- Decision making principles
- Challenges of decision making



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INTRODUCTION

- EIA is a systematic examination conducted to determine whether or not a proposed project/ activity will have adverse impacts on the environment.
- It is provided for in Section 58 of the Environmental Management and Coordination Act(EMCA)Cap 387
- Proposes measures to optimize positive impacts and mitigation measures for the negative ones
- It attempts to weigh environmental effects vis a vis the economic costs and benefits of a project

EIA CONT:

- EIA is site specific
- It compares various alternatives
- It is a decision-making tool
- EIA is both an art and a science
- Is a multidisciplinary exercise=there is no individual all round EIA expert!
- Aims at achieving sustainable development
- Done at two levels Project report and Study report



WHEN IS AN EIA NECESSARY: CONSIDERATIONS

- Magnitude of change
- Extend of the area affected
- Significance of impacts
- Special sensitivity
- Time frame: the duration of the impacts
- Irreversibility



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GENERAL STEPS IN THE EIA PROCESS

- Scoping exercise and development of TOR for approval by NEMA
- Impact identification
- Baseline study
- Impact evaluation (quantification)
- Mitigation measures
- Comparison of alternatives
- Public participation**
- Documentation
- Submission of the Project Report or EIA Study Report to NEMA
- Comments from lead agencies, Stakeholders and community

GENERAL STEPS IN THE EIA PROCESS CONT:

- Review, harmonization of comments
- Decision making.
- Issuance of Records of Decision (RoD) of the Authority
- Provisions for variation, suspension, transfer, cancellation/revoking of the EIA Licence
- Dispute settlement procedure through the NET

DECISION ON EIA BY THE AUTHORITY

- Approval and Issuance of EIA license with conditions .
- Pend approval until the adverse impacts/comments are addressed to the satisfaction of the Authority during which the EIA processing time stops running.
- Reject an application with reasons and advice on suitable and environmentally sound alternatives

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DECISION MAKING PRINCIPLES

- Using the Ecosystem approach
- Considering Alternatives
- Using a Hierarchy to mitigate impacts
- Applying precautionary principle
- Ensuring equitable sharing
- Risk Assessment :
- Adherence to “three-simultaneities concept” in which EP facilities must be designed, constructed and employed simultaneously with the proposed project.



KEY CHALLENGES OF DECISION MAKING

- Widespread impression that EIA is an obstructive process that prevents development,
- EIA is very expensive and just paper work.
- Competitors, business rivalry and/ or NGO's and lobby groups misusing the EIA process as an opportunity to object to projects.
- The situation is further complicated by community “gate-keepers” who influences and distorts the genuine public views and therefore the public consultation process.

KEY CHALLENGES OF DECISION MAKING

- Delayed response from key stakeholders
- Comments from stakeholders in most cases do not provide guidance for decision making. “No objection” or “recommended for approval” type of comments with no reasons/justification is quite inadequate.
- Rush for the profession (EIA/EA experts) resulting in poor quality work.

THANK YOU

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