

1.9-Stakeholders in the EIA Process

1.9.1-Roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in EIA

1.9.2-Selection & Registration Criteria for EIA Consultants



1.9-Stakeholders in the EIA Process

- Those who propose the project
- The environmental consultant who prepare EIA on behalf of project proponent
- Pollution Control Board (State or National)
- Public has the right to express their opinion
- The Impact Assessment Agency
- Regional center of the MoEFCC

1.9.1-Roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in EIA

EIA Authority

Oversee and implement the EIA framework, including

- Establishing and maintaining relevant environmental standards
- Setting expected public participation processes
- Maintaining and updating the Screening register (or equivalent mechanism for categorization of projects for screening purposes)
- Registering or otherwise authorizing consultants to act as EIA consultants
- ❖ Maintain records of all project proposals undergoing EIA processes.
- ❖ Make the Screening decision.
- ❖ Make a decision on the Scoping Report and draft Terms of Reference.
- ❖ Review draft EIA reports and make recommendations to the decision-maker.
- ❖ Conduct public participation processes as part of the EIA Report Review step.
- ❖ Issue the environmental permits to proceed
- ❖ Maintain records of all submissions made to the government by stakeholders during the EIA process and how they were considered in the decision-making steps.

Project proponent

- ❖ Initiate project proposal

- ❖ Initiate and comply with entire EIA process, and its terms & conditions, especially with public participation.
- ❖ Engage EIA consultant.
- ❖ Fund all aspects of the EIA, including public participation in all steps of the EIA process and mitigation and compensation of impacts.
- ❖ Contribute to and endorse submitted EIA, including its
 - compliance with laws, regulations and terms of reference;
 - accuracy and completeness;
 - approach to public participation.
- ❖ Participate in public participation processes with EIA consultant as necessary.
- ❖ Publicly release all relevant information on the project proposal and EIA.
- ❖ Implement all commitments during the EIA process and EMMP
- ❖ Manage and be fully responsible for their development activities and associated social and environmental impacts.

EIA consultant

Lead EIA processes (often the Scoping and EIA Investigation and Reporting steps).

- ❖ Liaise with PAP and other stakeholders
- ❖ Propose and negotiate with the project proponent alternatives and impact mitigation measures
- ❖ Lead public participation processes up until EIA Report is submitted.
- ❖ Participate as required in public participation processes at the EIA Report Review and Decision steps.
- ❖ Maintain records of all submissions made to the project proponent and EIA consultant by stakeholders during the EIA process and how they were addressed in the EIA Report.

Project Affected People (PAP)

- ❖ Be aware of project proposals in areas that could affect them.

- ❖ Read and consider information about project proposals that could affect them.
- ❖ Engage, as much as practicable, with project proponents, EIA consultants, other PAP and other stakeholders regarding project proposals.
- ❖ Help identify potential risks and impacts of project proposals, as well as possible project alternatives and impact avoidance strategies.
- ❖ Identify and communicate community needs, desires and expectations from project proposals.
- ❖ Make formal submissions and comments to the project proponent, EIA consultant and EIA Authorities.

Other stakeholders (including: local, national and regional NGOs ; Industry and trade associations; media; academics; regional institutions)

- ❖ Contribute technical knowledge and expertise to EIA process.
- ❖ Provide access to environmental and social databases.
- ❖ Assist PAP and other stakeholders to understand concepts and participate in EIA processes.
- ❖ Disseminate information about project proposals and EIA processes.
- ❖ Make formal submissions and comments to the project proponent, EIA consultant and EIA Authorities.

1.9.2-Selection & Registration Criteria for EIA Consultants

Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is the process of evaluating the potential effects of a proposed project or policy on the environment. It is a crucial tool for informed decision-making and sustainable development. However, conducting a high-quality EIA requires a competent and experienced consultant or team that can meet the specific needs of the client, regulators, and other stakeholders. How can you choose the right EIA consultant or team for your project? Here are some key criteria to consider.

Experience and qualifications

The first and foremost criterion is the experience and qualifications of the EIA consultant. It is important to hire someone who has relevant expertise in the field of your project, local context, and

applicable EIA standards. Check their track record of delivering successful EIA reports, as well as their references and testimonials from previous clients. A good way to assess their qualifications is to review their portfolio of past projects and ask them to provide a detailed proposal and methodology for your project.

Scope and budget

Define the objectives, scope, and deliverables of the EIA, plus the time frame and budget available for it. Communicate these clearly to the potential EIA consultant and ensure they understand and agree to them. Also compare their proposed fees with market rates and the value they offer. Avoid choosing the cheapest or the most expensive option, but rather the one that provides the best quality and value for your money.

Team composition and resources

You must know who will be working on your project, their roles and responsibilities, and how they will communicate with you. Ensure the team has the appropriate skills and experience to cover all the aspects of the EIA, including technical, legal, social, economic, and environmental. Also ensure the team has enough capacity and resources to complete the project within the agreed time frame and budget.

Communication and rapport

It is crucial to establish a good working relationship with the consultant or team based on trust and mutual understanding. Be able to communicate your expectations and feedback clearly and regularly, and listen to their suggestions, concerns, and questions. Ensure they communicate with you in a timely, transparent, and professional manner, and provide you with regular updates on the progress of the EIA.

Quality assurance and ethics

Make sure the consultant follows the best practices and standards of EIA, as well as the ethical principles and codes of conduct of their profession. Verify they have the necessary licenses and certifications to conduct the EIA, and that they comply with relevant regulations and policies. Also ensure they conduct the EIA with impartiality and independence, and avoid any conflicts of interest.

Stakeholder engagement and participation

Make sure the EIA consultant or team involves relevant stakeholders in the EIA process. This can include the regulators, affected communities, and experts. They should respect and address the views and concerns of the stakeholders, and facilitate their participation in an inclusive and transparent way.

