


International Environmental Impact Assessment 

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International Environmental Impact Assessment 

Common basis	Local application
Best international practice	Response to specific experience
International frameworks e.g. EU EIA, SEA, Habitats and Pollution Directives	National priorities e.g. nuclear installations, raw materials, natural/cultural heritage
Multi-national organisations e.g. World Bank, EBRD, UNEP, multi- national companies	National and local permitting authorities
Common international and trans- national issues/problems	Local problems, specific local solutions or contributions


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Historical background

- Financial, economic appraisal, cost-benefit analysis – inadequate consideration of environmental factors
- US National Environmental Policy Act 1969
- World Bank Environmental Policy 1984, Operational Directive 1989
- EU Directives 1985, 1997, 2003
- UN Commission on Environment and Development Brundtland Report 1987
- EIA in Transboundary Context UNECE "Espoo Convention" 1991
- Rio de Janeiro "Earth Summit" 1992
 - Declaration on Environment and Development – Principle 17
 - Climate change and biological diversity conventions
- Public Participation UNECE "Aarhus Convention" 1998, EU Directives 2003
- Strategic EIA EU Directive 2001, World Bank Environmental Strategy 2001


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Common elements

- Project description => screening
- Consideration of alternatives
- Baseline studies)
- Review of effects) => scoping
- Presentation of results)
- Consultation with affected parties
- Public participation
- Mitigation measures

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Procedure

- in advance of permitting (e.g. Australia, Canada, USA) or
- integral part of permitting procedure (e.g. EU) or
- independent process

Type of EIA

- project-specific, strategic (e.g. region, industry, policy)


Screening – need for EIA?

- size and nature of project – thresholds, definitions

Scoping – content of EIA?

- significant factors – consultation with authorities

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National/International dimensions

- local responsibilities
 - local laws and regulations
- local resources – data, consultants
- timescales
- multi-national institutions/companies

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Information sources including:

- European Commission, Environmental Assessment Homepage
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/home.htm>
- World Bank
www.worldbank.org > Topics > Environment > Environmental Assessment
- United Nations Environment Programme, Economics and Trade Branch
Environmental Impact Assessment Training Resource Manual
http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/EIATMan_2edition_trr.htm
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
http://www.ccaa-acee.gc.ca/010/index_e.htm
- Environmental Impact Assessment Centre, University of Manchester
<http://www.art.man.ac.uk/EIA/about/info-service.htm>



Conclusions:

- differing priorities
 - development, transition, poverty, heritage, climate
- development from project-specific to strategic EIA
- major national and international issues
- EIA tool for problem avoidance and mitigation
- local contributions to wider solutions!



**Thank you
for your attention**

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