



General Principles of EIA

IUCN Environmental Law Centre

Introduction

As international demand for clean energy rapidly increases, so does the awareness of impacts those energy choices have on ecosystems, biodiversity and the growing problem of energy



Integrated Assessment Tools for Small Scale Renewable Energy Projects

Regional Training Workshop

EIA occurs at the project level and is conducted prior to the project being implemented. It is an integral part of the project development cycle and serves the development decision making system. The information generated from the EIA is supplied to suitable decision makers who incorporate such considerations into decisions regarding the proposal. In this way, EIA can inform development and reduces environmental harm, all while increasing project benefits. Decision makers must be guided by the underlying EIA principle: the need to avoid environmental changes that result in net harm to local people and their environment.¹ EIA should not contain biases for or against development.

Besides examining the likely impacts on the natural world, EIA also examines impacts on local communities, and opens up decision making processes to affected members of the public, thereby providing a participatory environment to enrich decision making. Despite their mandate, domestic EIA

1



II. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

SEA has emerged in addition to, and is an extension of EIA, and should be an intrinsic element of the policy and program development processes as it provides an invaluable tool for greater integrated strategic action. SEA examines the likely environmental impacts of strategic level decisions at policy, planning and pragmatic levels (PPP), rather than just at project levels. Like EIA, SEA focuses on integrating environmental, social and economic factors together in the decision making process.

SEA is a formalized process which attempts to predict and evaluate the likely environmental impacts of a ~~proposed~~ proposed



6) Providing information on the decision: Following the adoption of the plan, the public and other groups consulted must be provided with information regarding the adopted plan, how the environment was affected, and the public's input.

