

Civil Engineering, VI-Semester
Elective – II CE- 604 (C)
Environmental Impact Assessment
UNIT-III

Impact analysis

Need for better practice frameworks

Follow-up is the element that can transform EIA from a static to a dynamic process: the missing link between EIA and project implementation. The federal Minister of the Environment advocates follow-up as “an essential component of an effective environmental assessment process,” Included amongst the Minister’s amendments is the recognition of the need to strengthen the EIA follow-up process. It is recommended that the results of follow-up programs be used to improve the quality of environmental assessments. Recognizing the importance of follow-up activities in the sustainable development of the environment, and in compliance with the recommendations of the Minister of Environment, Development for 2002-2003 recognizes the need to improve the effectiveness of followup programs. This can be achieved through focus on systematic best practice methodology for future follow-up in EIA. The need to make follow-up programs more efficient and more effective is consistent with CEAA requirements. It is here where the proposed research will make a practical contribution to improving follow-up through evaluating recent practice and identifying transferable learning opportunities.

follow-up includes:

The collection of data, the structuring and analysis of this data and the appraisal of the generated information about the impacts of a project (or plan) that has been subject to EIA. It also involves decision-making on remedial action and communication of the results of this process.

follow-up is comprised of four key activities

1. Monitoring: the collection of data and comparison with standards, prescriptions and expectations;

2. Evaluation: the appraisal of the conformance with standards, predictions or expectations as well as the environmental performance of the activity;

3. Management: making decisions and taking appropriate action in response to issues arising from monitoring and evaluation activities; and,

4. Communication: informing the stakeholders as well as the general public about the results of the EIA follow-up. Stakeholders are included as they are directly affected; for example resident communities around BHPB. The general public needs to be informed for learning purposes.

Types of Follow-up

Follow-up implementation takes different shapes and forms and mainly depends on the objectives of each individual program. Follow-up may also involve different types of assessment in one single program.

Monitoring

Monitoring is defined as the collection of data with the aim of providing information on the characteristics and/or functioning of environmental variables.

Auditing

Auditing involves an objective examination and comparison of observations with pre-defined criteria to facilitate management or to determine compliance.

Evaluation

Evaluation is a term used in planning and policy for the generic process of gathering, structuring, analysing and appraising information and involves value judgments.

Post-decision analysis

Post-decision analysis refers to a wide range of activities (Fig 2.1) that can occur after a decision has been made and the implementation of a project has commenced.

THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT (1986)



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