Ghana

General

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The Environmental Protection Act (1994) brought ESIA into the legal framework of Ghana. It introduced an ESIA system which consists three levels of assessment: initial, preliminary and a full assessment of the environmental impacts. Apart from extensive experiences with Environmental Impact Assessment (ESIA), Ghana has a relatively high level of experience with the application of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), particularly since 2002. Many capacity building activities have taken place in the framework of the Ghana Environmental Assessment Capacity Development Project (GeaCap phase 1, 1999-2001), the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy 2002-2004 and the Ghana Environmental Assessment and Support Project 2006-2008.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the key agency responsible for implementation of ESIA and SEA. It is the main decision-making authority during all stages of the ESIA process.