



25 years Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment

ESY-MAP

A diagnostic tool for assessing the quality of a national Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) system.

Hand-out QuickScan



Quick Scan		
Question n°	Fully = 100 / Mostly = 75 / OK = 50 / Hardly = 25 / No = 0	Score

SECTION I – ESIA PROCESS		
1	Screening Is there a screening mechanism that is effective in practice in ensuring that high risk projects are subjected to an ESIA and low risks projects are not?	
2	Start of the ESIA Is the commencement of the ESIA procedure announced in a manner accessible to all stakeholders?	
3	Scoping Is there a scoping mechanism that is effective in practice in ensuring early identification of key issues, alternatives and stakeholders, and includes consultation?	
4	Impact Assessment (incl. alternatives) Does the ESIA provide sufficient, quality information on environmental and social issues to enable informed decision-making?	
5	ESMP Are the ESMPs actionable, practical and verifiable?	
6	Review Is there a formal mechanism for reviewing ESIA that is effective in practice in ensuring that the process and content is adequate for informed decision-making?	
7	Third party review Is there a mechanism for third party review that is effective in practice in ensuring that the ESIA is credible to all relevant stakeholders?	
8	Decision making & accountability Is the decision-making process regarding the permitting process (including the ESIA) robust?	
9	Follow up Is there effective management of environmental and social issues in project implementation?	
Cross-cutting issues in ESIA process		
10	Stakeholder engagement & access to information Is there effective stakeholder engagement that ensures stakeholders have sufficient opportunity to influence ESIA processes and decisions?	
11	EA professionals Are ESIA undertaken by appropriately qualified professionals with relevant experience?	
12	EA professionals – reviewers Are ESIA reviewed by appropriately qualified professionals with relevant experience?	
13	Timelines Are the ESIA procedural timelines suitable?	
14	User friendliness Are ESIA processes user friendly?	
15	Transboundary ESIA If a project has potential transboundary impacts, are these considered, and are stakeholders in the affected country or countries engaged in the ESIA?	

SECTION II – ENABLING CONDITIONS		
16	Does the country have ESIA legislation that enables good practice?	
17	Are there adequate financial resources for ESIA administration?	
18	Is ESIA a well-known concept in the country?	
19	Is good quality ESIA education and professional training available in the country?	
20	Is there an effective helpdesk for ESIA? (Physical or online platform)	
21	Is there adequate monitoring of the effectiveness of the ESIA system in the country?	
22	Is a professional exchange platform established and operational?	

SECTION III – CAPACITIES		
23	Does the environment agency have the capacity to fulfill its mandate with regards to the ESIA process?	
24	Do the ESAPs (environmental and social assessment professionals) have the capacity to undertake ESIA's to the required standard?	
25	Do the NGOs/CBOs/civil society have the capacity to be meaningfully involved in ESIA processes?	
26	Do other governmental agencies (e.g. sector ministries) with a specific role in ESIA have the capacity to fulfill their tasks?	
27	<i>Extra row if needed, for additional group with specific role in ESIA.</i>	

SECTION IV – ESIA PERFORMANCE		
28	Are ESIA's effectively synchronised with the project life-cycle? <i>For example, the ESIA started too early or too late.</i>	
29	Do ESIA's influence decision making?	
30	Do ESIA's influence outcomes on the ground?	
31	Do ESIA's lead to learning amongst stakeholders involved?	

SECTION V – CONTEXT		
32	Are environmental and social norms and standards in place?	
33	Is rule of law sufficient for successful ESIA system implementation?	
34	Is there sufficient media coverage of environmental and social issues and ESIA?	
35	Do environmental and social issues feature prominently in the national discourse, for example election campaigning?	
36	Is there a sufficient and accessible knowledge infrastructure for ESIA?	
37	Is ESIA practice free from corruption and political interference?	

What is ESY-MAPPING?

ESY-MAP is a diagnostic tool for assessing the quality of a national Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) system. Practitioners and stakeholders involved in ESIA in a country jointly apply the tool in an interactive workshop. They analyse ESIA requirements and performance with the help of a standard set of questions. The outcome is a graphical representation of the quality of the current ESIA system. This informs a shared view on strong and weak points, and where action is most needed.

How does it work? At the heart of the ESY-MAP is a questionnaire that addresses key elements of the ESIA system. It consists of two levels. There are 37 Quick Scan questions that address the ESIA system more generally. Each of these questions is linked to the second level: a set of 150 detailed questions for more refined analysis. These 150 questions make up the Detailed Scan of the ESIA system. The ESYMAP explores both regulatory requirements and practice.

The 37 QuickScan questions are divided over 5 sections:

- ✓ SECTION I – ESIA PROCESS
- ✓ SECTION II – ENABLING CONDITIONS
- ✓ SECTION III – CAPACITIES
- ✓ SECTION IV – ESIA PERFORMANCE
- ✓ SECTION V – CONTEXT