



Netherlands Commission for  
Environmental Assessment

# Part 2: Conditions

The Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) is an independent advisory body of experts established by law in 1987. The international department was established in 1993. One of the main tasks of the international department is providing independent advice on ESIA and SEA at the request of an authority in a selected number of low- and middle-income countries. The **purpose of this guidance** is to describe how the NCEA works and how it secures its independent position. This guide consists of three parts:

- 1) Description of the NCEA's approach.
- 2) Conditions under which the NCEA can start issuing advice.
- 3) Protocol securing the independent position of the NCEA.

## Part 2. General Conditions

This note describes the general conditions under which the NCEA can start issuing advice.

### 1. Definitions

- **Advice:** advisory report on ESIA or SEA prepared by the NCEA at the request of an eligible authority.
- **Requesting authority:** The authority or authorities requesting the NCEA for advice that have a formal role in the ESIA/SEA process (hereafter 'the authority').
- **NCEA secretariat:** consists of two directors, technical secretaries and supporting staff. All are permanent staff members of the NCEA.
- **NCEA working group:** Consists of experts assigned for the duration of the advisory trajectory. The chair of the working group is deputy chair of the NCEA. The working group is supported by a technical secretary, who is staff member of the NCEA secretariat. The working group advises on behalf of the NCEA.

### 2. Start advisory trajectory

- a. A formal request for advice on the ESIA/SEA by the authority responsible for advice or decision making as regards the project or strategic decision will be sent to the director of the NCEA. This request will be made publicly available in an appendix to the advisory report.
- b. Agreement on the review framework applied by the NCEA. Reference to the framework will be made in the advice.
- c. Agreement on project specific issues will be included in the advice.

### 3. Site visit

The working group of the NCEA will have access to all available information, the project site and can meet all relevant stakeholders.

### 4. Presentation and publication of the advice

- a. The draft advisory report will be presented to the requesting authority to verify whether this report is clear and the facts presented are accurate. The content is non-negotiable. The NCEA will decide how to act on any suggestions or arguments raised to adjust the advisory report.
- b. The final advisory report will be sent to the requesting authority/ies and all actors met during the NCEA visit. Simultaneously, it will be made publicly available on the website of the NCEA ([www.eia.nl](http://www.eia.nl)).
- c. The requesting authority cooperates in the monitoring and evaluation of the outcome of the advisory report.

### 4. Costs

The requesting authority will bear the costs of the contact person/coordinator and staff members of the requesting authority, if they accompany the working group during the site visit and meetings.