

Gambia

EIA profile

Updated to: 28 August 2023

Screening

Screening process

Screening is done by the NEA, based on a completed screening form, filled in by the project developer. A screening report is drafted by the NEA, determining whether and ESIA is required or not. It is possible that at this stage the environmental permit is granted immediately, without ESIA report.

Where the NEA decides that there is need for additional information to be submitted by the developer, it may request additional information in the form of a preliminary environmental impact assessment report or an environmental management plan, as appropriate. This may result in environmental approval.

Contents of the starting document

An example form is included in the 2014 EIA regulations. Contents include:

- Project description
- Employees and labourers
- Description of Industrial process
- Products and by-products
- Potential impacts
- Proposed mitigation measures

Timeline Screening

The project developer is informed of the classification within 20 days of receipt of the screening form.

Scoping

Scoping process

After screening determines whether an ESIA is necessary, the project developer is responsible for establishing a scoping report, containing the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Contents of the scoping document

- Terms of reference for the EIS
- Expertise of consultants working on EIS
- Any additional matters the NEA may require

Assessment

Contents of the EIA report

- executive summary
- description of project
- description of site and alternative sites
- materials needed
- description of the environment
- purpose and expected benefits
- description of impacts
- description of alternative means of carrying out the project
- assessment of legal implications of impacts, including reference to relevant legal texts.
- methodology
- evaluation of impacts
- mitigation measures
- gaps in knowledge and uncertainties
- indication of transboundary effects
- description of how information in the EIS was generated
- any other information deemed necessary by the NEA.

Accreditation of consultants

The NEA must approve the persons who will undertake the ESIA study during the scoping phase.

Consultants developing ESIA's are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct.

Review

Review process

The draft EIS is submitted to the NEA who provides written comments on it. In addition, the project developer organizes a meeting to receive comments from the general public.

Review expertise

Review is the responsibility of the NEA, who organizes a review by the EIA Working Group. The composition of the working group is not specified.

Timeline Review

If the EIS report is deemed suitable for review, the NEA sends the draft EIS to the EIA Working Group within 10 days. The Working Group reviews the EIS within 14 days.

If the NEA requests, a public hearing is held between 30 and 40 days after reception of the EIA.

Decision making

Integration of ESIA into decision-making

Approval of the EIS is one step in overall project approval. The legislation does not specify how this step is integrated into other decisions on a potential project.

Decision justification

If the project is rejected, the reasons for doing so must be stated in writing.

Possibilities for appeal

Any person aggrieved by the decision of the NEA may appeal within 30 days of the decision.

Follow-up

Stakeholder engagement

Public participation requirements for ESIA process stages

During assessment phase, the consultant is required to seek the views and opinions of the affected communities and parties to explain the project and its effects. A reflection of this should be included as annex in the EIS.

Access to information

EISs are considered public documents and may be freely consulted by any person. The NEA may protect any information which is considered to be proprietary.

ESIA practice

Background information

Legal framework

Institutional setting

Contact

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