Differences in EIA across BRI and their compatibility with Chinese EIA
EIA System Effectiveness across BRI

- Europe
- Central Asia
- South Asia
- Middle East
- East & South East Asia
Content

- EIA System Effectiveness across BRI
- Key challenges and good practice pointers
- Integrating EIA with BRI project approval
- Is there any relationship between EIA and economic growth?
- Guidance and Competency
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<th>Legislation</th>
<th>Administration</th>
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<th>Decision-making</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East and South East Asia</td>
<td>✓ Legal Framework</td>
<td>✓ screening/scoping monitoring</td>
<td>✓ EIA guidelines Reporting</td>
<td>✓ EIA involvement transparency</td>
<td>✓ Resources Skill/government/Training</td>
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<td>South Asia</td>
<td>✓ Legal Framework</td>
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<td>✓ Legal Framework</td>
<td>✓ screening/scoping EMP, PP, alternatives monitoring</td>
<td>✓ EIA guidelines Reporting</td>
<td>✓ EIA involvement explanation transparency</td>
<td>✓ Resources/skill/government/training, private sector</td>
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<td>✓ Resources Training</td>
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**East & Southeast Asia**

### Problem
- Lower-income countries in the region fall behind China in resource allocation, EIA expertise, and the incorporation of EIA into project approval decisions.
- Fragility, conflict, and violence
- Anti-China sentiments

### Existing Best Practices
- Regional collaborations to continue to improve EIA standards
- International donor organizations’ aid in resources, capacity, and technical expertise

###推荐
- Improving the environmental standards and requirements to China’s level.
- Collaboration with China in improving resource capacity and monitoring or BRI projects’ EIA.

### Key Deficiency
- EIA in decision making
- Transparency
- Public participation
- Resource capacity
- Publicly available EIA reports

### Compatibility
- China received the highest performance.
- Practical implementation of EIA is late compared to China.
- Resource capacity is much lower.
- China’s EIA administration, procedure, and government support are better.

### Advantage
- EIA systems in the region are still evolving.
- Having close ties with China for most of the countries.
- The existence of donor organizations in most of the countries.

### Economic Concept
- Generally, higher GDP achieved higher scores.
- Singapore performs well among SEA.

### Current Collaborations
- The Belt and Road Ecological and Environmental Cooperation Plan, 2017.
- ASEAN-China environmental collaboration
- Digital BRI
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
South Asia

Problem
- the lack of strict compliance with different provisions, the result of EIA in decision-making and the administrative support for the EIA.
- International aid disproportionately focused on India

Existing Best Practices
- remarkable progress in acquiring systematic EIA legislation in recent years.

Recommendation
- prioritize improving EIA legislation and legal frameworks, administrative systems, decision-making process and technical and human capabilities before the initiation of the BRI projects.

Compatibility
- Low compatibility with Chinese EIA
- Need substantial assistance from China to support and improve local EIA capacities

Advantage
- Large human resources and capacity especially in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan
- The existence of donor organizations in most of the countries.

Key Deficiency
- SEA
- Transboundary EIA
- Ambiguous EIA guidelines
- Government support

Economic Concept
- Generally, higher GDP achieved higher scores.
- Bhutan perform well regardless of economic performance

Countries
India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka

Channels
- high level government commitments from China and the specific host countries

Collaborations
- The belt and road ecological and environmental cooperation plan, 2017.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- Much more earnest cooperation between China and India will be vital.
**Central Asia**

**Problem**
- considerable gap between the law and enforcement
- the lack of SEA, public consultation and disclosure, oversight of the EIA enforcement and inadequate resources
- absence of screening, scoping, and EMPs
- have a relatively weak economy compared to China

**Existing Best Practices**

Some countries are drafting Screening and Scoping requirements

**Key Deficiency**
- SEA
- Transboundary EIA
- Transparency in decision making

**Recommendation**
- environmental assessment and monitoring practices for BRI projects in these regions should be context specific while ensuring the essential elements of EIA are not lower than China.

**Compatibility**
- Mostly low compatibility with Chinese EIA
- China uses a more comprehensive and legally binding EIA implementation criterion;
- the Chinese EIA system rigorously monitors and follows-up in EIA
- countries' EIA systems are based on the state ecological expertise review system (SEE) established under the former Soviet Union

**Advantage**
- The World Bank actively monitors EIA process and provides financial, technical and human resources for improving legislation and implementation

**Channels**
- Greening the Belt and Road Projects in Central Asia

**Countries**
- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

**Collaborations**
- The belt and road ecological and environmental cooperation plan, 2017.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Compatibility</th>
<th>Advantage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most countries in the region developed EIA only in the late 1990s</td>
<td>China’s support in improving the weak areas in the existing EIA system</td>
<td>The Chinese EIA system has been established more than a decade prior to the EIAs in the Middle East</td>
<td>Donor organizations in lower-income countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-compliance of a SEA</td>
<td>the collaboration effort have to be tailored to each country’s financial and human resources capabilities and the institutional structures.</td>
<td>The first two countries are Oman and Israel in 1982</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>absence of public consultation in the decision making process</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chinese EIA is generally stronger than EIAs in the Middle East</td>
<td></td>
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<td>lack of comprehensive follow-up system and the administration supports</td>
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<td>lower income countries in the region have weak regulation</td>
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<td>lack of regional collaboration</td>
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<th>Existing Best Practices</th>
<th>Economic Concept</th>
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<td>The assistance of international donor agencies in developing EIA policies.</td>
<td>Generally, higher GDP achieved higher scores.</td>
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<td>SEA</td>
<td>“green” finance in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>public participation</td>
<td></td>
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<td>follow-up</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>support</td>
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<tr>
<td>absence of screening in many countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Syria, UAE, Yemen</td>
<td>The belt and road ecological and environmental cooperation plan, 2017.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Problem
Some countries are newly independent states (NIS). These countries have weak EIA implementation and no requirement for SEA.

Existing Best Practices
- Compliance with EU EIA directives
- Transboundary EIA

Recommendation
- Synchronize their EIA system with the Chinese EIA, other safeguard policies and sectoral requirements
- Innovative EIA approaches and technological advances
- Lower-income countries will require assistance to improve EIA administrative systems and technical and human capabilities.

Compatibility
- Overall EIA effective ness score of European countries is comparatively high
- China perform better in EIA guidelines, sectoral authorities' responsibility and EIS submission, monitoring, auditing and follow-up of compliance

Advantage
- Financial, technical and human capacity in most of the countries
- Strong regional collaboration

Countries
Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bosnia, Belarus, Croatia, Bulgaria, Czech, Georgia, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Russia, Romania, Ukraine, Slovenia, Slovakia, Serbia, Turkey.

Key Deficiency
- Incorporation of the results of EIA in decision making appears weak
- Lack of transparency in decision-making processes

Economic Concept
Strong relationship between GDP and EIA

Channels
Political commitment of both host and home countries

Collaborations
- The belt and road ecological and environmental cooperation plan, 2017
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
CONCLUSION

- Challenges in authorization of large-scale projects
- EIA creates additional challenges for both China and host country
- Need to ensure complying with national legal provision and China’s foreign investor’s environmental legislation
- EU directives, World Bank environmental legislation and the Espoo Conventions may be consulted
- An integrated and harmonized EIA framework can be vital for strengthening international cooperation
- Ensure public involvement and a transparent decision-making process and increase environmental consideration.
- China’s weaknesses in transboundary impact assessment and opaque decision-making process can be a severe concern for BRI countries
BRI project approval process.

1. Check country and industry target
2. Sensitive
3. Approval at national level
4. Start of Development
5. Local/Central
6. Investment amount
7. Record filing
8. Risk Assessment
9. Approval and implementation
10. Monitoring
11. Audit