

The Principles of EIA Follow-up

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Background

- IAIA 03 follow-up workshop outcome – Guiding set of follow-up principles should be established
- Principles derived from Follow-up workshops at IAIA conferences (1999 – 2003)
- These principles will require review as changing circumstances and best practice in EIA emerges

Outline

- **Background & Need for Principles**
- **4 Contexts for Principles**
 - Stakeholders
 - Content
 - Procedural Implementation
 - Process of Follow-up

The Need for Principles

- Lack of internationally accepted procedures for follow-up
- Reliance on informal arrangements
- Few internationally accepted guidelines promote EIA follow-up
- Need for education and capacity building

Health Warning!

- EIA follow-up is a developing concept and still moulding itself to the evolving needs of EIA practitioners.
- The principles are for reference, guidance and use in EIA and post-decision project environmental management.
- They are not prescriptive.
- They are presented as core values and concepts to encourage flexibility and local interpretation.
- EIA follow-up can take many forms and be applied for different EIA levels and development types. There is no single 'right' way!

4 Fundamental Contexts

- **Principles relating to:**
 - *Practitioners & Stakeholders*
 - The *Content* of EIA Follow-up
 - The *Procedural Implementation* of EIA Follow-up
 - The *Process* of EIA Follow-up

Practitioners & Stakeholders

- 1. Affected parties to development have a fundamental right to minimum project environmental impact - EIA follow-up should seek to ensure that this is achieved**
- 2. The Proponent of Change must accept accountability for EIA follow-up implementation**
- 3. All parties should seek to co-operate openly and without prejudice in the development of practicable and reasonable EIA follow-up**
- 4. Stakeholders have a right for feedback on the EIA follow-up processes**
- 5. Practitioners involved in the management of EIA follow-up should be competent to the task.**
- 6. Where EIA follow-up programmes are set, EIA regulators should ensure proponent compliance**

The Content of EIA Follow-Up

7. EIA follow-up should minimise effects and maximise the positive outcomes of development
8. EIA follow-up should be considered against all stages of a development's life-cycle
9. EIA follow-up should be objective-led and goal oriented

The Process of EIA Follow-Up

10. Decision making in EIA follow-up should be just, equitable in practice and open to all stakeholders
11. EIA follow-up should be practicable, demonstrably effective with recognised performance criteria
12. EIA follow-up programmes should be enacted through adaptive EMS

Procedural Implementation of EIA Follow-Up

- 13. EIA follow-up should be implemented through transparent frameworks of monitoring, evaluation, management and communication**
- 14. EIA follow-up must be 'fit-for-purpose'**
- 15. EIA follow-up must be budgeted for**
- 16. EIA follow-up should be practicable and feasible with a focus on the 'art of the possible'**
- 17. EIA follow-up monitoring should be rigorous and evaluated against accepted benchmarks (e.g. clear predictions, established standards or performance indicators)**

Examples

Principle 1:

Affected parties to development have a fundamental right to minimum project environmental impact - EIA follow-up should seek to ensure that this is achieved.

Principle 14:

EIA follow-up must be 'fit-for-purpose'

Principle 1: Affected parties to development have a fundamental right to minimum project environmental impact - EIA Follow-up should seek to ensure that this is achieved.

- Consider the necessity of EIA follow-up for all significant adverse environmental effects arising from development.
- EIA follow-up actions and programmes should seek to ensure that all proposed mitigation is enacted.
- EIA follow-up should be applied in all EIA processes from micro to macro level, where adverse significant impacts are predicted to arise.
- EIA follow-up must define, quantify or evaluate the significance of residual effects post-decision.

Principle 14: EIA follow-up must be ‘fit-for-purpose’

- EIA follow-up must address the risk or impact identified
- The scope for EIA follow-up must be commensurate with the anticipated environmental effect
- EIA follow-up actions or programmes must robust in design and scale to tolerate fluctuations in variation of received local effect.
- All EIA follow-up should be feasible to implement in the context of the local environment - if a development is location specific so must be its resulting EIA follow-up actions or programmes.

Conclusion

- These principles are a starting point only...
- Your future input and development of them is welcomed!
- We all still have a lot to learn!