

Acknowledgements

This volume of case studies of environmental impact assessment (EIA) practice in developing countries was prepared in response to a UNEP's initiative to gather and make available country studies on EIA, in collaboration with the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA). This initiative is part of the Capacity Building Programme run by IAIA between 1997 and 1999, and funded by the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands.

The Programme enabled over 90 EIA practitioners from developing countries and those moving to a market economy to participate in the Annual Meetings of IAIA during that period. Participants were selected for their professional experience, their demonstrated capacity to both learn and lead, and their ability to use their conference experiences to promote the ongoing development of impact assessment in their respective regions. Each was invited to bring to the meeting a case study demonstrating 'EIA practice' in their region.

A selection of these case studies has been included in this volume, which is a supplement to the second edition of the UNEP Environmental Impact Assessment Training Resource Manual. It is intended that Manual users will incorporate into their presentations and training Programmes this first-hand material and other local studies to give added relevance and credibility to the training materials. The cases included here have been chosen because they are appropriate to the various topics covered in the Manual; that other case studies presented by this group are not included does not mean that they are of less merit.

There is a separate compendium of case studies of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in countries in transition. The Regional Environmental Centre (REC) for Central and Eastern Europe published this volume jointly with UNEP as part of the case studies project and work under the Sofia Initiative on EIA and SEA. The paper by Ly Jalakas, Estonian Ministry of the Environment is reproduced in this volume as well because of its possible applicability to developing countries.

Our thanks to IAIA for permission to use the materials and to the Director-General for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands for providing funding for the EIA Capacity Building Programme. Particular mention must be made of the work of Anneke Wevers, Environmental Assessment Advisor for the Department, who was the key link between the Ministry and IAIA, and the driving force behind the Capacity Building Programme.

Most importantly we wish to thank all participants in the Capacity Building Programme for the support they gave to each other and to the IAIA meetings in which they were involved and their generosity in sharing their expertise with the wider community of EIA practitioners.