

EIA TRAINING RESOURCE MANUAL FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Scoping









What is scoping?

- An early stage of the EIA process
- begins once screening is completed
- identifies key issues and impacts to be considered
- establishes the content and scope of an EIA report
- the most important step in EIA
- lays the foundation of an effective process, saves time and money, and reduces conflict

Types of scoping

- Closed scoping: wherein the content and scope of an EIA Report is pre-determined by law and modified through closed consultations between a developer and the competent authority
- Open or Public scoping: a transparent process based on public consultations

Elements of scoping

- define the parameters of the EIA study
- Identify and inform stakeholders
- identify stakeholder concerns
- agree on the means of public involvement and methods of analysis

- identify the main issues and impacts to be studied
- consider feasible and practical alternatives
- establish 'Terms of Reference' for the EIA

Steps in the scoping process

- prepare a scope outline
- develop the outline through informal consultation with environmental and health authorities
- make the outline available
- compile an extensive list of concerns
- evaluate relevant concerns to establish key issues

- organise key issues into impact categories (study list)
- amend the outline accordingly
- develop 'Terms of reference' (ToR)
- monitor progress against the ToR, revising as necessary

Who should be involved in scoping?

- proponent
- EIA consultant
- supervisory authority for EIA
- other responsible agencies

- affected public
- interested public

Guiding principles for scoping

- Scoping is a process, not an activity or event.
- Design a scoping process for each proposal.
- Start early, or as soon as available information allows.
- Prepare an information package on what is expected.

- Specify the role of the public in the EIA process.
- Document the results to guide EIA preparation.
- Respond to new information and issues as necessary.



EIA 'Terms of Reference' to be included in outline

- study area and boundaries
- alternatives to be examined
- impacts and issues to be studied
- approach to be taken
- requirements for mitigation and monitoring

- information and data to be included in the EIA report
- timetable and requirements for completion of the EIA process
- opportunities for wider public involvement



Scoping in accordance with the EC EIA Directive

- The scoping process must be internal and voluntary (Art. 5.2)
- The competent authority renders an opinion on the contents of the EIA Report if the developer so requests.
- Member states may require the competent authority to give such an opinion, irrespective of the developer's request.



Scoping in accordance with World Bank procedure

- Public scoping is required for Category A projects.
- (OP 4.01, Art. 15)
- Borrowers must consult the affected public "shortly after environmental screening and before the terms of reference for the environmental assessment are finalised".
- For this initial consultation, the borrower needs to provide a summary of the proposed project's objectives, description and potential impacts.



Scoping in accordance with EBRD procedure

- Environmental Policy (Annex 2, Art. 3.3) requires public scoping for Category A projects.
- Key issues are identified by consulting with the affected public and taking their comments into account.
- The process involves contacts with representatives of the affected public, government agencies, local authorities and other organisations.
- Results of ToR for EIA and thr Public Consultation and Disclosure Plan (draft PCDP) specifies any proposed public participation throughout the EIA process



Scoping in accordance with the Aarhus Convention

- Each Party needs to provide early public participation (I.e. when all options are open and effective public participation can take place). (Art. 6.4)
- Public scoping helps to meet this obligation.



Scoping in accordance with the Espoo Convention

- The Convention requires scoping for transboundary projects.
 (Arts. 3.5, 3.6 and 3.8)
- The party of origin informs the affected party about: a) the proposed activity; b) its possible transboundary impacts, and c) applicable EIA procedure. (Art. 3.5)

- The affected party provides the party of origin with information about the potentially affected environment. (Art. 3.6)
- Both parties ensure that the concerned public in the affected party can make comments or objections on the proposed activity. (Art. 3.8)

Recommended elements for effective scoping in SAP countries

- SAP countries may wish to establish a mandatory scoping procedure that:
 - enables competent authorities to render an opinion on the contents of the EIA Report (EC Directive);
 - takes place when all options are open and when effective public participation can take place (Aarhus Convention);
 - occurs immediately after screening and before ToR for EIA are finalised (World Bank);
 - ensures that the views of all competent authorities and the concerned affected public are taken into account when identifying key issues (EBRD); and
 - facilitates transboundary scoping for trans-boundary EIAs (Espoo Convention).