

Simulation 4 – EIA

This simulation focuses on using the results of the EIA study to prepare an environmental management plan and monitoring plan. The identified issues and priority impacts identified in the previous simulations and the background information of the area provided previously will be used to focus on the options for managing or mitigating the most significant problems, the preparation of an environmental management plan and environmental monitoring plan should not present great difficulties.

The purpose of the simulation is to ensure that the results of the EIA study are used effectively, given a limited budget for environmental management and the need to resolve the most urgent problems and conflicts. At this stage in the EIA process, it is necessary to present the conclusions of the entire exercise so that the preferred management scheme can be justified.

The issues that need to be considered include the following:

- Relation of the project to the region and to the environmental conditions;
- Need to shape the project to the local conditions;
- Key issues identified in the scoping exercise;
- Studies undertaken to investigate these issues;
- Results of these studies; and
- Assessment of the priorities for management

The proposals for an environmental management plan should make the cost/benefit implications clear to the decision maker. The costs of the various environmental management options should be estimated. The benefits or damages avoided should be described, with an indication of the financial or economic costs that will be avoided where possible. Where such costs cannot be estimated, it will be necessary to make the decision maker aware of the social or ecological significance of the damages that need to be managed. Remember that the decision maker cannot agree to all the desirable environmental mgt options, but needs to decide which are the most important.

In addition to proposing the environmental mgt measures of greatest priority, it is very important to consider the mechanisms for their implementation. There are various aspects of relevance, depending on the situation.

- It may be necessary to involve interested groups or organizations in order to resolve potential conflict.
- It is necessary to specify the institutional responsibilities for implementation, monitoring and reporting on management.
- It is necessary to ensure that there is a budget for continuing the appropriate management and monitoring measures during the implementation of the project.
- It is desirable that there is some feasibility in the arrangements for management to take account of changing needs during implementation.

Instructions:

Task:

The Provincial Director of Environmental Mgt has been asked to submit recommendations to the Provincial Planning commission about the environmental management measures needed for this project. He has therefore instructed your committee to review the results of EIA and prepare a brief environmental management plan alongside with an environmental monitoring plan for the monitoring and evaluation that mitigating and enhancing measures are being implemented in all the phases of the project.

The EIA has identified the major environmental impacts and conflicts that the project is likely to cause. It has also indicated several environmental control options and their various implications. The problem of the Director wishes you to address is that he knows that the Planning commission will only accept limited additional costs. Therefore, the environmental management measures proposed in the EIA cannot all be implemented.

Failing to manage any of the issues identified will involve some controversy or conflict. The Director wants you to consider how to choose options for environmental management and to provide him with the arguments for the decision. He will need to demonstrate that the extra costs can be justified.

It is clear that you cannot manage all the problems that have been identified. But, the Director needs to be able to justify his recommendations both the Planning commission and to the public.

Materials: Previous outputs of the simulations conducted.

Approach: I suggest you adopt the following approach:

- Study the previous outputs generated from the simulations performed;
- Discuss the various environmental management options;
- Consider the respective benefits and costs associated with the environmental management options; and
- Prepare a brief presentation with recommendations about which environmental measures should be implemented giving reasons for the decision.

Output:

Your group should prepare a presentation of not more than 5 slides that includes:

- Proposed environmental measures
- Reasons for choosing this option
- Expected benefits of implementing these measures
- Potential conflict that might arise from omitting other measures
- Other recommendations concerning institutional responsibilities and consultation with interested parties
- Matrix of the Environmental Management plan and Environmental Monitoring Plan (Refer to the sample EIS in the vle platform)