

Information Guideline



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND CONSERVATION

Environment Division, 6th Floor, Somare Foundation House, Cnr. Sir John Guise Dr. & Independence Dr., Waigani.
Phone (675) 325 0194, Fax (675) 325 0182.

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GUIDELINE FOR CONDUCT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT & PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

INTRODUCTION.

The *Guideline* is intended to assist and guide prospective developers (or their consultants) with an intention to carry out Level 3 activities in Papua New Guinea ("PNG"), to meet their legal obligations under *Section 51* and *Section 53* of *Environment Act 2000* (the "Act").

The Act gives effect to the National Goals and Directive Principles in the National Constitution, in particular the fourth goal on Natural Resources and Environment.

It also provides the legal framework for regulating the environmental effects of development activities in order to promote sustainable development in PNG. In essence, the environment protection legislation will encourage socio-economic development while protecting and maintaining environmental quality by safeguarding the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and the ecosystems for the present and future generations.

The Act requires a person or company that intend to venture into an activity defined as a Level 3 activity under the *Environment (Prescribed Activities) Regulation 2002* to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment and to prepare and submit an Environmental Impact Statement. At this stage the proponent should also have previously lodged a Notification of Preparatory Work (refer to ¹DEC Publication No. *IB-ENV/01/2004*) in accordance with *Section 48* of the Act and an Environmental Inception Report (refer DEC Publication No. *GL-ENV/01/2004*) as required under *Section 52* of *Environment Act 2000*.

Statutory approval for a project may only be granted if DEC is satisfied that the assessment and resulting statement covers all relevant issues relating to all possible adverse impacts on the environment

The developer must submit an Environmental Impact Statement that provides a full documentation of all environmental and social issues and committing to the employment of relevant mitigation measures in relation to the development activity. The Environmental Impact Statement should substantially comply with this *Guideline*.

It should be noted that the Environmental Impact Assessment process and the Environmental Impact Statement are key inputs, together with comments received from referral bodies and other stakeholders, that will be used by DEC to assess whether or not a proposal is recommended for approval.

¹ Department of Environment and Conservation

The required format for the Environmental Impact Statement is outlined below. It is intended to provide DEC and other stakeholders with unambiguous documentation of potential environmental impacts on which DEC can base its assessment and any subsequent approval that may be granted.

CONTENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

If information relevant to a proposal is not supplied, the application may be rejected or its acceptance for assessment delayed until the required information is received in an acceptable form

The applicant should provide detail responses to all areas below that are relevant to the development proposal.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL OR COVER LETTER

It is important that an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposal must be transmitted to DEC with a cover letter signed by the responsible company official or its authorised representative (i.e., consultant - engaged by the company to act on its behalf).

If an external consultant is used, the letter must also authorise the consultant to make statements and provide further information on behalf of the company in relation to the application.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OR OVERVIEW OF PROPOSAL

One of the main objectives of this section is to provide an explanation of the project for non-technical readers.

Information provided in the Executive Summary shall concisely describe the following -

- description of the proposed development activity and its objectives,
- anticipated bio-physical and socio-economic impacts (direct/indirect, reversible/irreversible) of the activity,
- details of remedial actions that are proposed,
- description of all benefits to be derived from the project,
- details of consultation program undertaken by the applicant, including degree of public interest,
- description of rehabilitation and/or end-use plans for the development activity in relation to community needs.

NOTE:

The summary should not be more than five pages in length and be written in English, Tok Pisin and the relevant Local Dialect. Appendices may be attached to the relevant sections of the Environment Impact Statement in order to provide complete information on the development proposal.

2. PURPOSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of this section is to ensure that only development activities that are in the best interest of all Papua New Guineans, and therefore in line with the PNG Government's overall development strategy and planning guidelines, are considered for approval.

This section shall include but not limited to the following -

- describe if the development is in line with the Fourth National Goal and Directive Principle of the National Constitution of PNG,
- explain if the proposed development is compatible with National, Provincial and Local Level Government development goals and planning guidelines,
- detail the economic benefits to the Nation, Province, Local Level Governments and to the local community being impacted.

NOTE:

The proponent needs to demonstrate commitment to the conservation of natural ecosystems and protection of environmental values within the proposed development area.

The presence of company's planning or policy frameworks or other procedures (such as its Environment Management System) which provide mechanisms for managing potential environmental impacts should be highlighted

3. VIABILITY OF THE PROJECT

Provide information on the viability of the proposed development activity.

These details shall include but not limited to the following –

- information on the capital cost associated with the development,
- details of the proponent's technological expertise and resources,
- results of any feasibility investigations that has been carried out,
- information on the extent of landowner and/or resource owner support, including a copy of the formal written approval of their consent,
- details of the life-span and development phases of the project.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

All relevant details on the proposed development activity required under this section should be provided where it is applicable to the proposal.

Details to be provided under this section may include the following -

- background information to the proposal, process technologies to be employed, etc.
- detail location maps (drawn to scale), site layout, etc.,
- information on method of site selection including alternatives investigated, plant or building designs, relevant diagrams and drawings,
- detail flowcharts, mass balances (including feedstocks, products and wastes generated, etc.),
- description of nearby development activities that may contribute to additive effects on background pollution levels or other baseline conditions,
- information on associated infrastructure/facilities that is to be constructed.

5. DEVELOPMENT TIMETABLE

Information on the development timetable provided under this section should be clear and easy for DEC to understand the different phases in the development proposal. For reasons of clarity, a Flow chart, Gantt or PERT chart should be used where appropriate.

Information provided in this section shall include but not limited to the following -

- Information on funding arrangement for proposed activity or if availability of funds subjected to this or other approvals being granted,
- details of pre-construction activities,
- information on consultation program with all affected parties (i.e., parties that may be directly and indirectly affected),
- details of construction schedule, staging, etc.,
- details of commissioning and operational schedules,
- details of infrastructure development schedule.
- details of closure and rehabilitation schedule.

6. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Available Environmental Studies & Investigations

Information provided in this sub-section shall include but not limited to the following -

- historic or current baseline data on physical, biological and social systems,
- a written estimate of research and/or study time already expended and to be further undertaken.

Physical Environment

Provide details on the existing physical environment including data on ambient environmental quality of various segments of the environment.

Information provided in this sub-section shall include but not limited to the following -

- geomorphological, topographical and geological characteristics,
- any natural or induced hazard in the area (e.g. flood, earthquake, volcanic zone, etc.),
- climatic regime (e.g. rainfall, temperature, etc.),
- air quality and meteorological data set for air dispersion modeling, etc.,
- seasonal surface water quality and hydrological information,
- seasonal ground water quality and flow regime,
- noise levels.

Particular emphasis should be given to detailing any existing adverse environmental impacts or evidence of pre-existing pollution

The baseline information on the socio-cultural and economic environment of the potential impact areas is essential for the present and the future planning and decision-making processes. It distinguishes between the areas or zones whose inhabitants will experience varying degrees of impacts on their environment and the resulting changes to their social, cultural and economic lifestyle

Separation of environmental management, monitoring and reporting requirements during the various stages of the development is recommended. This shall include requirements for the construction phase, operational phase, decommissioning and closure phases

Biological Environment

Detail information should be provided on the existing biological environment and shall include but not limited to the following details -

- presence of a protected area (Conservation Area or Wildlife Management Area), if any,
- details of any special purpose areas (e.g., wetland area, etc.),
- aquatic and terrestrial ecology of the area,
- information on vulnerable (endangered) species,
- other relevant biological information.

Social Environment

This sub-section deals with the existing social structure and socio-economic data on the resource/land owners, Local Level Government, the Province and PNG as a whole.

Issues that may arise within and outside of the project area should be identified including whether this is a direct or indirect outcome of the physical, biological or socio-economic effects of the proposed development activity.

The outcome of the Social Impact Assessment process is the Social Impact Statement, which is included in this section of the Environmental Impact Statement that is submitted to DEC for assessment.

Information provided in this sub-section shall include but not limited to the following details -

- demographic information,
- information on existing infrastructure,
- information on public health issues (if applicable),
- information on present economic status of the project area,
- description of existing social services,
- details of archaeological, historical, cultural or religious features of the project area under consideration, etc.

7. WASTE MINIMISATION, CLEANER PRODUCTION AND ENERGY BALANCE

Information detailed in this section should include consideration of options associated with waste minimisation, cleaner production and energy balance and the ability of the proponent to employ these strategies in its proposed activity.

Detail information to be covered in this section shall include but not limited to -

- details of other alternative “cleaner production” technologies or processes that has been considered,
- information on the basis for choosing the proposed technology or process,
- available technical background on the process chosen,
- details of the Waste Minimisation Strategy developed for the proposal,
- details of an “energy balance” for the proposal.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND REPORTING

Sufficient information on this section of the Environmental Impact Statement should be provided to enable DEC to anticipate possible environmental management, monitoring and reporting requirements for an Environment Permit.

Information listed should reflect the proponent’s environmental policy (environment management system) and the translation of that policy to meet the requirements under this Section and Section 7 (POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSAL) during different stages in the project life, from construction to decommissioning and closure.

Information detailed in this section shall include but not limited to the following -

- details of information on plant operating conditions, including management and monitoring strategy,
- information on socio-economic management and monitoring strategy,
- mechanism and frequency for reporting monitoring results to DEC and other stakeholders, especially to directly affected stakeholder groups,
- availability of contingency and/or emergency plans drawn up for the proposal,
- details of Environment Improvement Plan,
- details of Waste Minimisation and/or Management Plans,
- information on potential rehabilitation issues and its strategies including Rehabilitation Plan.

9. OTHER STATUTORY DECISIONS.

Provide detailed information on other statutory decision(s) that are relevant to this proposed development activity. Provide the draft or finalised Project Development Contract, Memorandum of Agreements or other similar legal decisions that are relevant to the proposal.

10. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

Details of classified information relating to a manufacturing or industrial process or trade secret used in carrying on or operating any particular undertaking or equipment or information of a business or financial nature in relation to the proposed activity should be clearly defined.

Such information would be classified as “confidential information” and excluded from the Environmental Impact Statement before the document is made available for public review.

11. REFERENCES.

Provide details of reference materials used in sourcing information and/or data used in the Environmental Impact Statement.

12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Detail relevant acknowledgments.

13. STUDY TEAM.

Provide detailed information on persons who assisted in the conduct of the Environmental Impact Assessment study and compilation of the Environmental Impact Statement. Information on persons involved should be the same as those approved in the Environmental Inception Report.

COPIES TO BE LODGED.
THE PROPONENT IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE TEN (10) COPIES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT DURING LODGMENT OF THE APPLICATION TO ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT TO ASSESS THE STATEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 54 OF ENVIRONMENT ACT 2000.

Lodge the above submission with:

Director of Environment

Department of Environment
and Conservation,
P.O. Box 6601, BOROKO,
National Capital District,
Papua New Guinea.

Attention: First Assistant Secretary
Environment Division