GUIDANCE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE EIA PROCESS

A Standard Agreed EIA Procedure Based on the Gazettes (Extra-ordinary) **No: 772/22** dated 24th June 1993, **No: 859/14** dated 23rd February 1995, **No: 978/13** dated 4th June 1997, **No: 1104/22** dated 6th November 1999**, No: 1108/1** dated 29th November 1999 and **No: 1159/22** dated 22nd November 2000 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

A GENERAL GUIDE FOR CONDUCTING ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING

This document shall be referred to as:

"Guidance for Implementing the EIA Process, No.2: A General Guide for Conducting Environmental Scoping 2003, Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka"

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FOREWORD TO THE FIRST PUBLICATION

Environmental Impact Assessment has gained wide recognition as an useful tool for promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development. In Sri Lanka, the EIA process was first introduced through the legislation of the Coast Conservation Act No. 57 of 1981. This was confined to only a 300 meter strip of land along the coastal zone of the island. Subsequently an EIA system for the whole country was administratively introduced in January 1984, by a decision of the Cabinet of Ministers. It was made applicable to all major development activities including public and private sector projects.

The statutory provision was made by an amendment to the National Environmental Act (Act No. 56 of 1988). As required by this amendment projects that should undergo the EIA process and the procedures and methods to be adopted were gazetted on 24th June 1993 and are contained in Gazette Extra – Ordinary No. 772/22. The process is managed and monitored by the Central Environmental Authority and implemented through 18 State Agencies. An unique feature of the EIA process is that it is an open process allowing for public participation in decision making.

Several guidelines on the implementation of the EIA process have been developed by countries in the region, donor agencies and banks such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Although these could be made use of to a certain extent in the implementation of the EIA process in Sri Lanka, it should be noted that these have to be adapted to reflect the unique environmental characteristics of the country. In view of this, the CEA in association with NAREPP/IRG have commenced the preparation of a series of guidance documents for implementing the EIA process in Sri Lanka. The present guide book is the second in this series and is intended to assist and guide the Project Approving Agencies and EIA preparers to successfully conduct environmental scoping in the EIA process.

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FOREWORD

The Environmental Impact Assessment Process was first introduced to Sri Lanka through the Coast Conservation Act No. 57 of 1981. The provisions in this Act, however apply to projects which are implemented within the Coastal Zone only. The EIA requirement for projects outside the coastal zone was brought in through an amendment to the National Environmental Act No. 47 of 1980 (Amendment Act No. 56 of 1988). As required by this amendment, projects which require to undergo the EIA process and the procedures and methods to be adopted were gazetted on 24th June 1993 and are contained in Gazette Extra - Ordinary No. 772/22.

Sri Lanka has one of the most effective Environmental Impact Assessment Processes in the South Asian Region. The unique features of the EIA process in Sri Lanka is the appointment of several State Agencies as Project Approving Agencies for the implementation of the process, and the extensive public participation in the decision making process.

The very first guidance documents on implementing the EIA process were prepared by the Central Environmental Authority as far back as 1995. These guidance documents are intended to guide and assist Project Approving Agencies to successfully implement the EIA process.

Scoping is a process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.

This present guidance document explains the scoping process of the EIA procedure. In addition, this document also contains a description of the recent amendments which were effected to the EIA / IEE process.

We hope that this guidance document will prove useful to all those involved in the EIA process as well as other interested parties.

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1. THE EIA SYSTEM IN SRI LANKA

The National Environmental Act No. 47 of 1980 (NEA) is our basic national charter for protection and management of the environment. The NEA was amended by Act No. 56 of 1988 to include a provision relating to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) contained in Part IV C of the statute entitled "Approval of Projects". Part IV C (Annex I) of NEA was amended by Act No: 53 of 2000 (Annex II).

Under the provisions of section 23 Z of the NEA the EIA process applies only to "Prescribed Projects" (PP) (Annex III), which have been specified by the Minister in charge of the subject of Environment in Gazette Extra-Ordinary No. 772/22 of 24th June 1993. List of prescribed projects was amended by the Gazette Extra Ordinary No. 1104/22 of 05th November 1999 (Annex IV).

The EIA process will be implemented through designated Project Approving Agencies (PAA) as prescribed by the Minister under Section 23 Y of the NEA in Gazette Extra – Ordinary No. 859/14 of 23rd February 1995 (Annex V). and Extra Ordinary No. 978/13 of 04th June 1997 (Annex VI).

Under Section 23 CC of the NEA, regulations have been made by the Minister stating the procedures that should be followed in order to achieve the EIA requirements of the NEA. The Central Environmental Authority is the agency charged with the responsibility of implementing the above provisions of the NEA.

The National Environmental Act has identified two levels in the EIA process. The first level – i.e. the **Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)** is a report where possible impacts of a prescribed project are assessed with a view to determining whether the impacts are significant or not. An IEE must address the possible impacts and the intensity of such impacts. The second level – the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** Report is a more comprehensive document whereby alternatives to the proposed project are considered and the option with the least impact on the environment identified and assessed. Mitigation measures for the impacts identified as significant are part of an EIA report. An environmental cost benefit analysis is also undertaken wherever possible.

Fig. 1 – IEE/EIA Process

2. PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING AN IEE/EIA

The sequential steps of carrying out an IEE/EIA are schematically depicted in figure I. The timing of the IEE/EIA is crucial if it is to become a useful tool in decision-making. **If the timing is late then many important decisions would have been made. Project proponents are thus advised to come within the EIA process at a very early stage in the project cycle** (Figure II).

The major steps in the EIA process are as follows:

Step 1 -Preliminary Information

A project proponent is required to give the PAA preliminary information on the proposed prescribed project as early as possible. It should include a description of the nature, scope and location of the proposed project accompanied by location maps and any other details as may be required by the PAA. The preliminary information submitted should be comprehensive and may even suffice to be considered as an IEE.

Step II -Environmental Scoping

Environmental scoping is the process of identifying the important issues, which must be addressed in detail in the IEE/EIA. Environmental issues involve national, regional and local government agencies and cover a broad range of responsibilities (wild life, health, water, land use, tourism etc). Thus co-ordination among government agencies and the public is crucial. This is best achieved through Inter Agency scoping meetings to identify issues, types of analyses and mitigatory measures to be considered.

Step III - Public Participation

The involvement of the public is one of the most crucial aspects of the EIA process. The provision for public participation is contained in the NEA. The notice of availability of the EIA Report for public review must be inserted in one newspaper each in the Sinhala, Tamil and English languages and in the gazette. 30 days are allowed for public review. Once the public comment period is over the PAA must decide whether the case warrants a public hearing. The public comments received during the 30-day period must be sent back to the project proponent for review and response. The project proponent must respond to comments by making every effort to modify alternatives including the proposed action, develop and evaluate alternatives not provided, give serious consideration to providing supplementary information in the document and

Fig. II - Generalized Project Cycle, showing when and how an Environmental

Impact Assessment can contribute positively to the cycle's progress

make factual corrections. All substantive comments received on the draft should be attached to the final statement.

Step IV – Decision-making

According to the regulations, the PAA shall grant approval for the project subject to specified conditions or refuse approval for the implementation of the project with reasons for doing so. A project proponent who is aggrieved by a refusal can appeal to the Secretary of the Minister in charge of the subject of environment. A member of the public aggrieved by a decision to grant approval for a project would have to seek recourse in courts.

Step V – Monitoring

The success of the EIA process would be totally negated if the conditions imposed by the PAA are not effectively monitored. The regulations state that the PAA should forward to the CEA a report which contains a plan to monitor the implementation of every approved project within 30 days of granting such approval. Monitoring by the PAA would involve compliance with conditions and the effectiveness of the mitigatory measures.

3. ROLE OF THE SCOPING PROCESS IN CONDUCTING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Environmental scoping is a term that originated in the U.S. to describe the function of identifying issues and information needs that form the contents of an IEE or EIA. Scoping is a vital point in the IEE/EIA process and is the stage at which much can be done to smoothen out the rest of the process to follow. Scoping applies to both IEEs and EIAs and varies only in depth, duration and comprehensiveness. The scoping process also provides meaning and an essential human context to the mass of data that surrounds most development projects. A successful scoping process can also usually accelerate the entire EIA effort, and allow the IEE/EIA to be completed much more rapidly than might otherwise be possible. Successful scoping enables the IEE/EIA team to grasp the key issues and concerns prompted by a project much more rapidly than is likely from simply reading documents.

3.1 The Scoping Process Defined: The EIA in Action

There should be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. During the early stages of processing a prescribed project the PAA should undertake environmental scoping. During the conduct of this process, the following should be ensured by the PAA:

(i) The formal and informal participation of all concerned agencies, the proponent of the action, and other interested persons (including representatives of the affected public and others who might not be in accord with the action on environmental grounds);

(ii) The determination of whether the Project Proponent should be asked to prepare an IEE or EIA, unless an adequate IEE has already been presented with the Preliminary Information:

(iii) The determination of the scope and the significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the IEE/EIA;

(iv) The determination of reasonable alternatives that should be addressed in the IEE/EIA

(v) The identification and elimination from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by prior studies or environmental reviews;

(vi) Setting of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the IEE/EIA;

(vii) Regular communication with the developer in the preparation of the required document;

As part of the scoping process the responsible PAA may also;

- Set page limits on the required document;
- Set schedules and time periods as necessary;
- Identify the sectors of required expertise for preparing the IEE/EIA
- Hold an early scoping meeting or meetings which may be integrated with other meetings or processes already established by the PAA.

4 THE CONDUCT OF THE SCOPING PROCESS:

Essentially, the scoping process involves a series of formal and informal meetings with people who may be affected by the proposed project either directly or indirectly or who may have special knowledge of the project area and its environs. Meetings May include government officials, local farmers, merchants, teachers, physicians, religious leaders, or representatives from non-governmental organizations among other people. Scoping will provide the PAA and affected people with an opportunity to assess the proposed project, and identify the potential environmental issues and alternative strategies that they believe are important in order to define the Terms of Reference for the IEE/EIA. It will also assist in setting realistic and measurable goals and objectives for the IEE/EIA;

Scoping will identify existing sources of data; key individual contacts; and important areas of field study. It will increase local, regional and national awareness of the project and its environmental concerns, accelerate the pace of EA investigations, and facilitate rapid data collection and analysis. Scoping will also ensure on-going dialogue between the EA team, PAA and affected people to provide a basis for evaluating and guiding any proposed follow-on activities.

In the process of defining the key environmental issues and overall content of the IEE/EIA, all participants will become familiar with the environmental policies within which the project proposal must operate. This information will enable participants to recognize the role of the IEE/EIA in the final design and implementation of the proposed project. At the completion of the scoping process the significant environmental issues, which should be analyzed, should become evident.

4.1 The Role of Formal and Informal Scoping Meetings in the Scoping Process

Formal scoping sessions bring together in one place a wide spectrum of people with extensive knowledge or experience to help the PAA identify all issues, which must be addressed in the assessment process. These specialists can also help define the level of detail that should be given to each issue and develop the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the study. Participants will also identify possible alternatives to the proposed project activities.

Informal scoping activities include random interviews with individuals and small groups, and review of existing data. Many of these informal interviews are performed in the field with people who will be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project. They may also include discussions with government and private sector personnel, other donors, and individuals with particular expertise relevant to the proposed project.

Both formal and informal scoping meetings should be conducted as part of any EIA process.

4.2 Conducting Formal Scoping Meetings

PAA's should always attempt to include one or more formal scoping meetings to ensure that information about the proposed project and its environmental implications reaches a wide public audience. Formal scoping meetings can also provide an opportunity to identify appropriate audiences for informal meetings and can be used to consolidate and direct any initial information that may have emerged from informal interviews.

4.2.1 Selecting the Meeting Location

Formal scoping meetings should be held in all locations where groups and individuals who may be affected by, or have demonstrated concern for the proposed project activities have been identified. To cover all affected or concerned groups and individuals it may be necessary to conduct more than one scoping meeting in more than one location. In some instance, it may be appropriate to conduct a scoping meeting in Colombo, to allow representatives from centralized government or NGO groups to participate in the scoping process. Subsequent meetings may then be held in outlying communities adjacent to or in some way affected by the proposed project activities.

Ideally, meetings can be held in a facility and location that represents neutral ground for the project proponent as well as for all meeting participants. The PAA should ensure that the timing of the meeting will not interfere with other significant events planned for the same period, and that the location will be readily accessible to all interested parties.

4.2.2 Identifying the Affected or Concerned Institutions and Individuals

The PAA will need to determine all public and private agencies, groups, or individuals who may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project activities, or who may have a role or interest in guiding, enforcing or monitoring the work to be carried out.

Affected parties can include any of the following:

- Government agencies at various levels responsible for authorizing, implementing or monitoring project activities.

- Government agencies with an interest or need, to strengthen EIA procedures and policies.

- Representatives of non-governmental organizations who will be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project activities or with an expressed interest in monitoring changes in environmental conditions in the affected environment.

- Location of business, interest groups, or individuals adjacent to, or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project work area, or otherwise influenced by the physical, biological, social or economic changes inherent in the proposed project actions.

Generally, the scoping meeting invitations will be extended to the heads of any of these organizations or groups, and they, in turn, will designate a representative from their entity to attend. It is important to follow-up all invitations with some sort of procedure to confirm which individuals or groups will be attending the meeting and to ensure that a reasonably diverse cross-section of public and private sector groups will be represented.

4.2.3 Working with the press and other public information groups

The scoping process can be an appropriate and useful time to disperse public information about the environmental implications of a proposed project, either through the media, government agencies, or other information channels. While it may not be appropriate to include members of the media as participants in scoping meetings, primarily due to the need for frank, open discussion and the avoidance of posturing before the media, summaries of the scoping process can be prepared for release to newspaper, radio, television, or other public information centers. These concise summaries can include information about the proposed project objectives, potential environmental impacts identified through the scoping process, EIA procedures, and opportunities for public input into the EIA process. However, the summaries should emphasize the preliminary status of the environmental review and avoid giving the impression that any definitive conclusions have been drawn with regard to the long-term feasibility or appropriateness of the prescribed project.

Small notices or reports in newspapers can be an effective way to increase local, regional, or even national awareness of environmental issues, and facilitate greater public participation in the EIA process. Press releases and interactions with the media should be carefully managed, however, to ensure that the information reported is accurate, current, and clearly explains the EIA procedures and objectives. Efforts should be extended to ensure that information shared with the

media does not simply become a means to invoke controversy or conflict long before there has been opportunity to prepare meaningful analyses and conclusions.

4.2.4 Providing necessary Background Materials to Invitees

Many of the participants in formal scoping meetings are likely to have limited, if any, background knowledge of the prescribed project or its potential environmental implications. It is essential that the project proponent prepare a concise packet of information to distribute to confirmed participants prior to the meeting, or be prepared to devote a considerable amount of time in the meeting providing background descriptions and answering rudimentary questions. A summary can be one or two pages in length. It should include in simple paragraphs a description of:

- Project goals, objectives, target geographic areas, and anticipated work schedule,
- The anticipated affected physical, biological, social and economic environments,
- The objectives and expectations of the scoping meeting, and opportunities for participants to obtain follow up information from the PAA or project proponent.

The information summary can include a map of the proposed project area, and a list of questions expected to be addressed and resolved during the scoping meeting or process. This information can be reviewed again at the beginning of the meetings, and it should greatly accelerate meeting discussions and results.

4.2.5 Preparation of Materials for Meetings

The Project Proponent should assemble all available maps and documents pertaining to the proposed project. These materials should be readily displayed in the meeting room where the scoping session will be held and used by the facilitator in presenting background information to participants. Consultants of the project proponent attending the meeting should be certain that they are fully familiar with the content of all of these documents, maps, and other materials so that they can summarize the contents for all interested participants and advise on reports or maps that participants may wish to obtain.

4.2.6 Format and Content of Formal Meetings

There is no set method for conducting formal scoping meetings. Facilitators should develop their styles for delivering the information, but they should adhere to basic adult learning principles to encourage group participation and maintain interest in

and enthusiasm for the scoping effort. The facilitator can be an officer of the PAA or a professional employed by the project proponent. In the latter case the PAA must ensure that it is in control of the scoping.

Adult learning principles which are particularly relevant to conducting formal scoping meetings include the following:

- Participants will comprehend and accept information that is based on evidence, and not blind faith.

- Participants must be part of an active, and not passive dialogue process. They must be encouraged to share what they know or feel through the use of open-ended questions or other exercises, and their input must be solicited by the meeting facilitator. A lecture format has no place in a formal scoping meeting.
- The experience and knowledge about the prescribed project or affected area which participants bring with them to the meeting must be acknowledged and drawn upon by the facilitator.

- The individual needs and positions of participants must be recognized by the facilitator.

- Concepts or recommendations brought out in the course of the meeting must be verbally and, if possible, graphically acknowledged by the facilitator, and applications of this information to the EIA process must be made readily apparent.

Typically, most scoping meetings involve the facilitator presenting some concise background information about the prescribed project and the overall EIA process, and then soliciting input from the group through pre-arranged, open-ended questions to stimulate discussions of the affected environment, possible project alternatives, potential environmental impacts which should be reviewed, and necessary mitigatory measures which may be apparent.

The basic content of most scoping meetings, around which discussion is to develop, includes the following;

(i) Overview of EIA Policies and Procedures
(ii) Overview of Proposed Project Activities
(iii) Defining the Affected Environment
(iv) Recommendation of Environmental Issues to be Investigated in the EIA
(v) Specific Recommendations for EIA Field Activities
(vi) Identification of Possible Alternatives to the Proposed Project
(vii) Summary of Proposed Content of EIA

4.2.6.1 Overview of EIA Policies and Procedures

Every formal scoping meeting should begin with a review of the EIA policies and procedures followed by the Government. Participants must be able to define the purpose of the EIA; the role of the EIA in project approval and implementation, and how the information generated by the EIA will be used after the EIA is finalized. Environmental assessments are intended to strengthen the overall project design and ensure the environmental sustainability of a project Participants need to see how an EIA is going to become part of the project decision-making and implementation of activities.

4.2.6.2 Overview of Proposed or Implemented Project Activities

Not everyone attending a scoping meeting will be familiar with the actions being proposed for a particular project. The scoping meeting should devote a brief period of time to diagramming and describing the components of the project; identifying the agencies or groups responsible for supervising, implementing, and monitoring the project, and listing the anticipated outputs from the project. A map indicating the geographic areas in which project activities are likely to occur should be clearly displayed and referred to during this discussion.

4.2.6.3 Defining the Affected Environment

The first task will be to correctly define the physical, biological, and social areas that will be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project activities. Direct effects include the consequence of actions implemented by the project. Indirect effects include those, which will be the consequence of actions encouraged but not necessarily implemented by the project. Defining and delineating affected environments is always a challenge, and usually requires some qualitative interpretations, judgment and discussion among a wide audience of affected groups and professionals.

Probable social impacts are much more challenging to confine to a specific ecosystem or drainage basin. In estimating probable social impacts it is essential to estimate direct and indirect effects, and to delineate the affected environment accordingly. Direct effects are usually, but not always, confined to the area in which the project activities will occur, while indirect effects can ripple throughout the entire social spectrum.

Delineating the probable affected environment of a proposed project should always include extensive input from professionals, individuals, and groups involved in, or influenced by the project. As such, delineating affected environments should be one of the initial and primary activities in formal and informal scoping sessions. Facilitators of formal scoping sessions should begin formal scoping sessions by having participants address the following;

- Defining, in general terms, the biological or physical resources affected by the prescribed project activities.

- Defining, in general terms, the communities, towns, or urban areas affected by the prescribed project activities.

- Delineating on a map a rough outline of the geographic areas, which are likely to experience direct impacts from the prescribed project activities.

Facilitators should be prepared to act as mediators in resolving disputes over where these lines are drawn. They should consider the process complete when a consensus can be reached among the group as to the delineation of an affected environment.

4.2.6.4 Recommendation of Environmental Issues to be investigated in the EIA

The Project Proponent and PAA will come into the scoping meeting with some idea of the environmental issues that need to be investigated as part of the EIA analysis. However, participants in scoping sessions will be able to use their experience or knowledge of the area or the proposed project to help set priorities and direct these investigations. Some issues may have more priority for affected groups than others, and this information should emerge from the scoping process.

The facilitator for the scoping session should take each technical topic and direct a series of questions to the group to narrow down specific issues, concerns, or recommendations related to each topic.

The primary technical topics commonly addressed in an EIA include:

- Water Resources
- Pollution issues
- Soils and Agricultural Productivity
- Tropical Forests
- Wildlife and Biological Diversity
- Socio-Economic Conditions

Within each of these general topic areas the facilitator can frame questions that will enable more precise environmental concerns to be voiced. By delving into this level of detail, the scoping session will be able to bring out a great deal of knowledge which will be held among all of the participants in the room. It will also increase the usefulness of the scoping process for the EIA team and project proponent and will provide team members with some very practical input to guide their future research decisions.

4.2.6.5 Identification of Possible Alternatives to the Proposed Project

The project design will have included an analysis and evaluation of several possible alternative strategies for achieving the stated project goals and objectives. However, this analysis may not have included environmental parameters as part of the evaluation. It then becomes the responsibility of the PAA to submit the proposed project to an analysis on environmental considerations, and, if necessary, to define and describe additional alternative scenarios which increase environmental sustainability in the area while maintaining the project goals and objectives.
The scoping process is the proper forum to begin identifying these alternatives. Participants should be asked to describe project actions, which could be carried out

that would provide the same economic or social results, while minimizing or avoiding altogether the potential adverse environmental problems they identified in the previous part of the meeting (Section 4.2.6.4). They should then be prepared to list potential environmental concerns, which could be anticipated to result from implementation of each of these new alternatives.

In the environmental assessment, the EIA team / project proponent will need to provide some depth to their discussion of alternatives. The Environmental assessment should describe in some meaningful detail the content of each alternative, how actions would be carried out in the field, and anticipated outputs from the alternative. All of this information will not emerge from brainstorming discussions within the scoping session. However, by the end of the scoping process the EIA team should at least be able to being outlining some alternative scenarios for the project that will not only be more environmentally sound but will also have demonstrated at least some local, regional, or national support as evidenced by scoping session participants.

4.2.6.6 Specific Recommendations for EIA Field Activities

Participants in scoping sessions should be encouraged to identify specific field research efforts that they wish to see carried out. However, these research and analysis recommendations should be closely tied to the specific issues and environmental concerns that were raised in Section 4.2.6.4 and they should be realistic given the limited time frame of most environmental assessments. EIAs rarely allow sufficient time to do much quantitative inventory work, modeling, and in-depth data collection. Scoping sessions should emphasize that most work will involve qualitative and, where possible, some quantitative analysis of primarily existing data.

Participants should be encouraged to identify information gaps and research needs that they feel are important, and they should also indicate geographic areas in which this research should be concentrated.

4.2.6.7 Summary of Proposed Content of EIA

At the conclusion of the scoping meeting the facilitator should summarize all of the information covered in Sections 4.2.6.6 being certain to check or modify any discrepancies in the meaning or phrasing of comments. The facilitator should then outline the structure and content of the EIA document that will be prepared. Participants in the scoping session should leave feeling confident that they understand how the EIA will be carried out, and how their input will be incorporated into whatever final document is produced.

4.2.7 Documentation and Follow-up

A member of the PAA or other designated person should keep thorough and detailed notes of all important ideas, concerns, or recommendations, which are voiced during the formal scoping meetings. This information should then be summarized and recorded in written format by the PAA.

Documentation should include a list of all people who attended the meeting, their affiliations and the date of the meeting. The summary need not refer to individuals or groups by name, but it should consolidate all the ideas and recommendations, which emerged during the course of the meeting.

4.3 Conducting Informal Scoping Meetings

Informal scoping meetings could be held by the PAA or the EIA team. They would usually consist of interviews with individuals or groups that guide the PAA or the EIA team in deciding the content and issues to be covered in the analysis. Discussions with farmers in their fields, or government officials in their offices represent examples of typical scoping activities.

The formality of preparing meeting locations, dealing with the press, or assembling background materials is usually unnecessary for informal meetings, although the identification of appropriate audiences for informal scoping should be based on the individual or groups identified for the formal meetings. Individuals or groups unable to attend formal meetings can be included in the scoping process through these more informal discussions.

The content of informal meetings should follow along the lines of the formal meetings. EIA team members interviewing individuals or groups should be certain to provide background information on the EIA policies being followed and proposed or implemented project activities. They should then solicit input that will help delineate the affected environment, environmental issues to be addressed in the EIA, specific recommendations for EIA field activities, and identification of possible alternatives to the proposed project.

If all affected or concerned individuals and groups cannot realistically be contacted during the time frame of the EIA then the EIA team should ensure that individuals or groups are randomly selected, with as wide as possible a cross-section of social, economic, or political interests.

4.3.1 Preparing for Interviews and Field Investigations

Preparing for informal interviews and filed research is not significantly different than preparing for a formal scoping meeting, as described in Section 4.2.4 and 4.2.5. Interviews should begin with some simple background descriptions of the EIA process, (if people are not already familiar with it), and the purpose of the scoping interviews. The EIA team members who ill be conducting the interview should come with a pre-arranged set of questions asked by the PAA, that cover the full range of technical concerns which will need to be addressed in the environmental assessment. The interview can vary from these questions, but having them in hand will ensure that at least some discussion will be possible as a result of the meeting.

Questions should always be in an open-ended, rather than a closed, format. An open-ended question is one that invites discussion, while a closed question will generally solicit only a one or two word response. For example, asking a farmer, "Do you think this project will benefit you in the long term?" is a closed-ended question. This question can easily be answered with a response such as, "Yes", "May be," or "Depends on what happens". Asking that same farmer, "IN what ways do you think this project is likely to benefit you?" is more open-ended, and it is likely to stimulate a bit more discussion.

Be certain that questions do not force persons being interviewed to put themselves into a right/wrong situation. If a person feels that he is likely to be judged as having given a correct or incorrect response, he is most likely to say nothing. Encourage creative thinking rather than correct answers.

Determine how information will be recorded during the interview without disrupting or discouraging the continuity of the discussion. Wherever possible, it may be preferable to have teams of two conducting interviews for just this purpose. Teams or individual interviewers should also establish procedures for summarizing all that transpires in the interview, and verbally acknowledging the contribution that the people interviewed have made to the EIA process.

4.3.2. Collation and Analysis of Information

A wealth of information will usually result from scoping activities. It is essential to organize this information into some sort of meaningful framework if it is to be of any use to the PAA or the EIA team. The EIA team members should categorize the information collected, and identify common themes or individual points made during the interviews. The categories into which information can be catalogued can follow the outline of items in Section 4.2.6. The EIA team can weigh the value of comments, concerns, or recommendations based on the frequency with which points were raised.

One possible result of a scoping activity is that the PAA or the EIA team may not agree with all of the recommendations or concerns voiced by meeting participants or people interviewed. This does not need to represent a problem of any sort. Remember that the scoping process is intended to guide the PAA or the EIA tem in its delineation of the affected environment, identification of possible project alternatives, identification of possible environmental impacts associated with each alternative which should be studied in more detail and indication of mitigatory measures which may need to be considered. As with all guidance, the ultimate decision as to how the EIA analysis the findings should be framed rests with the EIA team.

4.3.3 Pitfalls and Problems in Informal Scoping

The challenges to conducting informal scoping can include (a) determining the correct individuals or groups to seek out for interviews, (b) having sufficient background information about the proposed project or affected environment in hand to frame meaningful or comprehensive questions, (c) allocating sufficient time for the scoping process, (d) determining the exact team members appropriate for specific interviews, and (e) getting people to voice their honest feelings and ideas about a proposed project and its implications.

The first issues can usually be easily resolved. Conversations with government officials, NGO representatives, or other participants in formal scoping meetings will frequently help identify other groups or individuals who should be contacted on a more informal basis. Local individuals with a wealth of traditional knowledge about biological or physical conditions, or local groups with important links to social or economic situations will often be known to one or more formal meeting participants and a list of informal contacts that are necessary should be one result from the formal meetings. Working with incomplete data under limited time constraints is part of the art of the successful EIA, and a strong EIA team should merely acknowledge this situation as a present, but minor, inconvenience.

Getting people to say what they truly feel and think is quite another matter. Interview techniques should emphasize questions and discussions that avoid making people feel as if they will be directly quoted, or that the information will in any way wind up being used against them. Avoid the use of tape recorders in interviews, as these always encourage people to speak as if they were giving a lecture to a room full of journalists. If at all possible, conduct interviews with two EIA team members present. One member can then focus on the dialogue, using open-ended, friendly, and interesting questions to encourage an open discussion, with the other serving as recorder and not-taker. The best approach is to make certain that all people interviewed fully understand the purpose and role of the

informal scoping meeting. Once they realize that the discussion poses no personal threat, but simply represents an opportunity to voice an anonymous position, a more honest and direct conversation can usually result.

4.3.4 Documentation and Follow-up

Again, members of the PAA or the EIA team should always maintain thorough and detailed notes of all interviews and informal discussions. This information should be summarized and recorded in written format and included as part of the appendix to the environmental assessment. Documentation should include a list of all people contacted, their affiliations or locales, and the date of the meeting. The summary need not refer to individuals or groups by name, but should consolidate all the ideas and recommendations, which emerged over the course of the entire scoping period.

4.4. Results from the Scoping Process

After conducting one or more formal meetings, and several informal interviews the PAA can assess the need for further scoping activities. The PAA can assess the need for further scoping activities. The PAA should determine if enough information has been collected to clearly define the environmental issues, which should be addressed in order to ensure the environmental suitability of the project. At this point the PAA should be able to (a) define and describe the environmental issues and impacts to be addressed (b) define the field analyses to be conducted to test and evaluate the probability or severity of these potential issues and impacts; (c) outline alternative scenarios which can be employed to achieve the stated project objectives; and (d) prepare a detailed outline of the content of the EIA document. The PAA should also be able to identify other actions which should be taken to communicate the results of the assessment process, including public meetings or debriefing sessions with any or all participants in the scoping process.

4.4.1 Preparing or Modifying Terms of Reference

One immediate outgrowth of the concluded scoping process is the preparation of the terms of reference (TOR) for the project proponent.

4.4.2 Informing Participants of Results

People who agree to participate in scoping meetings, formal or informal, will very much want to know what was done with the information they shared, and how their contributions are reflected in the final EIA analyses and recommendations. One way the PAA or the EIA team can respond to this is by clearly documenting the events and discussions, which occur throughout the scoping process. Careful and

thorough documentation of the scoping process, and distribution of this information to participants, is one of the best ways of encouraging people to be enthusiastic about future scoping efforts.

Written documentation is not always sufficient. Many people already have far too much to read, and for others reading is not a preferred, or possible, method of communication. To remedy this situation, the EIA team should always prepare follow-up meetings after field studies, analyses, and recommendations have been completed. Wherever possible, these follow-up meetings should include participant's form the original scoping process. The meetings should discuss the findings, and clearly indicate how these findings were influenced by the information that came out during the scoping process. Participants should be able to see a clear link between their original contributions and the description of potential impacts, selection of preferred alternative, and recommended environmental actions to ensure environmental sustainability of the proposed project. Follow-up meetings should be scheduled to avoid any conflicts with participants' work or other important social schedules, and they should be scheduled to include sufficient advance notice and announcement to encourage participants to continue their involvement.

In addition, it is recommended that some sort of a written notice be delivered to as many of the formal and informal scoping participants as possible. This notice should summarize in a paragraph the results from the scoping period, the status of the EIA, and offer thanks to the participants for their time and effort.

ANNEX I:

National Environmental Act
PART IV C
APPROVAL OF PROJECTS

23 Y For the purposes of this part of the act, the Minister may by order published in the Gazette specify the state agencies (hereinafter in this part referred to as "project approving agencies"), which shall be the project approving agencies.

23 Z The minister shall by order published in the Gazette determine the projects and undertakings (hereinafter referred to as "Prescribed Projects") in respect of which approval would be necessary under the provisions of this part of this Act.

23 AA (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other written law, from an after the coming into operation of this act, all prescribed projects that are being undertaken in Sri Lanka by any Government department, corporation, statutory board, local authority, company, firm or an individual will be required to obtain approval under this Act for the implementation of such prescribed projects

(2) The approval referred to in sub section (1) shall have to be obtained from the appropriate project approving agencies concerned or connected with such prescribed project;

Provided however, in respect of certain prescribed projects to be determined by the Minister, the project approving agency will grant its approval only with the concurrence of the Authority.

23 BB (1) It shall be the duty of all project approving agencies to require from any Government department, corporation, statutory board, local authority, company, firm or an individual who submit any prescribed project for its approval to submit within a specified time an initial environmental examination report or an environmental impact assessment report as required by the project approving agency relative to such project and containing such information and particulars as may be prescribed by the Minister for the purpose

(2) A project approving agency shall on receipt of an initial environmental examination report or environmental impact assessment report, as the case may be, submitted to such project approving agency in compliance with the requirement imposed under sub section (1) , by notice published in the Gazette and in one news paper each in the Sinhala, Tamil and English language, notify the place on times at which such report shall be available for inspections by the public, and invite the public to make its comments, if any, thereon.

(3) Any member of the public may within thirty days of the date on which notice under subsection (2) is published make his or its comments, if any, thereon to the project approving agency which published such notice, and such project approving agency may, where it considers appropriate in the public interest afford opportunity to any such person of being heard in support of his comments, and shall have regard to such comments and any other materials if any, elicited at any such hearing, in determining whether to grant its approval for the implementation of such prescribed project.

(4) Where approval is granted for the implementation of any prescribed project, such approval shall be published in the Gazette and in one news paper each in the Sinhala, Tamil and English languages.

23 CC The project approving agencies shall determined the procedure it shall adopt in approving any prescribed projects submitted to it for approval. Such procedure shall be based on the guidelines prescribed by the Minister for such purpose.

23 DD (1) Where the project approving agency refuses to grant approval for any prescribed project submitted for its approval the person or body of persons aggrieved shall have a right to appeal against such decision to the secretary to the Ministry of the Minister

(2) The decision of the secretary to the Ministry on such appeal of the minister shall be final.

23 EE Where any alterations are being made to any prescribed project for which approval had been granted or where any prescribed project already approved is being abandoned, the Government department, corporation, statutory board, local authority, company, firm or an individual who obtained such approval, shall informed the appropriate project approving agency of such alterations or the abandonment as the case may be, and where necessary obtain fresh approval in respect of any alterations that are intended to be made to such prescribed project for which approval had already been granted.

Provided however, where such prescribed project that is being abandoned or altered is a project approved with the concurrence of the Authority, the Authority should also be informed of it and any fresh approval that need to be obtained should be given only with the concurrence of the Authority.

23 FF It shall be the duty of all project approving agencies to forward to the Authority a report on each prescribed project for which approval is granted by such agency.

ANNEX II:
National Environmental (Amendment) Act, No. 53 of 2000 (Certified on 18th August, 2000)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACT, NO. 47 OF 1980

4 Section 23 BB of the principal enactment as amended by Act, No. 56 of 1988 is hereby amended as follows –

(1) by the repeal of subsection (2) of that section, and the substitution therefore of the following subsection :-

"(2) A project approving agency shall on receipt of an environmental impact assessment report submitted to such project approving agency in compliance with the requirements imposed under subsection (1), by Notice published in one newspaper each in the Sinhala, Tamil and English language, notify the place and times at which such report shall be available for inspection by the public to make its comments, if any, thereon".

(2) By the addition immediately after subsection (4) of that section of the following new subsection :-

"(5) An initial environmental examination report submitted in compliance with the requirements imposed under subsection (I) shall be deemed to be a public document for the purposes of sections 74 and 76 of the Evidence Ordinance (Chapter 21) and shall be open for inspection by the public".

5. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail.

ANNEX III:
Prescribed Projects set out in the Gazette Extra Ordinary No. 772/22 of 24th June 1993, No: 1104/22 dated 6th November 1999**, and No: 1108/1** dated 29th November 1999

SCHEDULE
Part I
Projects and undertakings if located wholly or partly outside the coastal zone as defined by Coast Conservation Act No. 57 of 1981 (*Fig III***)**

1. All river basin development and irrigation projects excluding minor irrigation works (as defined by Irrigation Ordinance chapter 453)

2. Reclamation of Land, wetland area exceeding 4 hectares.

3. Extraction of timber covering land area exceeding 5 hectares

4. Conversion of forests covering an area exceeding 1 hectare into non-forest uses.

5. Clearing of land areas exceeding 50 hectares.

6. Mining and Mineral Extraction

- Inland deep mining and mineral extraction involving a depth exceeding 25 meters
- Inland surface mining of cumulative areas exceeding 10 hectares
- All off shore mining and mineral extractions
- Mechanized mining and quarrying operations of aggregate, marble, limestone, silica, quartz, and decorative stone within 1 kilometer of any residential or commercial areas.

7. Transportation Systems

- Construction of national and provincial highways involving a length exceeding 10 kilometers
- Construction of railway lines
- Construction of airports
- Construction of airstrips
- Expansion of airports or airstrips that increase capacity by 50 percent or more.

8. Port and harbour development

- Construction of ports
- Construction of harbours
- Port expansion involving an annual increase of 50% or more in handling capacity per annum.

8. Power generation and transmission

- ❖ Construction of hydroelectric power stations exceeding 50 Megawatts
- ❖ Construction of thermal power plants having generation capacity exceeding 25 Megawatts at a single location or capacity addition exceeding 25 Megawatts to existing plants.
- ❖ Construction of nuclear power plants
- ❖ All renewable energy based electricity generating stations exceeding 50 Megawatts

9. Transmission lines

- ❖ Installation of overhead transmission lines of length exceeding 10 kilometers and voltage above 50 Kilovolts

10. Housing and building

- ❖ ~~Construction of dwelling housing units exceeding 1000 units~~
- ❖ ~~Construction of all commercial buildings as defined by Urban Development Authority established by the Urban Development Authority law, No. 41 of 1978 having built up area exceeding 10,000 square meters~~.
- ❖ Integrated multi-development activities consisting of housing, industry, commercial infrastructure covering a land area exceeding 10 hectares.

11. Resettlement

- ❖ Involuntary resettlement exceeding 100 families other than resettlement effected under emergency situations.

12. Water supply

- ❖ All ground water extraction projects of capacity exceeding ½ million cubic meters per day
- ❖ Construction of water treatment plants of capacity exceeding ½ million cubic meters

13. Pipelines

- ❖ Laying of gas and liquid (excluding water) transfer pipelines of length exceeding 1 kilometer

14. Hotels

- ❖ Construction of Hotels or holiday resorts or projects which provide recreational facilities exceeding 99 rooms or 40 Hectares, as the case may be.

15. Fisheries

- ❖ Aquaculture development projects of extent exceeding 4 hectares

- Construction of fisheries harbours
- Fisheries harbour expansion projects involving an increase of 50% or more in fish handling capacity per annum.

16. All tunneling projects

17. Disposal of Waste

- Construction of any solid waste disposal facility having a capacity exceeding 100 tons per day.
- Construction of waste treatment plants treating toxic or hazardous waste.

18. Development of all Industrial Estates and Parks exceeding an area of 10 hectares.

19. Iron and Steel Industries

- Manufacture of iron and steel products of production capacity exceeding 100 tons per day using iron ore as raw material
- Manufacture of iron and steel products of production capacity exceeding 100 tons per day using scrap iron as raw material

20. Non-Ferrous Basic Metal Industries

- Smelting of aluminium or copper or lead of production capacity exceeding 25 tons per day.

21. Basic Industrial Chemicals

- Formulation of toxic chemicals or production capacity exceeding 50 tons per day
- Manufacture of toxic chemicals of production capacity exceeding 25 tons per day.

22. Pesticides and Fertilizers

- Formulation of pesticides of combined production capacity exceeding 50 tons per day
- Manufacture of pesticides of combined production capacity exceeding 25 tons per day.

23. Petroleum and petrochemical

- Petroleum refineries producing gasoline, fuel oils, illuminating oils, lubricating oils and grease, aviation and marine fuel and liquefied petroleum gas from crude petroleum.
- Manufacture of petro-chemicals of combined production capacity exceeding 100 tons per day from raw materials obtained from production processes of oil refinery or natural gas separation.

24. Tyre and Tube Industries

- Manufacture of tyre and tubes of combined production capacity exceeding 100 tons per day from natural or synthetic rubber.

25. Sugar Factories

- Manufacture of refined sugar of combined production capacity exceeding 50 tons per day.

26. Cement and Lime

- Manufactures of Cement.
- Manufacture of lime employing kiln capacity exceeding 50 tons per day.

27. Paper & Pulp

- Manufacture of paper or pulp of combined production capacity exceeding 50 tons per day

28. Spinning, Weaving and Finishing of Textiles

- Integrated cotton or synthetic textile mils employing spinning, weaving, dyeing and printing operations together, of combined production capacity exceeding 50 tones per day.

30. Tanneries and Leather Finishing

- Chrome tanneries of combined production capacity exceeding 25 tones per day.
- Vegetable (bark) of combined production capacity exceeding 50 tones per day.

Provided however, where the projects and undertaking set out in items 20 to 30 are located within Industrial Estates and parks as described at (19) above, the approval shall not be necessary under the provisions of Part IV C of the Act.

31. Industries which involve the manufacture, storage or use of Radio Active Materials as defined in the Atomic Energy Authority Act No. 19 of 1969 or Explosives as defined in the Explosives Act, No. 21 of 1956, excluding for National security reasons.

PART II

32. All projects and undertaking listed in Part I irrespective of their magnitudes and irrespective of whether they are located in the coastal zone or not, if located wholly or party within the areas specified in part III of the Schedule.

32(a) *Construction of all commercial buildings as defined by the Urban Development Authority Law, No. 41 of 1978 and the construction of dwelling housing units, Irrespectively of their magnitudes and irrespective of whether they are located in the coastal zone or not, if located wholly or partly within the areas specified in Part III of this schedule.*

The following industries if located wholly or partly within the areas specified in Part III of the Schedule

(33) Iron and Steel
(34) Non-Ferrous Basic Metal
(35) Basic Industrial Chemicals
(36) Pesticides and Fertilizer
(37) Synthetic Resins, Plastic materials and Man-made Fibres
(38) Other Chemical Products
(39) Petroleum and Petro-chemical products
(40) Tiers and Tubes
(41) Manufacturing and Refining of Sugar
(42) Alcoholic Spirits
(43) Malt Liquors and Malt
(44) Cement, *clinker* and lime
(45) Non-metallic Mineral Products
(46) Paper, Pulp and Paperboard
(47) Spinning, Weaving and Finishing of Textile
(48) Tanneries and Leather Finishing
(49) Shipbuilding and Repairs
(50) Railroad Equipment
(51) Motor Vehicles
(52) Air Craft

Part III

1 Within 100 m from the boundaries of or within any area declared under
- the National Heritage Wilderness Act No. 3 of 1988;
- the Forest Ordinance (Chapter 451;

whether or not such areas are wholly or partly within the Coastal Zone as defined in the Coast Conservation Act, No. 57 of 1981

2 Within the following areas whether or not the areas are wholly or partly within the Coastal Zone:
- any erodable area declared under the Soil Conservation Act (Chapter 450)
- any Flood Area declared under the Flood Protection Ordinance (Chapter 449) and any flood protection area declared under the Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation Act, 15 of 1968 as amended by Act, No. 52 of 1982.

- 60 meters from the bank of a public stream as defined in the Crown Lands Ordinance (Chapter 454) and having a width of more than 25 meters at any point of its course.

- any reservation beyond the full supply level of a reservoir.

- any archaeological reserve, ancient or protected monument as defined or declared under the Antiquities Ordinance (Chapter 188)

- any area declared under the Botanic Gardens Ordinance (Chapter 446)

- within 100 meters from the boundaries of, or within, any area declared as a Sanctuary under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469).

- within 100 meters form the high flood level contour of, or within, a public lake as defined in the Crown Lands Ordinance (Chapter 454) including those declared under section 71 of the said Ordinance.

In these regulations unless the context otherwise requires;

ANNEX IV:

Amended list of Prescribed Projects by Gazette Extra Ordinary No. 1104/22 of 5th November 1999.

The National Environmental Act, No. 47 of 1980

Order under Section 23 Z

This Order amend the Schedule to the Order made under aforesaid section and published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 772/22 0f 24th June, 1993 as follows:

(1) in part I of that schedule –
   (a) by the substitution for item (11) of that part , of the following item :-
   "(11) Housing and building
   Integrated multi development activities consisting of housing, industry, commercial infrastructure covering a land exceeding ten Hectares";
   (b) in item (27) by the substitution for the phrase "Manufacturing of Cement" of the phrase "Manufacture of Cement through production of Clinker"; and

(2) In Part II of that Schedule
   (a) by the insertion immediately after item (32) of the following new item:-
   "(32a) Construction of all commercial buildings as defined by the Urban Development Authority Law, No. 41 of 1978 and the constitution of dwelling housing units, irrespective of their magnitudes and irrespective of whether they are located in the coastal zone or not, if located wholly or partly within the areas specified in Part III of this Schedule";

   (b) by the substitution for item (44) of that part, of the following item:-
   "(44) Cement, clinker and lime".

ANNEX V:
PROJECT APPROVING AGENCIES (PAA) SET OUT IN THE GAZETTE EXTRA – ORDINARY NO. 859/14 OF 23RD FEBRUARY 1995:

1) The respective Ministries to which the following subjects are assigned:-

   (a) Plan Implementation (Gazette extra – ordinary no. 978/13 of 4th June 1997)
   (b) Irrigation
   (c) Energy
   (d) Agriculture
   (e) Lands
   (f) Forests
   (g) Industries
   (h) Housing
   (i) Construction
   (j) Transport
   (k) Highways
   (l) Fisheries
   (m) Aquatic Resources
   (n) Plantation Industries

2) The Department of Coast Conservation
3) The Department of Wildlife Conservation
4) The Urban Development Authority established by the Urban Development Law. No. 41 of 1978
5) The Central Environmental Authority established by the National Environmental Act, No. 47 of 1980
6) The Geological Survey and Mines Bureau established by the Mines and Minerals Act, No. 33 of 1992
7) The Ceylon Tourist Board established by the Ceylon Tourist Board Act, No. 10 of 1966
8) The Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka established by the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka Act, No. 23 of 1979
9) The Board of Investment of Sri Lanka established by the Greater Colombo Economic Commission Law, No. 4 of 1978 as amended *interalia* by Act, No 49 of 1992

The order made under section 23 Y and published in Gazette Extra – Ordinary 772/22 of 24th June 1993 is hereby rescinded.

ANNEX VI:

AMENDMENT FOR THE PROJECT APPROVING AGENCIES (PAA) BY THE GAZETTE EXTRA – ORDINARY NO. 978/13 OF 4th JUNE 1997:

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACT, NO. 47 OF 1980
Order under Section 23 Y

This Order, amend the Order made under aforesaid section and published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 859/14 of 23rd February, 1995 in the Schedule thereto by the substitution for paragraph (a) thereof the following paragraph:-

"(a) Plan Implementation"

ANNEX VII : ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMNOLOGY

ABBREVIATIONS

CEA	-	Central Environmental Authority
EIA	-	Environmental Impact Assessment
IEE	-	Initial Environmental Examination
NEA	-	National Environmental Act
NGO	-	National Governmental Organization
PAA	-	Project Approving Agency
PI	-	Preliminary Information
PP	-	Project Proponent
TOR	-	Terms of Reference

TERMINOLOGY

Cumulative impact

"Cumulative impact" is the impact on the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Effects

a. "Effects" include: Direct effects, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.

b. Indirect effects which are caused by the action and are later in time or father removed in distance, but are still reasonable foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems including ecosystems.

Effects and impacts as used in this document are synonymous. Effects include ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures and functioning of affected ecosystems), aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social or health, whether direct indirect or cumulative. Effects may also include those resulting from actions, which may have both beneficial and detrimental effects even if on balance the agency believes that the effect will be beneficial.

Appropriate PAA

The "appropriate" PAA is the Ministry / Department / Authority or other public entity that is responsible for the EIA process for a proposed prescribed project.

Mitigation

"Mitigation" includes:

a. Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
b. Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation
c. Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating or restoring the affected environment
d. Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.
e. Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.