

Session 10.

Field-Based EMMP Development Exercise (includes Field Visit)

Objectives

Integrate, build upon and apply acquired skills for EMMP development, using existing guidelines and field observations as the basis for a practical EMMP design exercise.

Summary

In this session, we will integrate and strengthen environmental analysis skills by developing an EMMP in a scenario-based, small-team exercise. This session includes a field visit which provides the observation, information-gathering, and multi-disciplinary team approach opportunity needed for the EMMP development.

Teams and Sites. The facilitators will give a briefing on each of three site visits and divide the participant into **3 teams**. The site descriptions and exercise scenarios can be found on the following pages.

Exercise. USAID staff are responsible for evaluating EMMPs; therefore it is necessary that they have a detailed understanding of the process for developing one. Therefore during this session, participants will develop a summary EMMP by conducting a field visit to an existing project similar to a proposed USAID-funded project and using the information gained to develop the summary EMMP. Each team will receive a site description for the existing project, and the relevant *Small Scale Guidelines* to assist them during their field visit.

Each group will meet prior to leaving for the field, to plan a strategy to collect and analyze field data, assign roles and responsibilities, and document findings. Visiting an existing project site that is similar to a project for which an EMMP will be developed, will help participants to understand the likely impacts of the hypothetical project, the typical environmental management practices involved, and the environmental management challenges posed by this type of activity.

Scenario. USAID has just awarded three new 5 year programs, in agriculture, health and waste water management, to three implementing partners in Thailand. These programs include the following activities: 1) Expansion of urban waste water treatment systems 2) Provision of agricultural best practice support and 3) Expansion of urban health services. The procurement stage of the program life cycle is now complete, however, before the implementation stage can begin **USAID requires that an EMMP be developed for each of these three projects.**

Therefore each team's responsibilities are **1) to collect site-specific information (environmental, socio-economical, eco-systemic, etc.) during the field visit and 2) use this information and field observations as well as all available information available from the three scenarios (found in the summary descriptions) to develop a summary EMMP upon their return to the office.**

Each *team* will then present their EMMP in plenary.

Instructions

A. Exercise & Site Briefing

The training team will brief the overall EMMP development exercise, the project scenario(s), and the Summary Descriptions of Field Site(s)

B. Group Preparation

Teams will initiate development of their EMMP and discuss and agree on their strategy for the site visit, including:

- Identification of key baseline conditions to observe at the site. (i.e. the conditions that will affect the design and implementation of mitigation measures.)
- Assignment of roles and responsibilities.

C. Field Visit

The field visit is intended to provide a “reality check” on initial EMMP development, thus making sure that the EMMP is well-grounded in field reality.

Each team should:

- Observe baseline conditions at the site, particularly those that could affect the significance of impacts and the design of mitigation (for example, are people living in close proximity to the site? Is there domestic use of groundwater or discharge? Etc.)
- Understand the different sub-activities that happen at the site, and who is responsible for them – with particular emphasis on the sub-activities most responsible for adverse environmental impacts.
- Understand the environmental management practices currently in place, and look for evidence that they are effective (or not).

It is possible that we will observe certain ESDM deficiencies at the site. But please remember that we visit as observers and invited guests, not auditors or inspectors. We should observe, listen, and by all means ask questions—but not offer criticism to our hosts.

D. Group Work: Summary EMMP Development, continued

Back in the classroom, each team will continue their work to develop an EMMP responsive to (1) the scenarios developed to match each site, and (2) the realities observed in the field. Teams should use the last portion of this session to finalize their presentation. PowerPoint formats for the presentations will be provided to participants for this session.

E. EMMP Presentations & Wrap-up discussion

Each group will present its EMMP in plenary.