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# EIA Field Exercise: Briefing

GEMS Environmental Compliance-ESDM Training Series  
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# What is the baseline situation?

- ❖ **The existing environmental situation or condition in the absence of the activity.**
- ❖ **Trends and variability are part of the baseline situation.**

# Collecting Data on the Baseline Situation

## ❖ The collection of data related to an **activity area**:

- Economic uses and activities
- Natural landscape & human interventions
- Environmental health

**Activity area: where impacts are felt during the life-of-project.**

- How intact are ecosystems & ecosystem functions?
- How healthy is the environment for the people who live in it?

# Why collect data on the baseline situation?

1. To provide a description → allows for predictions to be made
2. To provide a means of detecting change → allows for the monitoring of project results

# What baseline data should be collected?

Collection of baseline data in EIA takes time and is often blamed for project implementation delays and labeled as a cost burden.

**Therefore, it is important to focus on the aspects of the baseline situation likely to be affected by the proposed activity, or upon which the activity depends for its success.**

# Your Roles in this Exercise

**OBSERVER**

**versus**

**PROJECT MANAGER**

# Instructions for the Exercise \*

## EXPECTATIONS

<u>In the field</u>	<u>In the classroom</u>		
Collect data on baseline situation	Potential adverse environmental impacts	Potential root causes	Possible approaches for limiting the impact <i>(optional)</i>

\* This session is intended to practice basic observation and impact identification skills - not to practice development of Regulation 216 environmental documentation.

# Location:





# Protection & Recognition

- ❖ **Saloum Delta National Park (1976):** 76,000 hectares
  - Water comprises 61,000 hectares
  - Mangroves & saltwater vegetation comprises 7,000 hectares
  - Savanna and forest cover 8,000 hectares
- ❖ **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (1981):** 180,000 hectares
- ❖ **Ramsar Convention site (1984):** Royal Tern
- ❖ **UNESCO World Heritage site (2011):** 145,811 hectares

# About Toubacouta

- ❖ 2,000+ inhabitants
- ❖ 50% under the age of 18
- ❖ 2 kindergartens
- ❖ 2 primary schools
- ❖ 1 secondary school
- ❖ 1 health post
- ❖ Youth home
- ❖ Post office
- ❖ Multimedia center
- ❖ Vegetable market
- ❖ Restaurants, grocery stores, hairdressers, tailors, etc.

# Agriculture

- ❖ Peanuts
- ❖ Millet
- ❖ Rice
- ❖ Maize
- ❖ Cowpea
- ❖ Watermelon
- ❖ Tomatoes
- ❖ Cabbage
- ❖ Eggplant
- ❖ Peppers
- ❖ Okra
- ❖ Sweet potatoes
- ❖ Onions
- ❖ Cashew nut



# Tourism

- ❖ Local and seasonal populations involved
- ❖ Primary and secondary income



# Beekeeping

- ❖ Exported and locally sold
- ❖ Activity has potential for growth
- ❖ Women and young people
- ❖ Mangrove and cashew trees

# Secondary Sources: Env. Considerations

- ❖ Groundwater decrease
- ❖ Increase in salinity
- ❖ Decline in rainfall
- ❖ Waste disposed at sea
- ❖ Brush fires
- ❖ Poaching
- ❖ Illegal extraction of wood resources
- ❖ Biodiversity decline and decline of other natural resources:  
20% loss in mangroves in the last three decades

