

## Session 3.

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# Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and ESDM

### Objectives

- Achieve a common, basic understanding of the EIA process and key EIA concepts.
- Motivate the EIA process by establishing that EIA is the internationally accepted standard framework for achieving ESDM in project-based development.

### Format

Presentation.

### Summary

This session will:

- Define Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as a formal process for identifying the: *likely effects* of activities/projects on the environment, and on human health and welfare; and *means and measures to monitor & mitigate* these impacts.
- Show that the EIA process provides a systematic framework to achieve ESDM and establish that this process is the internationally accepted standard framework for achieving ESDM in project-based development.
- Outline how the EIA process is being used to address the effects of climate change on projects, and to inform mitigation planning.
- Explain that EIA-based environmental “safeguard” processes are now standard requirements of nearly all donors and governments, including the US Government/USAID.

### Key resource

“IV.1: Topic Briefing—Introduction to EIA” in *Environmental Guidelines for Small Scale Activities in Africa*. (USAID/AFR/SD; available at [www.encapafrika.org/egssaa.htm](http://www.encapafrika.org/egssaa.htm)).