

Special Topic.

Zambia's National Environmental Requirements

(0:45)

Objective

Brief Zambia's National Environmental Requirements & understand the categories of USAID-funded activities that may need to comply with these requirements in addition to USAID environmental procedures.

Format

Presentation and Q&A.

Summary

Host country EIA regulations are *legal requirements* from which donor projects (USAID included) are rarely exempt. We need to satisfy both local requirements and our pre-implementation environmental review requirement under Reg. 216—preferably by meeting both requirements with the same process and document.

(Since USAID's Environmental Procedures are based on the standard EIA process, it is likely that host country and USAID requirements can be met with one process and by producing one document.)

Accordingly, this session summarizes Zambia's National Environmental Requirements. All A/CORs and IPs should understand when their activities are subject to these requirements.

Compliance with Zambia's EIA Procedures is Mandatory---Provides many co-benefits

Note that beyond the legal requirement, there are many good reasons for complying with Host country EIA procedures:

- The EIA process helps to strengthen civil society since it gives local citizens a way to have input into how a development project will be undertaken.
- Rule of law and anti-corruption benefits accrue from a transparent and lawful decision making process on economic development.
- The host country strengthens its capacity to undertake state of the art design of economic development projects so they will be less dependent on donors such as USAID.

For all of these reasons (among others), the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness **specifically commits donors and host countries to harmonization of their EIA procedures, and to building host country EIA capacity.** (The US is a signatory party to the Paris Declaration).

What do I do if my activity must comply with both Zambia and Host Country Procedures?

The table below outlines the way forward for two typical scenarios under which both host country and USAID environmental review is required.

Reg 216 requirement	Host country requirement	Reg. 216 compliance strategy
IEE	Preliminary assessment (IEE analogue) or full EIA study	<p>The host country document serves as the body of the IEE. A short cover document is prepared that frames the documents in terms of a Reg. 216 threshold decision and that provides for clearance signatures.</p> <p>Contact the REA at the start of the process.</p>
EA	Full EIA study	<p>Coordinate the USAID EA & host country EIA scoping statements so that a single document can fulfill both requirements.</p> <p>Contact the REA at the start of the process.</p>