

## Session 10.

# Practicum in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Climate Risk Management (CRM)

### *Field visit and practical exercise*

#### Objectives

Through facilitated field visits participants will further develop and apply the practical EIA skills and environmental compliance approaches introduced and discussed up to this point of the workshop, with emphasis on core aspects of EIA and CRM, and the consideration of specific mitigation and monitoring criteria. This session also strengthens familiarity with the *Sector Environmental Guidelines* as a key resource in the compliance and management process.

#### Summary

This field-based exercise is not an isolated activity; it puts into practice the tools and methods presented in the classroom, and approximates our role as development professionals in achieving environmental compliance and ESDM. Once back from the field, participants will combine site- and activity-specific data and information with core EIA and CRM skills in a small-group format to make environmental compliance- and management-related recommendations.

Each group will present their findings and recommendations to the larger training group for further discussion and observations.

This session is divided into four components:

- **Session 10a:** Briefing and classroom orientation
- **Session 10b:** Site visit
- **Session 10c:** Small-group work
- **Session 10d:** Group presentations in plenary

#### **10a: EIA & CRM Practicum—Briefing and classroom orientation (.25 hrs.)**

During this pre-field visit session participants will receive instruction on the methodology and the objectives of the practicum. This classroom preparation will enable participants to understand the general project scenarios to be assessed. The two technical areas for the practicum include:

1. Large-scale construction and wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) operation
2. School construction

Participants will have already selected or been assigned to one of the above technical areas. Individual groups will convene at this time; each group should listen carefully for additional detail on the project sites. Groups will then have some time to review relevant resources or documentation, consult with their accompanying trainer/facilitator, and to confer as a team on a general approach or issues related to the field visit. Questions and issue for discussion include:

- 1) Use the *Sector Environmental Guidelines* and other resources—including your own experience—to identify the types of adverse environmental impacts typically associated with the site or activity you will be visiting (e.g., solid waste, worker safety, etc.).
- 2) Discuss any other aspects of the design or management of these types of activities that are not environmentally sound.
- 3) Drawing from the EIA skill-building exercise, consider the most relevant aspects of the baseline situation that should be observed and assessed in the field.
- 4) Discuss which mitigation measures could be employed to avoid, reduce, or offset potential adverse environmental impacts.
- 5) Consider what information to collect in the field and what questions to ask the field visit host, project beneficiaries, or other stakeholders. Assign roles, as appropriate, within the group for data collection and/or any interviews.
- 6) Identify the following roles within each group:
  - Chairperson:
  - Recorder:
  - Spokesperson:

### **10b: EIA & CRM Practicum—Site visit (approx. 4 hrs.)**

Participants will use group transportation and proceed to the designated project site. Each group will be accompanied by at least one workshop trainer/facilitator. Please bring to the field:

- Notepad/pen
- Camera (if possible)
- Walking shoes and a hat
- Sunscreen/sunglasses
- Water bottle

Use your eyes and ears to gather information that will help inform your EIA and CRM recommendations. Don't forget to consider the opinions and concerns of beneficiaries and the local community, asking them about the project's environmental, social and economic impacts and their recommendations.

**10c: EIA & CRM Practicum—Small-group work (approx. 2.5 hrs.)**

Once back from the field, each small group will collaborate to prepare their EIA and CRM recommendations based on the preceding field visits. During this time, participants will synthesize field observations and develop specific mitigation and monitoring criteria for presentation.

**10d: EIA & CRM Practicum—Group presentations in plenary (1.5 hrs.)**

This component will provide an opportunity for each working group to present its findings and recommendations as based on the field visit and subsequent small-group synthesis and collaboration.

Each group's conclusions will be presented to the training group at large and key elements or aspects of the findings discussed in plenary form.