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EIA in Action: Understanding Your Project's Environmental Dimensions



GEMS Environmental
Compliance-ESDM Training Series

Jordan ■ March 2018

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

- Practice fundamental skills in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Prioritize potential impacts and discuss possible alternatives (for a theoretical project)
- Formulate mitigation strategies
- Present findings and recommendations to inform activity decision making
- Share perspectives, opinions, expertise in a group setting

Photo Credit: USAID

THE PROCESS:

- This exercise has two components:
 - A “virtual” field visit
 - Small-group consultation and de-briefing
- You will visit a theoretical project site—you will make observations, collect information, and understand proposed implementation
- Small groups will confer to develop a general assessment of environmental conditions and potential project impacts
- Key points or considerations are prepared and delivered in a 5-min. de-briefing for senior managers



THE PROJECT SCENARIO—CONTEXT:

- You are part of a successful agriculture sector project:
 - Horticulture (vegetables)—income generation/economic growth
 - Water conservation—natural resource management
- Project is mid-way through implementation and the donor is looking for opportunities to “scale-up”
- Local governorate (liked by donor) is requesting project support to bolster a popular “urban farming” initiative
- Your small planning team is tasked to review and assess environmental dimensions



THE PROJECT SCENARIO—OBJECTIVES:

- Expand a successful project
- Put unused urban space to productive purpose
- Provide economic opportunity to local community groups
- Model high-value horticulture using water-conserving techniques
- Local access to safe, high-quality vegetables



THE PROJECT SCENARIO—PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:

- Up to 10 greenhouses for horticultural production will be constructed on a reclaimed former bus depot at edge of city center (2 ha site)
- Project site would also include small office block with classroom and multi-purpose/community room; small kitchen and bathrooms
- Separate storage facilities required for pesticides, fertilizer and other agricultural equipment and supplies
- Vehicle access will require a new entrance to limit traffic congestion; direct route is via a residential quarter

Photo Credit: USAID

THE PROJECT SCENARIO—IMPLEMENTATION:

- Up to three cooperatives will administer greenhouses, oversee production and maintain site—at least one has social mission to assist physically handicapped
- Project will manage a retail outlet at site with pedestrian access only off of main thoroughfare
- Farming operations will cover full cost of utilities:
 - Possible borehole required; no existing municipal water/sewerage service to site
 - Genset may be needed to operate drip irrigation system, cold storage



Photo Credit: USAID

THE PROJECT SCENARIO—UNRESOLVED:

- Site currently used informally for grazing; athletics (football) by displaced persons
- Possible artefacts (broken clay) have been found at project site in the past; proximate to well known (but unexcavated) ancient sugar mill site

YOUR FIELD ITINERARY...

- Quick visit to greenhouses; pick up operations manager
- Survey new site
- Talk with neighbors
- Meet with Governorate

Bring your hat and sunglasses!

GREENHOUSE OPERATIONS



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PROPOSED SITE



OFFICE BLOCK & CLASSROOM



STORAGE FACILITY



ADJACENT RESIDENTIAL AREA



PROPOSED RETAIL ACCESS



NEARBY MILL SITE



CONSULTATIONS



BACK AT THE OFFICE...

- Confer on most environmentally significant aspects of:
 - Baseline conditions for project activities
 - Proposed interventions
 - Potential impacts
- Discuss possible alternatives and potential mitigation strategies
- Summarize findings and any recommendations to inform project strategy and decision making
- Secretary confirms agenda for next executive meeting—your team to de-brief senior managers!

Time to Prepare