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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

