Chapter 4: Screening

Environmental Screening, Scoping and Terms of Reference
Objectives of Screening:

Screening is a mechanism for identifying projects requiring EIA.

The importance of Screening are as follows:

- first step of EIA process
- saves money
- Saves time
- immediately identifies the major environmental impacts that are likely; and
- establishes a conception that an EIA study needs to be conducted.
Initiation or submission of proposal

Screening

Impact assessment required

Initial environmental examination

No impact assessment required

Scoping

Assessing (impact analysis/predictions: impact significance)

Mitigation (Redesign: planning for impact management)

Public involvement *

Public involvement should ideally occur at all stages of the impact assessment

Resubmit

Reporting or the environmental impact statement

Public involvement *

Redesign

Reviewing (document quality; stakeholders' input: proposal accountability)

Net approved

Decision-making

Approved

Monitoring (impact management)

EIA audit

* Public involvement should ideally occur at all stages of the impact assessment
Screening Procedure in Nepal:

All projects in Nepal are divided into three categories:

- Projects requiring IEE are listed in Schedule 1 of EPR 1997 (amendment 1999)
- Projects requiring EIA are listed in Schedule 2 of EPR 1997; and
- Projects not listed in Schedule 1 and 2:
  - with a cost of NRs. 10 million to 100 million require IEE.
  - with a cost of NRs. more than 100 million require EIA.
Screening

**Initial Environmental Examination (IEE):**
IEE is conducted if there is no definite solution in screening

**How IEE should be conducted?**
It is necessary to understand the following components of the project activities:

- project activities to be implemented,
- setting of project, resources’ demands and the waste produced,
- policies, regulations and guidelines to be known of IEE,
- and resources and environment are likely to be impacted.
IEE – 15 days public notice format

15-days notice to the public for IEE

[Image of notice in Nepali]

Source: Manoj Badu

9/16/2011
नेपाल सरकार
उर्जा मन्त्रालय
विकास विभाग
पुन्ना खोला जलविद्युत आयोजना
बातावरणीय प्रभाव मूल्यांकनको क्षेत्र निर्धारण सम्बन्धि

सार्वजनिक ध्वनि
(प्रकाशित मिला २०६८/०२/०२)

नेपाल खिलाको खुलासालाई बार निर्णय उठाउँगा जलविद्युत आयोजनाको महत्त्व भएको है। यस अनुसार, यो पहाडी क्षेत्रबाट बातावरणीय प्रभाव मूल्यांकन लगभग २०६८ नक्षत्रको नीचे अन्तिम र उन्नयन गर्नुको सङ्गठनलाई लागि प्रतिबन्ध गरिएको हुनेछ।

प्रतिबन्धको नाम: मनोज बादु
प्रतिबन्धको विशेषता: जलविद्युत आयोजना

प्रतिबन्धको विवरण:

यस अर्थात, यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ। यसले गर्नुको छ र यसले राख्नुको छ。
Screening

**IEE Process:**

IEE process identifies:

- Most likely significant impacts (positive/negative) from proposed actions,
- Mitigation measures for adverse impacts not expected to be significant,
- Mechanisms for enhancing beneficial impacts, and
- Residual uncertainties not possible to be resolved in the screening

A simple matrix/checklist could be used for IEE
Screening

Screening Criteria in Nepal:

All projects in Nepal are screened based on three categories:

• Nature of the project (Type Criteria),
• Size of the project (Threshold Criteria); and
• Location of the project (Sensitive Area Criteria)
Scoping

Aim of Scoping:
The aim of scoping is to ensure that EIA study addresses all pertinent issues and provide sound basis for decision making.

Scoping is the heart of EIA
Scoping is required to help:

- Identify concerns and issues for consideration in an EIA,
- Enable those responsible for an EIA study to properly brief the study team on the alternatives and on impacts to be considered at different levels of analysis,
- Determine the assessment methods to be used,
- Identify all affected interests,
- Provide an opportunity to the public involved in determining the factors to be assessed,
- Facilitate an early agreement on contentious issues,
- Save time and money, and
- Establish terms of reference (TOR) for EIA study
Scoping

Mechanism of Scoping:

1. Open Scoping: public meetings, workshops, seminars, etc.
2. Closed Scoping: letters, interviews, discussion, etc.

Lists of Participants for Scoping:

1. Proponent (with/without consultants)
2. Review agency
3. Licensing agency
4. Other relevant agencies
5. NGOs
6. Public
Scoping

Scoping Approach:

1. Planning for Public Involvement
2. Collecting existing information
3. Information distribution
4. Issues of public concern
5. Analysis of significance
6. Establishing and addressing priority issues
7. Agencies responsible and appropriate timing to conduct scoping and involvement of concerned agencies and groups
Scoping

Methods used in Scoping:

- Literature review
- Map interpretation
- Public Notice
- Planning for public involvement
- Field study
- PRA/RRA
- Data processing
- Impact identification (checklists, matrices, and networks)
- Issues prioritization
- Identification of a strategy for addressing priority issues
- Report preparation
Scoping Requirement in Nepal

1. The proponent publishes a notice in national daily to ask the stakeholders of suggestions within 15 days
2. The suggestions are sent to the proponent within the 15 days of first publication of notice
3. The proponent, along with the received concerns and suggestions sends an application to the concerned authority for scope determination
4. The concerned authority carries out the investigation and sends to MOE
5. MOE carries out the investigation on the documents and determines the scope as proposed or suggested

Scoping document is not required for an IEE
Format of a Scoping document

- Introduction: Background, the proponent, project description, relevant policies, laws, standards, guidelines and manuals
- Scoping Methodology: Literature review, map interpretation, public notice, reconnaissance survey, issues prioritization methods, report preparation
- Existing environmental conditions and likely impacts: Physical, biological socio-economic, cultural, potential environmental impacts
- Environmental issues identified and raised: issues identified, issues raised, issues discarded (if any)
- Issues prioritized for EIA study:
- Work schedule
- References
- Annexes
Terms of Reference

Terms of References (TOR) are prepared following Scoping to provide specific guidelines for the EIA study. TOR assists in

1. Identifying and describing the impacts/issues to be investigated,
2. Systematizing the working procedure
3. Delineating the specific activities to be implemented,
4. Fitting the EIA study into the context of existing policies, rules and administrative procedures, and
5. Accomplishing the work within a specified time frame
Terms of Reference

Main TOR Components: The TOR should specify the following,

1. The project proposal and its reasonable and practical alternatives (including the ‘no action’ option);
2. The environmental components which need detailed or further study, the indicators for each listed components to be measured or assessed;
3. The likely significant impacts which should be investigated;
4. The need to identify actions required to be minimized as far as possible;
5. Adverse impacts (relocation, increased taxes, compensation, etc.) and enhance benefits;
6. Implementation of an economic evaluation of environmental impacts (to the extent possible);
7. Identification of a monitoring programme for impacts of concern during the project’s operation and beyond;
8. Aspects of EIA such as; work tasks, study schedule, review sessions and study team;
9. Provision of a conclusion on whether the project should be implemented or whether it poses an unacceptable risks;
10. The time required for the EIA report with an estimated budget; and
11. The completion date
Format of TOR for Nepal (Schedule 4 of EPR 1997)

Cover page with title and name of the proponent

Executive summary

Table of contents

Acronyms

1. Project description (Background, project description with salient features, objectives of EIA, methodology, description of the study area and study limitations)
2. Review of policy, laws, guidelines and institutions
3. Existing environmental conditions
4. Alternative Analysis
5. Environmental Impacts and Protection Measures (construction and operational phases)
6. Environmental Monitoring and Auditing (types, parameters, methods and schedule)
7. Environmental Management Plan
8. Conclusion and Recommendations

References

Appendices- maps, tables, graphs, drawing and designs, photographs, checklists and questionnaires, issues raised during public hearing, recommendation letters of VDCs, municipalities etc

*TOR should be approved prior to proceeding with the IEE or EIA report.