

**EIA IN THE PHILIPPINES:
A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH A FOCUS ON
THE ROLE OF DONOR AGENCIES**

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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMDAL	Environmental Impact Analysis Process (Analisis Mengenai Dampak Lingkungan)
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BAPEDAL	Indonesia's Environmental Impact Management Agency (Badan Pengendalian Dampak Lingkungan)
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DAO	Department Administrative Order
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DMCs	Development Member Countries
DOE	Department of Environment (Malaysia)
ECAs	Environmentally Critical Areas
ECC	Environmental Compliance Certificate
ECPs	Environmentally Critical Projects
ECU	European Community Union
EEC	European Economic Community
EGF	Environmental Guarantee Fund
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIARC	EIA Review Committee
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EISS	Environmental Impact Statement System
EMB	Environmental Management Bureau
EMF	Environmental Management Funds
ERA	Environmental Risk Assessment
ICC	Investment Coordinating Committee
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
LGU	Local Government Unit
MMT	Multi-partite Monitoring Team
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NEB	National Environmental Board (Thailand)
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Act

NEPC	National Environmental Protection Council
NGA	National Government Agency
NPCC	National Pollution Control Commission
OECF	Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund
ONEB	Office of National Environmental Board (Thailand)
PD	Presidential Decree
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	The World Bank

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ABSTRACT

This study documents and analyses the implementation of environmental impact assessment in the Philippines, comparing it with other Southeast Asian countries' EIA procedures with emphasis on the role of donor agencies. It concludes that the Philippine EIS system, in spite of some shortcomings, performed satisfactorily though implementation and enforcement has^{ve} a lot of room for improvement.

The Philippines has one of the most comprehensive EIA laws and policies in Southeast Asia. The Philippine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System has undergone four phases of implementation as evidence that there is a continuous effort in improving its application. Originally conceived as a regulatory tool, the EIS system has slowly moved to being a management tool to aid decision makers in selecting the best alternative after examining the trade offs between social needs, environmental concerns and economic and financial viability of a project or activity. Recent reforms in the EIA implementing rules and regulations are expected to further enhance the administration and overall utility of EIA in the Philippines.

The Philippine EIS System is well advanced in comparison with Southeast Asia and some Western EIA systems. It has strong legal and regulatory frameworks and guidelines and procedures for its implementation are well set up. Through time, there have been amendments such as the social acceptability concept to enhance public participation, specific guidelines for scoping and the requirement of Environmental Guarantee and Monitoring Funds for compliance monitoring, which aimed at improving EIA implementation. However, compliance and enforcement are still insufficient due to the inherent problem of lack of financial and human resources and political support.

Donor agencies have been influential in the formulation and improvement in EIA implementation in the Philippines. The initial environmental policy in the Philippines that was formulated with the assistance from the US government became the foundation of the preceding environmental laws and policies. The Philippines has obtained a fair amount of EIA technical assistance from bilateral and multilateral donors to support institutional capacity building and to train EIA implementors, project proponents and non-government organisations and to build and upgrade environmental management facilities and equipment. Donors have little influence in the actual conduct of EIA in the Philippines. The Philippine EIS system has the same requirements and procedures from local and foreign-funded projects and all project proponents are required to comply.

