Solomon Islands Australia Partnership

SOLOMON ISLANDS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Workforce Skills Series

Environmental Impact Assessment & Environmental Safeguards Training

29 June 2025

Environmental Impact Assessment
SKILLS SERIES WORKSHOP

29th June 2023
Heritage Park Hotel
Honiara

Solomon Is.

Environment and Conservation Division
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology
Phone: +677 26036, Fax: (677) 28054
Email: Environment-Helpdesk@mecm.gov.sb
Website: www.mecdm.gov.sb or https://solomonislands-data.sprep.org

OUTLINE

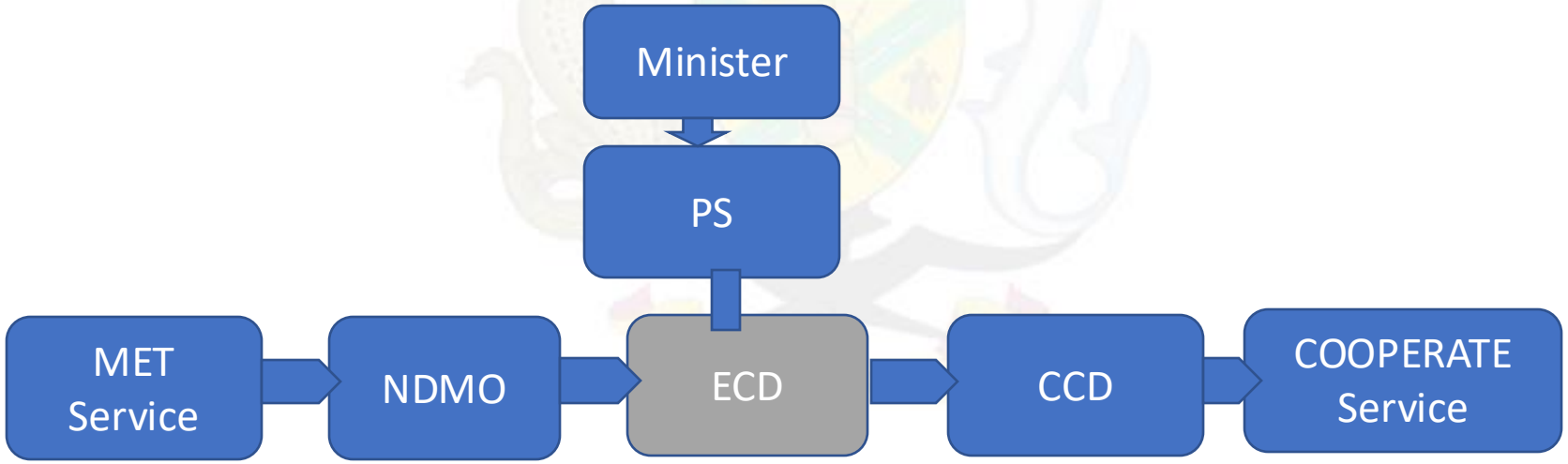
- ❖Organization Framework
- ❖Function of Environment & Conservation Division (ECD)
- ❖Acts & Regulations
- ❖Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process
- ❖Challenges in Implementing EIA Process

ORGANIZATION FRAMEWORK

- Name of Organization:

Ministry of Environment Climate Change Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM), Solomon Islands

- Structure of Organization:



ORGANIZATION FRAMEWORK

❖ **Vision:**

"A safe, sustainable and resilient environment for Solomon Islands"

❖ **Missions of Organization:**

To provide an enabling environment for the safety and socio-economic development of Solomon Islands through application of necessary safeguards on:

- ✓ sustainable management of natural resources and protection of the environment
- ✓ Preparing for and responding to climate change,
- ✓ Leading and coordinating disaster risk management,
- ✓ Providing meteorological and allied services,
- ✓ Developing and providing the enabling environment for the planning and implementation of functions and technical services of the ministry.

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ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION DIVISION (ECD)

VISION:

To ensure the Environment and Natural Resources of Solomon Islands are protected, managed and sustainably used for the maximum benefit of the Government and people of Solomon Islands.

MISSION:

To improve and strengthen the national institutional and administrative capacity of the division to be able to promote the protection, conservation and sustainable management of the use of the environment and natural resources of Solomon Islands.

Technical Manuals:

Solomon Islands EIA Guideline 2010 and Protected Areas Toolkit.

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FUNCTION OF ECD

- **Responsible for the sound management & sustainable utilization of the country's natural resource base & better protection of its environment.**
- It does this through:
  - Environment Act 1998 & Environment Regulation 2008
  - Wildlife Protection & Management Act 1998; Wildlife Protection & Management Regulation 2008
  - Protected Areas Act 2010 and Protected Areas Regulations 2012
- Party to a number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA). Responsible for the implementation of these MEAs nationally
- Implement Global , Regional and National Projects and Programmes

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ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS & REGULATIONS

1. Environment Act 1998

- Function of Environment Act 1998 is to protect, restore & enhance the quality of environment of Solomon Islands.

- Environment Act has 2 main parts to help facilitate restoration & protection of environment;
  i. The requirement for development control & EIA to be applied in the approval of development projects.
  ii. Specific requirement for pollution control to be exercised in the management of wastes.

EIA Process

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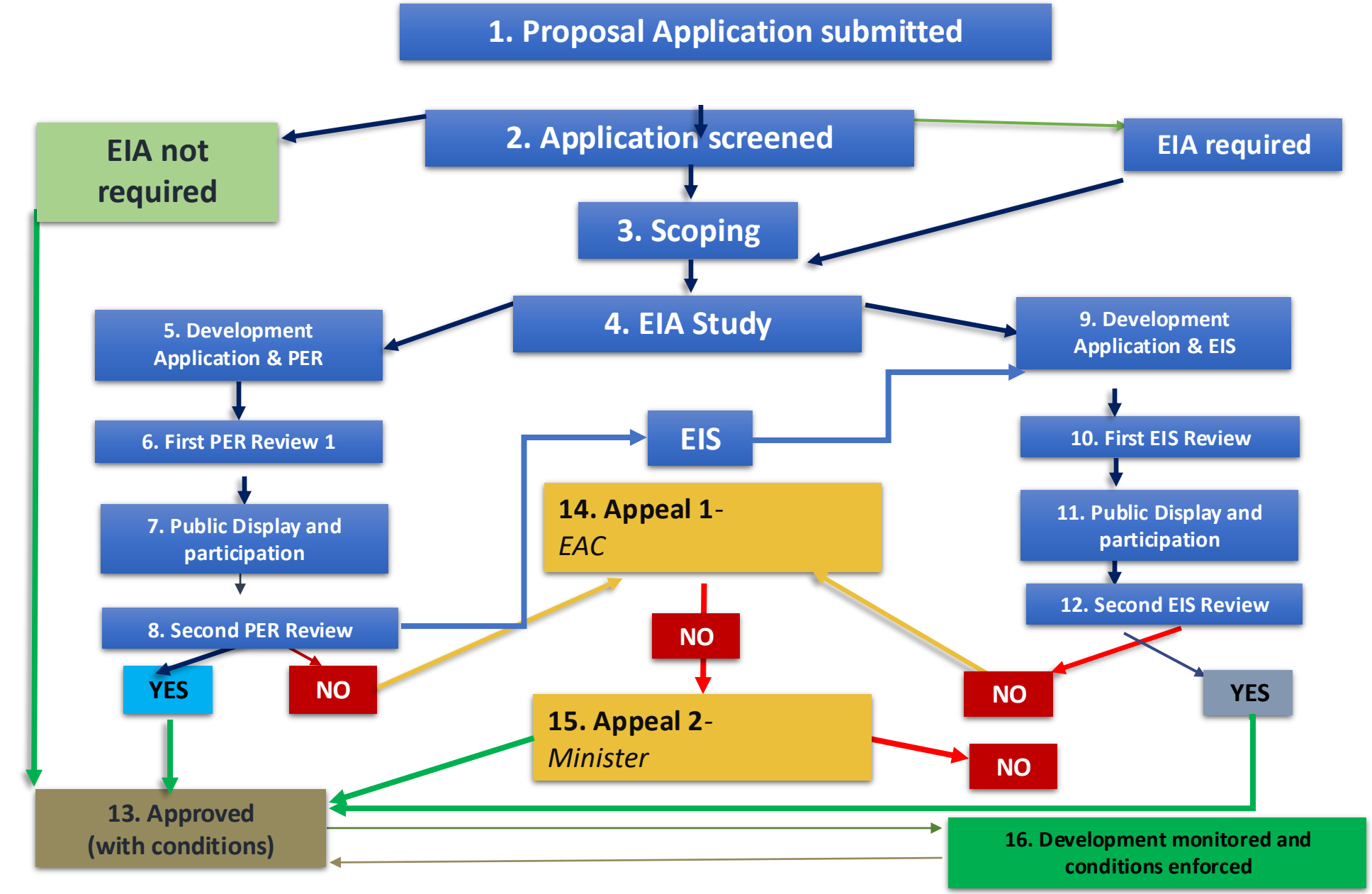
1. Proposal Application submitted
2. Application screened
EIA not required
EIA required
3. Scoping
4. EIA Study
5. Development Application & PER
6. First PER Review 1
7. Public Display and participation
8. Second PER Review
YES
NO
EIS
14. Appeal 1- EAC
NO
15. Appeal 2- Minister
NO
9. Development Application & EIS
10. First EIS Review
11. Public Display and participation
12. Second EIS Review
NO
YES
13. Approved (with conditions)
16. Development monitored and conditions enforced

Key Players


Environment and Conservation Division
Developer
Other Relevant Stakeholders
Public
Other Govt Agencies
Environment Advisory Committee

PRESCRIBED DEVELOPMENTS

1.FOOD INDUSTRIES including
(a) Fruit processing , bottling and canning
(b) Brewing, malting and distillery works
(c) Abattoirs
(d) Other food processing requiring packaging

2. IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES

3. NON-METALLIC INDUSTRIES including
(a) Lime production
(b) Brick and tile manufacture
(c) Extraction of minerals and mining
(d) Extraction of aggregates stones or shingles
(e) Radio-active related industries
(f) Manufacture of cement

4. LEATHER, PAPER, TEXTILE AND WOOD INDUSTRIES including
(a) Leather tanning and processing
(b) Textile industry with dying facilities
(c) Carpet industry with chemical dying
(d) Manufacturing of paper , pulp and other wood products

5. FISHING AND MARINE PRODUCT INDUSTRY

6. FOREST INDUSTRY including
(a) Logging operation
(b) Saw milling
(c) All forms of timber processing and treatment

7. TOURISM INDUSTRY including
(a) Hotels
(b) Golf Clubs
(c) Recreational Parks
(d) Tourism resorts or estates

8. AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY including
(a) Livestock development
(b) Agricultural development schemes
(c) Irrigation and water supply schemes

9. PUBLIC WORKS SECTOR including
(a) Landfills
(b) Infrastructure developments
(c) Major waste disposal plants
(d) Soil erosion and siltation control
(e) Hydropower schemes
(f) Reservoir development
(g) Waste management , drainage and disposal system
(h) Airport development
(i) Dredging
(j) Watershed management
(k) Ports and habours

10. OTHER
(a) Industrial estates
(b) Housing development scheme
(c) Settlement and resettlement schemes
(d) Petroleum product storage and processing works

PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

OFFENCE	DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE AND LEGISLATION	PENALTY
No development consent (DC)	A developer commencing or continuing to carry out any prescribed development unless a development application has been submitted to the Director , together with either a PER or EIS (as specified by Director in section 17), and either: • The developer has been issued with a development consent; or • The Director has exempted the development **Section 19 (1) EA**	Fine up to $10,000 and/or Imprisonment up to one year **Section 19 (2) EA**
Breaching development consent	A developer carrying on any development except in accordance with the development consent. **Sections 25 EA**	Fine up to $10,000 or (if fine not paid) Imprisonment up to one year **Section 54 EA**

PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

OFFENCE	DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE AND LEGISLATION	PENALTY
Providing false or misleading information in a PER or EIS	A developer knowingly providing false or misleading information to the Director or to any public authority concerning matters to be addressed in a public environment report or in an environmental impact statement. **Section 25 EA**	Fine up to $10,000 and or Imprisonment up to one year **Section 54 EA**
Pollution from waste	A person causing or allowing waste to be placed in any position from which the waste could reasonably be expected to gain access to any part of the environment and is likely to result in pollution **Section 35 EA**	Fine up to 10,000 and/or Imprisonment up to one year **Section 37 EA**

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING THE EIA PROCESS

- Institutional Capacity of competent authority to fully enforce the process (includes human and financial resources)
- Awareness.
- Non-compliance by developers.
- Monitoring
- Enforcement

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen sectoral co-ordination.
- Provincial expansion of ECD staff.
- Conduct EIA awareness and trainings

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CEMP- Construction Environment Management Plan

ECD-MECDM

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Outline

- Environment Management Plan- Outcome objective and Minimum requirements
- CEMP and its link to EMP. Purpose and Minimum requirements of CEMP
- Challenges in EMP and CEMP
- Summary of components of a CEMP

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN- EMP

The environmental management plan (EMP) is the result of the assessment and is an essential tool for ensuring that mitigation of the negative impacts and enhancement of the positive impacts is carried out effectively throughout the life of the project.

An EMP should be systematically updated on a regular basis to ensure that best available technologies and best environmental management practices are implemented in a manner that is pragmatic, efficient and cost- effective.

The EMP may be prepared as a stand-alone document, or may be a separate chapter in the PER or EIS.

If the EMP is prepared as a stand-alone document it may mean that there may be some repetition of information from the PER or EIS
It should be noted that any resettlement or compensation matters are not part of the EMP, and should be presented separately.

Outcome objective for the EMP is outline below:

✓ To ensure activities are undertaken as specified in the PER or EIS and in accordance with applicable laws;

✓ To ensure proposed mitigation measures are appropriate and applicable to the identified potential adverse significant impacts, to avoid, minimize or compensate for the impacts;

✓ To ensure human health, safety and wellbeing are protected;
✓ To ensure areas of high conservation values for biodiversity are protected or managed;
✓ To ensure areas of natural scenic values or cultural importance are protected or managed;
✓ To ensure impacts associated with climate change or natural disasters are minimized, mitigated or relevant adaptation measures are in place.

The EMP shall include, as relevant, the following elements:

1. Executive Summary

Provide a summary of the key impacts identified for the different phases of the proposed prescribed development, and the measures that will be put in place to manage and monitor such impacts.

2. Details of the proponent/project developer
3. Details of the consultants or persons who prepared the EMP
4. Description of the prescribed development/project

This section should be based on the information provided in the PER or EIS.

5. Legal requirements

This section should present the legislation, standards, guidelines etc. related to environmental and social aspects of the project.

6. Institutional roles and responsibilities

This section should identify the different roles and responsibilities of the developer and institutions at the different stages of the prescribed development. In particular it should identify who should update the EMP based on detailed designs, who incorporates that into the bid and contract documents, civil works contractor to prepare construction or site-specific EMP based on proponents EMP.
This section should also identify who monitors compliance with the EMP.

7. Summary of impacts

This section should summarize the anticipated negative environmental and social impacts identified in the PER or EIS that must be mitigated, and which are addressed in this EMP.

8. Description of proposed mitigation measures

This section should set out clear and achievable targets and quantitative indicators of the level of mitigation required. Each measure should be briefly described in relation to the impacts and conditions under which it is required.

It may be necessary to sub-divide this section between the different phases of the proposed project: construction, operation and decommissioning.

WHAT IS A CEMP

A CEMP is an initial for Construction Environment Management Plan. It describes how activities undertaken during the construction phase of development will be managed to avoid or mitigate environmental or nuisance impacts, and how those environmental management requirements will be implemented.

CEMP is another tool that assists in strengthening safeguard systems and develop the capacity to manage environmental and social risks in construction works.

Various internationally funded project like SIIP/AusAID has been assisting the Government of Solomon Islands (SIG), for e.g. the Naha Birthing and Urban Health Center in the implementation of infrastructure projects by providing safeguard capacity to its project as a requirement that must be addressed by the contractor.

PURPOSE OF A CEMP

The purpose of a CEMP is to document and describe the main activities that will be undertaken to facilitate a construction project and to provide a framework of environmental protection measures that will be implemented prior to commencement of and throughout the duration of the proposed works.

A CEMP should be prepared when there is a risk that construction activities could cause environmental harm or environmental nuisance.

The purpose of a CEMP is to;

• Provide effective, site-specific procedures and mitigation measures to monitor and control environmental impacts throughout the construction phase of the project

• Ensure that construction activities so far as is practical do not adversely impact amenity, traffic or the environment in the surrounding area.

- A CEMP ensures that environmental impacts identified during previously performed environmental studies (e.g. an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)) or during the scoping phase, will be properly managed and that controls will be put in place to reduce the impacts of the development on the natural and human environment during construction.

- CEMP should detail the extent to which environmental effects, impacts, and risks exist and will be mitigated during the construction phase.

This Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been prepared as supporting documentation for the application for the proposed project.

A CEMP will be provided to the appointed Contractor prior to the commencement of works and will form the basis of the Contractor's CEMP which the appointed Contractor will be required to develop and prepare for approval by **project funding agency/implementation agency prior to commencement of any works**.

It is the responsibility of the funding/implementing agency to ensure that the requirements of a CEMP are implemented in full.

A CEMP needs to contain sufficient information to demonstrate that potential impacts on the environment, and public health and services have been identified, and suitable measures to mitigate those impacts will be applied prior to and during construction.

Minimum require contents of a CEMP

A CEMP should include the following general information about the project:

- ✓ a description of the site location and the surrounding environment, including the location of ecologically sensitive areas
- ✓ a description of the project construction works to be undertaken, including timeframes and construction hours
- ✓ identification and analysis of potential environmental impacts, including environmental hazards and risks, proposed mitigation measures and any residual risks
- ✓ identification and description of the management measures to be implemented to mitigate.

- ✓ contractor for the site.
- ❖ should have authority to call for immediate close of works if an issue arises.
- ❖ should have authority to undertake investigations into the issue that has arisen.
- ❖ should have authority to call for a recommencement of works after investigation and mitigation of impacts.
- ❖ should have responsibility for managing communications and complaints. – should have responsibility for notifying ECD and other relevant stakeholders if serious or material environmental harm from pollution is caused or threatened in the course of an activity undertaken.

- ✓ identification of appropriate reporting and verification measures
- ✓ description of appropriate contingencies to be implemented if management measures are identified as being ineffective and/or result in environmental nuisance.

The CEMP could also include information on any higher-level environmental management systems, work procedures, document control, corrective action and review procedures.

WHEN WILL ECD SEEK a CEMP

A Development Consent issued by ECD can have conditions relating to the minimization of environmental harm and local nuisance during a project and in this case, the construction phase. A recommended condition is the requirement to prepare a CEMP.

When assessing a referred development proposal, ECD may seek a CEMP as part of a project assessment-EMP, or advise or direct that a condition within the development consent be requiring preparation of a CEMP to the satisfaction of the ECD be attached to the consent.

SUMMARY OF COMPONENTS OF CEMP:

1. Introduction
- ✓ Project overview
- ✓ Purpose of this Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan
- ✓ Legislation and Other Requirements
- ✓ Roles and Responsibilities

2. Project Description- This outlines the planned works required of the project.

3. Proposed Activities
- ✓ Construction Programme
- ✓ Site Clearance and Preparation

4. Control Measures
- ✓ General Environmental Rules during Construction
- ✓ Vegetation Clearance
- ✓ Pollution Control

- ✓ Pre-Construction Confirmatory Surveys
- ✓ Noise Control Measures
- ✓ Traffic
- ✓ Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan
- ✓ Training and Environmental Awareness Induction

5. Conclusion

This Construction Environmental Management Plan has been developed to outline the environmental principles to be adopted to ensure that potential environmental impacts associated with the construction processes are effectively prevented, managed, minimized and /or eliminated based on the information available.

This CEMP will be developed and updated by the Contractor prior to the commencement of the works and in agreement with the funding/implementing agency.

CHALLENGES IN EMP and CEMP

- Institutional Capacity of competent authority to fully enforce the process (includes human and financial resources)
- Poor knowledge and awareness make EMP implementation unnecessary due to the lack of motivation.
- There is a negative attitude among construction industry toward EMP implementation
- Non-compliance by developers.
- Monitoring
- Enforcement