



Skill-building in Environmental Impact Assessment: The Transect Walk Exercise

Briefing and Classroom Preparation

GEMS Environmental Compliance-
ESDM Training Series

Akosombo, Ghana ▪ January, 2017



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Prepare the participants for the 'Transect Walk' exercise during which participants will practice EIA skills
- Become familiar with the exercise format
- Understand how to utilize the information collected during the exercise



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO LEARN DURING THE EXERCISE?

1. How to define baseline conditions
2. How to define activities
3. How to determine which conditions are relevant for the potential activities
4. How to determine the potential environmental impacts of activities

WHAT ARE THE BASELINE (OR INITIAL) CONDITIONS?

- Baseline conditions include the *physical, chemical, biological, socio-economic and cultural* characteristics that exist in the environment where the project will have to be implemented.
- It is important to focus on **the conditions that could be affected by the proposed activities** or are important to the success of the implementation of the activity.



FOR EXAMPLE...

BASELINE CONDITIONS

- For a drinking water drilling project, key baseline conditions to study may include:
 - Availability and quality of surface and underground water
 - Soil characteristics
 - Incidence of water-borne diseases
 - Water management structures by local authorities or communities
 - Subsistence activities in the region
 - Culturally or archeologically important sites
- Irrelevant conditions may include:
 - Air Quality
 - Ambient noise level
 - Vision/Landscape
 - Biodiversity status (threatened and endangered)

TRANSECT WALK SITES

Group 1: Laundry Area

Group 2: Kitchen and Waste Management

Group 3: Pool and garden grounds

Group 4: Hotel general infrastructure (new building and road)

METHODOLOGY

1. Listen carefully to the description of the scenarios and the instructions from the hotel's personnel
2. Define Roles and Responsibilities in the group (note-takers, photographer, interviewer, presenter)
3. Read the 'Observation form' that you will use during the inspection (in the Participants Manual)

METHODOLOGY

4. When groups are assigned, walk along hotel areas to which you have been assigned and identify and observe the key elements for determining the initial/baseline conditions
5. Interview hotel staff
6. Take notes of all your observations in the form

Good Luck!