

# Session 10.

## Field-Based Scoping Practicum

### *Field visit and practical exercise*

#### Objectives

Through facilitated field visits participants will further develop and apply the practical EIA skills and environmental compliance approaches introduced and discussed up to this point of the workshop, with emphasis on the Environmental Assessment (EA) scoping process and its outputs. This session also strengthens familiarity with the *Sector Environmental Guidelines* as a key resource in the preparation of Scoping Statements and other environmental compliance and management documentation.

#### Summary

This field-based exercise is not an isolated activity; it puts into practice the tools and methods presented in the classroom, and approximates our role as development professionals in achieving environmental compliance and ESDM. Once back from the field, participants will combine site- and activity-specific data and information with core EIA skills in a small-group format to prepare documentation related to the EA scoping process.

Each group will present their documentation and any related key findings to the larger training group for further discussion and observations.

This session is divided into four components:

- **Session 10a:** Briefing and classroom preparation
- **Session 10b:** Site visit
- **Session 10c:** Small-group work
- **Session 10d:** Group presentations in plenary

#### **10a: Field-Based Scoping Practicum—Briefing and prep. (15 min's)**

During this pre-site visit session participants will receive instruction on the methodology and the objectives of the skill-building exercise. This briefing and short classroom preparation will enable participants to understand the general project scenarios to be assessed. The technical areas for the skill-building exercise include:

1. Municipal Water/Sanitation Provision
2. Large-Scale Construction

Participants will have already selected or been assigned to one of the above technical areas. Individual small groups will form at this time; each group should listen carefully for additional detail on the project sites. Groups will then have a few minutes to review relevant resources or documentation, consult with their accompanying trainer/facilitator, and to confer as a team on a general approach or issues related to the site visit. Questions and issues for discussion include:

- 1) Use the *Sector Environmental Guidelines* and other resources—including your own experience—to identify the types of adverse environmental impacts typically associated with the site or activity you will be visiting.
- 2) Discuss any other aspects of the design or management of these types of activities that are not environmentally sound.
- 3) Drawing from the EIA skill-building exercise, consider the most relevant aspects of the baseline situation that should be observed and assessed in the field.
- 4) Discuss which mitigation measures could be employed to avoid, reduce, or offset potential adverse environmental impacts.
- 5) Review the structure/organization of the scoping documentation.
- 6) Consider what information to collect in the field and what questions to ask the site visit host, project beneficiaries, or other stakeholders. Assign roles, as appropriate, within the group for data collection and/or any interviews.
- 7) Identify the following roles within each group:
  - Chairperson:
  - Recorder:
  - Spokesperson:

### **10b: Field-Based Scoping Practicum—Site visit (approx. 4 hrs.)**

Participants will use group transportation and proceed to the designated project site. Each group will be accompanied by at least one workshop trainer/facilitator. Please bring to the field:

- Notepad/pen
- Camera (if possible)
- Closed-toe shoes (or boots) and a hat
- Sunscreen/sunglasses
- Water bottle

Use your eyes and ears to gather information that will enable preparation of the scoping documentation. Don't forget to consider the opinions and concerns of beneficiaries and the local community, asking them about the project's environmental, social and economic impacts and their recommendations.

**10c: Field-Based Scoping Practicum—Small-group work (approx. 2.5 hrs.)**

Once back from the field, each small group will collaborate to prepare the scoping documentation based on the preceding field visits, as well as ongoing trainer/facilitator input and guidance.

During this time, participants will synthesize field observations and formulate and prioritize findings for presentation in the form of the scoping exercise documentation.

**10d: Field-Based Scoping Practicum—Group presentations in plenary (approx. 1.5 hrs.)**

This component will provide an opportunity for each working group to present its scoping documentation as based on the field visit and subsequent small-group synthesis and collaboration.

Each group's findings/recommendations will be presented to the training group at large and key elements or aspect discussed in plenary form.