EIA in Action: Understanding Your Project’s Environmental Dimensions

GEMS Environmental Compliance-ESDM Training Series

Jordan • March 2018
SESSION OBJECTIVES:

- Practice fundamental skills in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Prioritize potential impacts and discuss possible alternatives (for a theoretical project)
- Formulate mitigation strategies
- Present findings and recommendations to inform activity decision making
- Share perspectives, opinions, expertise in a group setting
THE PROCESS:

- This exercise has two components:
  - A “virtual” field visit
  - Small-group consultation and de-briefing
- You will visit a theoretical project site—you will make observations, collect information, and understand proposed implementation
- Small groups will confer to develop a general assessment of environmental conditions and potential project impacts
- Key points or considerations are prepared and delivered in a 5-min. de-briefing for senior managers
THE PROJECT SCENARIO—CONTEXT:

• You are part of a successful agriculture sector project:
  – Horticulture (vegetables)—income generation/economic growth
  – Water conservation—natural resource management
• Project is mid-way through implementation and the donor is looking for opportunities to “scale-up”
• Local governorate (liked by donor) is requesting project support to bolster a popular “urban farming” initiative
• Your small planning team is tasked to review and assess environmental dimensions
THE PROJECT SCENARIO—OBJECTIVES:

• Expand a successful project
• Put unused urban space to productive purpose
• Provide economic opportunity to local community groups
• Model high-value horticulture using water-conserving techniques
• Local access to safe, high-quality vegetables
THE PROJECT SCENARIO—PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:

• Up to 10 greenhouses for horticultural production will be constructed on a reclaimed former bus depot at edge of city center (2 ha site)

• Project site would also include small office block with classroom and multi-purpose/community room; small kitchen and bathrooms

• Separate storage facilities required for pesticides, fertilizer and other agricultural equipment and supplies

• Vehicle access will require a new entrance to limit traffic congestion; direct route is via a residential quarter
THE PROJECT SCENARIO—IMPLEMENTATION:

- Up to three cooperatives will administer greenhouses, oversee production and maintain site—at least one has social mission to assist physically handicapped
- Project will manage a retail outlet at site with pedestrian access only off of main thoroughfare
- Farming operations will cover full cost of utilities:
  - Possible borehole required; no existing municipal water/sewerage service to site
  - Genset may be needed to operate drip irrigation system, cold storage
THE PROJECT SCENARIO—UNRESOLVED:

- Site currently used informally for grazing; athletics (football) by displaced persons
- Possible artefacts (broken clay) have been found at project site in the past; proximate to well known (but unexcavated) ancient sugar mill site
YOUR FIELD ITINERARY…

• Quick visit to greenhouses; pick up operations manager
• Survey new site
• Talk with neighbors
• Meet with Governorate

Bring your hat and sunglasses!
GREENHOUSE OPERATIONS
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PROPOSED SITE
OFFICE BLOCK & CLASSROOM
STORAGE FACILITY
ADJACENT RESIDENTIAL AREA
PROPOSED RETAIL ACCESS
NEARBY MILL SITE
CONSULTATIONS
BACK AT THE OFFICE…

• Confer on most environmentally significant aspects of:
  – Baseline conditions for project activities
  – Proposed interventions
  – Potential impacts

• Discuss possible alternatives and potential mitigation strategies

• Summarize findings and any recommendations to inform project strategy and decision making

• Secretary confirms agenda for next executive meeting—your team to de-brief senior managers!

Time to Prepare