

The Real Principles of EIA Monitoring

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The Real Principles of EIA Monitoring

- Presentation deals with
- Guiding principles for monitoring studies in environmental impact assessment
- Professional practice and not academic studies
- Conditions of approval for projects

The Real Principles of EIA Monitoring

- Management oriented
- Related to information gaps identified in an EIA document
- Limitations on monitoring studies (AEM)
- Undertaken, not for all impacts, but only for impacts that are important and about which we do not know enough
- Designed for action, to manage impacts

The Real Principles of EIA

Monitoring

- Monitoring vs Follow up vs Monitoring, evaluation and management
- Monitoring = repeated data collection
- Follow up defined in CEAA vs international use of the term
- Monitoring evaluation and management

Management Oriented

- Get information needed to manage project
- May get information from one project for application to other projects
- Cost considerations (proponent (project) vs government (other projects) funds???)
- Cumulative effects monitoring
 - Shared responsibility

Information Gaps

- Purpose of identifying information gaps is for deciding about the proposed project
 - Not about science
- Information gaps may lead to necessary follow-up studies to fill the gaps
 - enable better environmental management
- Conditions of approval or further study prior to approval

Limitations on Follow-up Studies

- Adaptive Environmental Management not useful for project management if the impacts cannot be managed (limitations)
 - If monitoring leads to detection after impact occurs, it may be too late
 - If monitoring identifies impact for which mitigation is too costly, it is too late

Do Monitoring for Selected Impacts

- Impacts that are important AND
- Impacts about which enough information is not available
- Such impacts are determined in environmental impact assessment

Design Monitoring and Management Studies to Manage Impacts

- Project impacts vs EIA development
- Critical importance of early warning indicators
 - e.g., DO not dead fish
 - E.g., trends, not exceedences
- Responsibilities of the various participants (proponent, government, community, etc.) need to be developed and well understood as soon as possible