What is Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)?

Worksheet

EIA is a preventive environmental management tool that identifies, predicts and evaluates a project's effects on the environment, then recommends safeguards to minimize harm.

Questions

1. EIA is typically performed

A) before the project starts
B) during construction
C) after the project is completed
D) only if impacts occur

2. Which is NOT a typical EIA phase?

A) Scoping
B) Impact prediction
C) Profit analysis
D) Mitigation design

3. Scoping in EIA means

A) taking photographs of the site
B) defining issues and boundaries to study
C) checking the project scope of work
D) surveying the land area

4. Who typically reviews and approves an EIA report?

A) The project contractor
B) Environmental regulatory authorities
C) The project budget manager
D) Local residents only

5. A hydroelectric dam project in a river valley. What environmental aspects must EIA assess?

6. A new airport is proposed near a national bird sanctuary. What is the key concern in EIA?

7. A cement factory expansion in an urban area. Name three environmental parameters to assess.

8. Define: What does EIA stand for?

9. Define: Why is EIA required?

10. Define: Name the main phases of EIA.

Answer Key

1. A) before the project starts - EIA is a preventive tool - it assesses impacts before construction begins so mitigation can be designed.

2. C) Profit analysis - Profit analysis is a financial feasibility study, not part of EIA's environmental assessment.

3. B) defining issues and boundaries to study - Scoping defines what environmental aspects will be assessed and the spatial/temporal boundaries.

4. B) Environmental regulatory authorities - Government environmental agencies review EIA reports and decide whether to approve the project.

5. Water quality (sediment, temperature), aquatic ecosystems (fish habitat), land use (submersion), downstream water flow, and community displacement. This requires study of hydrological data, ecological surveys and social baseline.

6. Noise impact on bird breeding and migration; habitat fragmentation; wildlife collision risk. EIA would model noise contours, survey bird populations, and design mitigation (soundproofing, flight corridors).

7. Air quality (dust, particulates, CO), noise levels, and groundwater contamination risk. Stack emissions, fugitive dust sources, and waste disposal must be monitored per EIA.

8. Environmental Impact Assessment - a process to evaluate a project's effects on the environment before it starts.

9. To identify environmental risks early, propose mitigation measures, and gain regulatory approval before construction.

10. Screening, scoping, impact prediction, mitigation design, and review & approval.