
Annex 3 : Initial Environmental Evaluations

A3.1 What is an Initial Environmental Evaluation?

The term “**Initial Environmental Evaluation**” refers to a limited environmental study which describes a proposed project, the environment surrounding that project, and identifies and evaluates any likely impacts on that environment. It is accompanied by a **Comprehensive Mitigation Plan** which describes the arrangements for implementing mitigation measures to reduce those impacts.

Projects assigned to category 2, will require an **IEE**. For **IEE**, project impacts are usually limited to a small number of significant negative impacts, where the nature of those impacts is well understood, and the size and nature of those impacts mean that the relevant mitigation actions are well known and easily implemented.

It is obvious that an **IEE** is similar in many respects to an **EIA** study, but there are several important differences:

- The Swaziland Environment Authority does not need to approve a **Scoping Report** for an **IEE** study.
- The level of detail expected in the identification and investigation of impacts is much lower.
- The **IEE / CMP** Report is a much briefer document. The **IEE** Report is restricted to 20 pages in length (50 pages including technical annexes) as opposed to 100 pages for an **EIA** Report (200 pages including technical annexes).

Despite the fact that the same level of detail as a full **EIA** is not required, expert opinion will still be required to verify the nature of impacts expected and conduct the basic investigations required. The **IEE** is **not** a desk study and will still require sound field work and investigation of the key impacts. Therefore, without relevant experience and technical knowledge, appropriate professional consultancy advice will be needed by a project proponent to carry out an **IEE** to the standards required by the Swaziland Environment Authority.

The difference between Category 2 (**IEE**) and Category 3 (**EIA**) projects is further discussed in [Annex 1](#).

Note:

Although unlikely, in certain cases the **IEE** study can reveal that the likely impacts are more significant or larger in number than was at first expected. The Swaziland Environment Authority may in such cases reassign the project to category 3 and require a full **EIA** study to be carried out.

A3.2 The Role of the IEE Report

The role of the **IEE** Report in the authorisation process is effectively the same as that described for the EIA Report in Annex 4.

Similarly to an EIA Report, the **IEE** Report must be accompanied by a **Comprehensive Mitigation Plan** or **CMP**. The **CMP** forms an integral part of the **IEE** Report and demonstrates the project proponent's commitment and ability to implement the proposed mitigation and compensation measures. The role of the **CMP** in relation to the **IEE** Report is discussed in Section A3.4 below.

An **IEE** Report will not be accepted by the Swaziland Environment Authority unless accompanied by the corresponding **Comprehensive Mitigation Plan**.

A3.3 Style and Content of an IEE Report

The style and content of the **IEE** Report presented below represents the interpretation of the Second Schedule of the Environmental Audit, Assessment and Review Regulations which the Swaziland Environment Authority will use when assessing the adequacy of an **IEE** Report submitted for review.

A3.3.1 Style of the IEE Report

The **IEE** Report is intended to be a clearly written summary of the proposed development and its likely environmental impacts and should therefore be:

- Not longer than 20 pages (a total length of 50 pages including technical annexes).
- Presented to make information accessible to the non-specialist, avoiding technical terminology where possible.
- Easy to read, presenting information in summary tables and using good quality maps, charts, diagrams and other visual aids wherever possible.
- Unbiased, discussing issues with the emphasis appropriate to their importance in the overall context of the **IEE** study.

A3.3.2 Content of the IEE Report

The minimum acceptable content of an **IEE** Report is as follows:

Introduction

A brief summary of the key points which presents only the main conclusions and options for decision-making (not an attempt to summarise all the contents of the **IEE** Report).

Policy and Legal Framework

Any relevant policy, legal, planning and administrative frameworks. These might include what building regulations apply, whether the location is zoned for the proposed development and what local and national Government bodies, and town councils are involved in approving and operating the proposed development.

Project Description

A brief summary description of the development; its purpose, scale and design (including the land requirements), a schedule for implementation, expected inputs, outputs and wastes or byproducts expected during construction and operation.

Description of the Baseline Environment

A brief description of the surrounding location and the environment likely to be affected by the proposed project. This should also be described as it could be expected to develop without the project - the “zero option”.

Identification and Evaluation of Impacts

A description and evaluation of the potential impacts on the environment and any uncertainties, data gaps or assumptions involved. Data sources and information used in the identification and evaluation process should be referenced.

Mitigation Measures

Reference to mitigation and compensation measures as they affect the impact investigation and evaluation process should be included but detailed descriptions of mitigation and compensation measures and arrangements for their implementation are formulated into a Comprehensive Mitigation Plan (see section **A3.4** below).

Consultation and Participation Arrangements

The interested and affected parties consulted and involved in the preparation of the **IEE** Report and details of how this consultation process was carried out (see Annex 7). The level of consultation and participation should be appropriate for the size and nature of the proposed development.

A3.4 The Comprehensive Mitigation Plan in the IEE process

The **Comprehensive Mitigation Plan**, or **CMP**, should follow the form and content described in Annex 5 but it is acknowledged that the level of detail required will reflect the more limited nature of an **IEE** study. Therefore certain aspects, such as the section on institutional capacity may not be required in all cases.

The basic principle that will be used by the Swaziland Environment Authority in evaluating the **CMP** will be, that the **CMP** must describe the proposed mitigation and compensation measures and demonstrate the project proponent’s commitment and capability to (i) implement those measures, and (ii) apply sound environmental management practices during implementation and operation of the proposed project.