

## Preface

This publication is a companion volume to the *UNEP Environmental Impact Assessment Training Resource Manual*. It contains a series of case studies of EIA (and elements of SEA) practice in developing and transitional countries. As with the Manual itself, EIA centres and training institutions in developing countries are invited to take ownership of the case studies, and to further develop them for use in their region or country.

The case studies have been prepared by EIA specialists from developing countries to exemplify how the EIA process is implemented in different parts of the developing world and to identify difficulties that are commonly encountered in EIA practice in this context. No claim is made that these studies are representative of the status of EIA in particular countries or of best (or worst) practice. Their purpose is to provide supporting materials for EIA trainers who are designing and delivering courses based on the various topics covered in the Manual.

It is intended that the case studies will be of use in two main ways:

First, they can be incorporated into customised training materials to give them added relevance and realism. Collectively, the compendium of studies can be reviewed to select examples and aspects of interest that correspond to one of the training topics contained in the Manual and approximate to the local situation.

Second, the studies can be used as 'reference points' or 'building blocks' to develop specific cases that reflect experience and issues of EIA practice in a country or region. In using the Manual, EIA trainers are encouraged to prepare locally appropriate materials, including case studies and examples.

### **Case studies as resource aids**

The Manual is a generic tool kit for use by EIA trainers, particularly those in developing and transitional countries. The main objective is to facilitate the preparation of training courses and materials that are specific to a particular country or region. Resource aids are included to help EIA trainers to identify the needs of participants and to custom-design courses to meet them. There is guidance on the sources of EIA information that will be useful when preparing training courses and materials for each topic. EIA reports and supporting documents have been identified as particularly relevant as a resource for preparing locally appropriate case studies.

Case studies based on EIA Reports are one of the best means of relating EIA training to local conditions and realities. In particular, appropriate case studies offer lessons and insights on EIA strengths and weaknesses locally. They are valuable for a number of purposes, including:

- demonstrating the institutional arrangements and procedures for EIA implementation in a given country;
- illustrating how the main steps and activities of the EIA process are carried out locally;
- considering the environmental settings and types of impacts that are typically addressed in EIA practice; and
- highlighting key trends and issues of EIA practice, including areas where capacity needs to be improved.

However, copies of EIA reports are not always readily obtainable in many developing countries or they may be too descriptive to be easily translated into a case study. Indeed, relatively few case studies of EIA practice in developing countries are available in the literature of the field.

This compendium of cases has been compiled to help fill that gap.