Aims and objectives of SIA are to:

- analyse how proposals affect people

- identify and mitigate adverse impacts

- enhance benefits

- help manage social change

Scope of SIA

- SIA conducted under EIA legislation and procedure

- scope of SIA differs with jurisdictional arrangements

- initially limited to environmentally-related changes

- larger range of social impacts now considered

- comprehensive SIA often a separate process

- focuses on social issues of sustainable development, poverty alleviation and justice

Causes of social impacts

- demographic change, e.g. population size and composition

- economic change, e.g. employment and income

- environmental change, e.g. air and water quality

- institutional change, e.g. law and administration

Types of social impact

- lifestyle – behaviour and relationships

- cultural – customs, values and religious beliefs

- community – infrastructure, services and networks

- amenity/ quality of life – sense of security, livability and futurity

- health – mental and physical well being

SIA benefits can include:

- reduced impact on people

- enhanced benefits for those affected

- avoiding delays and obstruction

- lowering costs by timely actions

- better community and stakeholder relationships

- improved future proposals

Steps in the SIA process

- public involvement plan

- identification of alternatives

- profiling of baseline conditions

- scoping of key issues

- projection of estimated effects

- prediction and evaluation of responses to impacts

Steps in the SIA process

(continued)

- estimate indirect and cumulative impacts

- recommend changes to alternatives

- develop and implement a mitigation plan

- develop and implement a monitoring programme

Principles of SIA good practice

- involve the diverse public

- analyse impact equity

- focus the assessment

- identify methods and assumptions and define significance

- provide feedback on social impacts to project planners

Principles of SIA good practice

(continued)

- use experienced SIA practitioners

- establish monitoring and mitigation programmes

- identify data sources

- plan for gaps in data

Sources of SIA information

- data on the proposal

- experience with similar actions

- census and vital statistics

- secondary documents

- survey and field research

Methods commonly used for predicting social impacts include:

- trend extrapolations

- population multipliers

- use of expert knowledge

- scenario building

- comparative studies

Basis of good practice in prediction of social impacts

- understanding those affected and their likely responses

- comparisons with experience in similar cases

- use of appropriate expertise and knowledge base

Good practice in analysing impact equity

- predict adverse impacts

- specify for each group

- explain reasons for variations

- highlight impacts on vulnerable groups

- guard against representational bias

Good practice in impact mitigation and management

- ◆ identify mitigation measures for each impact

- ◆ customise them to the different groups affected

- ◆ give priority to avoiding social impacts

- ◆ then minimise them as far as practicable

- ◆ use compensation as a last resort

- ◆ ensure impacts are not borne disproportionately by one group

Good practice in impact mitigation and management

(continued)

- no one should be worse off than before

- treat relocation/resettlement as a special case

- livelihoods of those displaced should be improved

- enhance benefits for local people through job training and development packages