

**MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

**PROCEDURES FOR THE PREPARATION
OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Approved by the Ministry of
Tourism and the Environment

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INTRODUCTION

Environmental Impact Assessment

Over the past two decades, environmental impact assessment has gained widespread acceptance as a tool for promoting environmentally sound development practices. EIA reflects a preventative approach to environmental management. Rather than responding to environmental problems after the fact, EIA enables decision makers to avoid problems before they occur. Using EIA procedures, decision makers can predict the effects of a range of development scenarios, develop plans for minimizing negative environmental impacts, and, armed with this knowledge, select a wise course of action.

Environmental Impact Assessment is thus a procedure used to examine the environmental consequences, both beneficial and adverse, of a proposed development project and to ensure that these consequences are taken into account in project design. The EIA evaluates the expected effects on human health, on the natural and cultural environment and on property, as well as on local communities. The EIA should consider alternative project designs (including the "no-action alternative") as well as mitigation measures or environmental safeguards that should be incorporated into project design to ensure from the outset that the project is sound and sustainable.

Environmental impact assessments provide information to developers, managers, planning authorities and the people likely to be affected by projects. It does this in a way which identifies and addresses environmental impacts promptly. Ideally, environmental impact assessment should happen at the very earliest stage of a project so that relevant environmental concerns are taken into account in all decisions.

The EIA is one of the most commonly used environmental management tools. It is applied to new projects and existing projects which are undergoing expansion. Undertaking of the EIA is stipulated under sections 20 to 22 of the Environmental Protection Act.

OBJECTIVES OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN BELIZE

Environmental Impact Assessment will be needed to assist the implementation of sustainable development in a practical way. In addition, EIA is fundamentally a process to achieve protection and management of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of environmental quality. Therefore within these contexts the objectives of EIA are:

- ! to ensure that decisions are made on a timely basis and on sound environmental advice;

- ! to encourage and provide opportunities for public participation in environmental aspects of proposals before decisions are taken;
- ! to ensure that proponents of proposals take primary responsibility for the protection of the environment relating to their proposals;
- ! to facilitate environmentally sound proposals by minimizing adverse impacts and maximizing benefits to the environment;
- ! to provide a basis for ongoing environmental management through the use of monitoring;
- ! to apply EIA procedures equally to both public and private sector developments;
- ! to protect biodiversity and ecosystem integrity;
- ! to provide net community benefits from proposals that are implemented;
- ! to exercise caution in dealing with environmental risk and irreversibility.

Given the importance of EIAs in Belize, the EIA process will require the interaction of various Government agencies as well as the developer in order to ensure that there is effective compliance with the EIA Procedures.

The developer would be required to be familiar with the Environmental Protection Act (and any relevant regulations) as well as the EIA Procedures. In addition, the developer would be required to provide full and accurate information in order to expedite the EIA process. The developer would also be expected to contact the permitting agency to obtain an initial determination as to whether the project falls within a category requiring an EIA. In the event that the project was referred to the Department of the Environment (DOE), then the developer would be required to maintain close contact with DOE and also supply all required information to DOE. As regards to the permitting agencies their roles would be to do the initial screening as to whether an EIA would be required. This determination would be based on the Environmental Protection Act and any applicable regulations as well as these EIA Procedures. The DOE's function would be to coordinate the activities required under the EIA Procedures; to provide information to developers and permitting agencies; to chair public meetings on EIAs; to ensure full public participation on EIAs; and, to act as the Secretariat for the Review Committee. The Review Committee would provide a screening

of projects referred to DOE for determination as to whether an EIA should be conducted or the extent or level of environmental studies to be done; evaluate the EIA or the environmental studies submitted; review the comments of government agencies, NGOs and the public on the EIA; and recommend what action should be taken in respect of the EIA or the environmental studies submitted.

The EIA Procedures dealt with in these Guidelines addresses the following matters:

- the statutory basis for EIA (this deals with the relevant statutory provisions of the Environmental Protection Act, the Mines and Minerals Act and the National Lands Act);
- the implications of the EIA Procedures;
- the relationship of the EIA Procedures to the existing permitting agencies and the nature of the permits being issued;
- preparation of the terms of reference of the EIA;
- the contents of the EIA report;
- the determination of the need for public hearings;
- the composition of the Review Committee;
- the submission of the EIA to the Review Committee for evaluation;
- the decision to approve or reject the EIA;
- the appeal procedures when the project has not been approved;
- monitoring and compliance.

Procedures For The Preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment

		--- GOVERNMENTAL REVIEW ---	No public
		INFORMAL/FORMAL	review
			formal panel/
			hearing
Interested parties	---	INFORMAL PUBLIC	Public
Public/NGO's		REVIEW	--- comments
Others			for
			consideration
Expert panel			
review Public		FORMAL PUBLIC	
formal comments	---	HEARING	---

Appeal	---	GOVERNMENT DECISION	--- Proceed as
			proposed.
			Proceed with
			modifications.
			Do not
			proceed.
		FURTHER STUDIES	
		AND/OR PROJECT	
		---	---
		MODIFICATIONS	
			Issued
			detailed
		ENVIRONMENTAL	
Government decision		MANAGEMENT	
made public		PLAN/PERMITTING	---
		ENVIRONMENTAL	
		EFFECTS	
		MONITORING	

DEFINITION

The EIA is defined as a process by which the environmental impacts of an undertaking or project are predicted and evaluated.

The process involves going through various steps and guidelines. These Procedures outlines the steps to be taken under the EPA Act.

The process is integral to the project development process and therefore in most cases the EIA should originate with agencies other than DOE since project proposals would normally go to stipulated agencies.

Procedures For The Preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment

At the screening stage it may be determined that the project does not require an EIA. In such cases the process normally terminates with the granting of an approval, unless there are other permits to be granted by other agencies or if the approval is subject to certain conditions.

Where an EIA is required, however, it is necessary to develop the Scope and Terms of Reference (TORS) for the project.

The Environmental Impact Assessment report contains an assessment of the impacts of the proposed development on the human and physical environment and includes proposals to avoid or lessen adverse impacts. Concerns normally addressed include:

- ! conservation, re-arrangement and utilization of natural resources i.e. land, air, water and plant and animal life;
- ! prevention and control of pollution of natural resources;
- ! prevention of noise and control of noise levels resulting from the operation or activity;
- ! economic factors that directly or indirectly affect the ability of the applicant to carry out the above measures;
- ! protection of natural resources for their aesthetic value;
- ! effects on social and economic conditions in the community.

APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

The EIA procedures will apply both to private sector as well as to Government and non-governmental agencies.

Where an EIA is required, however, it is necessary to develop the Scope and Terms of Reference (TORS) for the project.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EIAs are currently required under the Environmental Protection Act, the National Lands Act, and the Mines and Mineral Act. The Environmental Protection Act requires EIAs to be prepared by all persons who intend to undertake projects that may significantly affect the environment. Such EIAs are to be submitted to the DOE for evaluation. The Act requires that an EIA shall identify and evaluate the effects on human beings, flora and fauna, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets including the cultural heritage and landscape, natural resources, the ecological balance and any other factors which need to be taken into account.

Under the Environmental Protection Act the EIA is required to include measures which the developer intends to take to mitigate any adverse environmental effects and a statement of reasonable alternative sites. The Act specifically requires that every project, programme or activity shall be assessed with a view to the need to protect and improve human health and living conditions and the need to preserve the reproductive capacity of ecosystems as well as the diversity of species. The Act also requires that a proposed developer shall consult with the public and interested bodies.

The Environmental Protection Act prescribes a penalty of \$2,000 for failing to carry out an EIA. Further where a person has commenced a project without an EIA the DOE could under the provisions of section 38 of the Environmental Protection Act apply to the Supreme Court for an injunction. In addition, where loss or damage has been suffered a civil cause of action could arise under section 39 of the Environmental Protection Act.

Under section 9(4) of the National Lands Act every person who applies to lease 500 acres or more of national land shall be required to carry out an EIA before the determination of his lease application. In addition, under section 9(5) where the lease of national land is for less than 500 acres the Minister, in his discretion, may require that an EIA be provided by the person applying to lease national lands.

Every EIA provided under section 9 becomes the property of the Government of Belize.

In considering an application for a mining license under the Mines and Mineral Act the Minister may require environmental impact studies to be carried out by the applicant for a license.

There are currently no EIA regulations, and it is proposed that EIA regulations would be developed to provide a regulatory framework for EIAs. These regulations would contain a provision whereby an appeal could be made either to the Minister or to an independent tribunal against a decision of DOE refusing to approve an EIA.

ROLE OF THE PUBLIC IN THE EIA PROCESS

Consultation during EIA scoping

Scoping involves consultation to identify key issues and to develop EIA Terms of Reference. It is recommended that government agencies, NGO's and affected groups participate in the discussions that lead to the preparation of the Terms of Reference for the EIA.

Consultation during EIA preparation

Public consultation during EIA preparation can help clarify misconceptions and enhance social acceptability. Members of the public including NGO's and affected groups and local communities should be fully consulted during the preparation of the EIA.

Consultation about draft EIA report

The public would be involved in the review of the draft EIA Report.

Participation in the EIA review

An NGO representative would be a member of the Review Committee.

The public would thus be involved in a variety of ways including:

- (a) participating in the evaluation of proposals through offering advice, expressing opinions, providing local knowledge, proposing alternatives and commenting on how a proposal might be changed to better protect the environment;

Assessment

- (b) becoming involved in the early stages of the process as that is the most effective and efficient time to raise concerns;
- (c) becoming informed and involved in the administration and outcome of the environmental impact assessment process including monitoring and compliance activities;
- (d) taking a responsible approach to opportunities for public participation in the EIA process, including the seeking out of objective information about issues of concern.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Where DOE has ordered an EIA, the developer will be required to publish a notice in a newspaper advising the public that an EIA is to be conducted and also the person to be contacted for information.

Appropriate notices must be posted and the report placed in locations which makes it accessible to the public. A full formal public hearing may be required.

The purpose of the hearing is to facilitate the views of the public and to modify the project accordingly and incorporate these views and changes in the EIA report.

TIMETABLE

Screening Stage

1. The screening agency would respond to the developer within 2 weeks of the receipt of the Project Screening Form (See Appendix II pages 43 to 45).
2. In the case of projects referred to DOE by the screening agency, DOE would respond to the developer within 1 month after receipt of the Project Information Form (See Appendix III pages 46 to 53).

Evaluation of EIA

1. A decision on an EIA shall be made within 60 days after the receipt of the EIA by DOE unless further information or data is requested by DOE in which case 60 days from the receipt of such information or data.
2. In the event that a public hearing is required then:
 - (a) a decision on the EIA shall be made within 90 days after the submission of the EIA to the DOE unless further information or data is requested in which case 90 days from the receipt of such further information or data;
 - (b) a copy of the EIA shall be made available to the public within 10 days after its receipt by DOE;
 - (c) a public hearing must be held within 30 days after the submission of the EIA to DOE;
 - (d) the public has a period of 14 days after the date of the public hearing to make written submission on the EIA to DOE.

PREPARATION OF EIA

The developer would be required to prepare the EIA and to submit 12 copies of the EIA to DOE. The DOE would be responsible for distributing copies to the Review Committee, appropriate government agencies and NGOs.

APPEAL PROCEDURES

1. The appeal procedures are not currently provided for in the Environmental Protection Act but provisions for the appeal procedures could be contained in the EIA regulations.
2. It is expected that the developer would have the right to file an appeal against the decision of DOE refusing to allow the project to proceed based on the EIA.
3. Once appeal procedures are put in place it is recommended that the appeal be made to an

independent tribunal whose members would be drawn from a wide range of relevant disciplines.

Procedures For The Preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment

SECTION 2: THE SCREENING PROCESS

INTRODUCTION

The use of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as a tool for evaluating the impacts of a proposed project has gained more acceptance as the actual or potential problems produced by development projects become more evident and the need for ensuring environmental sustainability increases.

As the Environmental Impact Assessment attempts to formalize the system for undertaking and submitting EIAs, it also has to ensure that this practice does not unnecessarily overburden an already stressed system.

One method of attaining this objective is to develop a set of guidelines which can be applied to projects to identify and isolate those which must be subjected to a complete EIA. This evaluation is called the Screening Process.

The number of projects potentially subject to environmental assessments is very large. The screening provides a mechanism where small, routine projects which produce no substantial environmental impacts can be screened out and allowed to proceed without conducting an EIA.

The screening process will be of particular relevance to Schedule II and III projects. In the case of Schedule I projects an EIA will be mandatory but screening may still be necessary to determine whether the project is to be properly determined as to whether an EIA is required or only environmental impact studies and if the latter the nature and extent of such studies. In the case of Schedule III projects the screening process will determine whether the project falls within Schedule III in which case no EIA or environmental impact studies will be required.

There would be two levels of screening: (i) screening by the permitting agencies (ii) screening by the Review Committee.

Screening by the Permitting Agencies

All permitting agencies will be required to screen all projects in terms of the Environmental Protection Act and these EIA Procedures. The permitting agencies would require all applicants for permits to complete the Environmental Screening Form (see Appendix II page 43). Where a project falls within Schedule I (see page 13) then there would be an automatic referral for the project to be evaluated by the Review Committee. In the event that the proposal falls within Schedule II then the permitting agency would determine whether the project required an EIA. If an EIA is required or if the permitting agency is in doubt then the project would be referred to DOE for project appraisal by the Review Committee. In all such cases the permitting agency would request the applicant for the permit to complete the Preliminary Project Information Form (see page 46) which would be submitted to DOE.

Screening by the Review Committee

The Review Committee would screen all projects referred to it by DOE. Based on the Environmental Protection Act, the project proposal and these Procedures the Review Committee would make one of the following decisions:

1. that based on the project proposal and the Preliminary Project Information Form a full EIA should be conducted.
2. that the project requires further environmental impact studies in areas of concern to the Committee.
3. that no further information is necessary and that the project can proceed without an EIA or environmental impact studies. In these circumstances permits with specific conditions would be granted for these projects.

GUIDELINES

Projects will require an EIA either on their proposed location or the characteristics of the project itself. The guidelines will therefore be dealt with under these three major headings; location of project; nature of impact and other considerations.

Project Location

The selection of a screening category often depends substantially on the project setting, while the

"significance" of potential impacts is partly a function of the natural and sociocultural

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surroundings. There are a number of locations which should cause Schedule II projects to require an EIA. These include projects:

- ! in or near sensitive and valuable ecosystems-- wetlands, coral reefs and habitat of endangered species;
- ! in or near areas with archaeological and/or historical sites or existing cultural and social institutions;
- ! in densely populated areas, where resettlement may be required or pollution impacts and other disturbances may be significant;
- ! in regions subject to heavy development activities or where there are conflicts in natural resource allocation;
- ! along watercourses, in aquifer recharge areas or in reservoir catchments used for potable water supply;
- ! on lands or waters containing valuable resources (e.g., fisheries, minerals, medicinal plants, prime agricultural soils);
- ! in or near national centers;
- ! in areas already declared as national parks or other protected areas and areas proposed for national parks or areas of scientific and geological importance;
- ! in coastal areas up to 30 meters from the high tide line;
- ! in flood plains and other areas subject to flooding;
- ! on hills of more than 25 degrees slopes;
- ! near watercourses and banks;
- ! on or near beaches, caves, cayes and atolls.

Nature of Impacts

It is difficult to describe the nature of impacts without having some overlap with the concepts of sensitivity and

project type. The following are examples of impacts that warrant or may warrant an EIA:

! permanent conversion of potentially productive or valuable resources (e.g., fishery, natural forests, wetlands);

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! destruction of natural habitat and loss of biodiversity or environmental services provided by a natural system;

! risk to human health or safety (e.g., from generation, storage or disposal of hazardous wastes, inappropriate occupational health and safety measures, violation of ambient water or air quality standards);

! displacement of large numbers of people or businesses;

! absence of effective mitigatory or compensatory measures;

! all developments which discharge industrial effluent (including air emissions);

! all applications involving the building of individual sewage plants;

! all plants which have an initial projected output of more than fifty thousand (50,000) gallons per day of sewage;

! applications with proposed sites located in the primary flood plain of a major river or stream;

! proposed sites which are in proximity to unstable gully or stream banks;

! all applications for building in designated watershed areas;

! proposals which necessitate the clearing of large areas of vegetation.

Other Considerations

! Special Development Areas,
! Coastal Zone Management Plans,

- ! *Settlements expansion programs,*
- ! *Policy addressing Small Island development.*

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The Environmental Screening Form (ESF) will be sent to the agency receiving the proposal. This ESF will contain four (4) basic elements:-

! A description of the project;

! A description of the external environment of the project (location and region);

! An evaluation and prediction of how the project will impact on the natural and man-made environment and the socio-economics of human populations within the project's sphere of influence. Historical heritage and cultural resources should also be addressed;

! Proposed mitigation measures to prevent or reduce the adverse impact which have been identified.

Finally an environmental monitoring plan should also be developed.

Environmental Impact Assessment

Projects which have been determined by the screening process to require an EIA, and those which are still not clear, even after the evaluation of an EIA, must be submitted to the DOE for more detailed review.

It is the responsibility of the agency which carried out the screening process to advise the proponent of a project that it has been sent to the DOE for the above-mentioned purpose. The DOE must have a formal agreement with such agencies.

SECTION 3: CATEGORIES OF PROJECTS

There will be three categories of projects:

1. **Schedule I:** Full EIA required
2. **Schedule II:** A full EIA or some environmental analysis may be required depending on the location and size of the project and other considerations
3. **Schedule III:** No EIA required

Under section 20 of the Environment Protection Act any project that may significantly affect the environment requires an EIA. Schedule I projects are those projects that are likely to have adverse impacts that may be sensitive, irreversible and diverse. Schedule I projects often have one or more of the following attributes that make the potential impacts significant: direct pollutant discharges that are large enough to cause degradation of air, water, or soil; large-scale physical disturbance of the site and/or surroundings; extraction, consumption or conversion of substantial amounts of forest and other natural resources; measurable modification of hydrologic cycle; hazardous materials in more than incidental quantities; coastal erosion and the disturbance of the barrier reef; and involuntary displacement of people and other significant social disturbances. Many Schedule II projects differ from Schedule I projects only in scale. Large irrigation and drainage projects are usually Schedule I while small-scale project of the same type may fall into Schedule II. In a Schedule II project the impact may not be as serious as a Schedule I project depending on size, location and other considerations. Schedule III projects are those projects that have few if any environmental impacts and if any, such impacts are negligible, insignificant or minimal.

Schedule I Projects

The following will be considered as Schedule I projects:

A full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be completed for any project, program or activity with the following purposes:

- (a) A trading port or inland waterway which permits the passage of vessels or a port for inland waterway traffic capable of handling such vessels;
- (b) A waste-disposal installation for the incineration or chemical treatment or final disposal of waste;
- (c) An installation designed solely for the permanent storage or final disposal of any waste;
- (d) An integrated chemical installation, that is to say, an industrial installation or group of installations where two or more linked chemical or physical processes are employed;
- (e) Any airport;
- (f) Lease of more than five hundred (500) acres of National Lands;
- (g) Power generation plant, thermal (fossil fuels) and hydro-electric;
- (h) Major waterworks: dams, impoundments, alteration of river banks and shoreline, alteration of ground water, diversion of water courses, modification of stream flows.

Infrastructure Projects

- (a) Construction of hospitals with outfall into beach fronts and rivers;
- (b) Industrial developments for medium and heavy industries;
- (c) Construction of National highways;
- (d) Construction of new townships.

Chemical Industry

- and
fungicides,
- (a) The treatment of intermediate products
production of chemicals (insecticides,
herbicides and other pesticides);
- (b) The production of pesticides or
pharmaceutical products, paints,
varnishes, elastomers or peroxides;
- (c) Industrial carbon;
- (d) Alkalies;
- (e) Electrochemicals (metallic sodium,
potassium and magnesium, chlorides,
perchlorates and peroxides);
- abrasive,
- (f) Electrothermal products (artificial
calcium carbides);
- (g) Phosphorous and its compounds;
- (h) Nitrogenous compounds (cyanides,
cyanamides and other nitrogenous
compounds);
- (i) Halogens and halogenated compounds
(chlorine, fluorine, bromine and iodine);
- explosives,
- (j) Explosives (including industrial
detonators and fuses);
- (k) Any hazardous substances identified in
Section II Part I of the Environmental
Protection Act.

Petroleum

- _____ (a) Oil exploration;
- (b) Oil production;
- (c) Oil refining;
- (d) Lubricating oils and greases.

Cement

- _____ (a) Production and bagging of cement;
- (b) Asbestos cement products.

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Assessment

Drugs and Pharmaceutical

Manufacturing of drugs and pharmaceutical including vitamins, antibiotics and indigenous systems of medicines.

Energy Projects

- _____ (a) Any large installation for the production of electricity, steam or hot water;
- (b) An industrial installation for carrying gas, steam or hot water, or the transmission of electrical energy by overhead or underwater cables.

Industrial Processing of Metals

- (a) An installation for the production (including smelting, refining, drawing or rolling) of non-ferrous metals, other than precious metals;
- (b) Boiler making or manufacturing reservoirs, tanks and other sheet-metal containers;
- (c) An installation for the roasting of metallic ores.

Other Projects

- (a) Establishment of mines and quarries;
- waste or (b) Installation for the disposal of solid waste from mines and quarries;
- (c) A site for depositing sludge;
- (d) The manufacturing, packing, loading or placing in cartridges of gunpowder or other explosives.

Schedule II Projects

The following projects may require an Environmental Impact Assessment or environmental impact studies depending on the location and size of the project and other considerations:

Land Reclamation

Coastal reclamation involving an area of more than 10 acres.
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Fisheries

- (a) Construction of fishing harbours;

- (b) Harbour expansion involving 50 per cent or more in fish landing capacity per annum;
- (c) Land based aquaculture projects accompanied by the clearing of mangrove forests;
- (d) All large scale aquaculture projects.

Forestry

- land (a) Conversion of hill forest land to other use;
- municipal (b) Logging or conversion of forest land within the catchment area of reservoirs used for water supply, irrigation or hydro-power generation or in areas adjacent to national parks or protected areas;
- more; (c) Logging covering an area of 300 acres or more;
- adjacent (d) Clearing of mangrove forest on islands to marine reserves.

Housing

Large scale housing developments.

Resort and Recreational Development

- or (a) Construction of coastal resort facilities hotels;
- facilities; (b) Development of tourist or recreational facilities;
- facilities (c) Development of tourist or recreational on small islands.

Agriculture

- (a) Water-management for agriculture;
- (b) Poultry-rearing;
- (c) Pig-rearing;
- (d) Aquaculture activities;
- (e) The reclamation of land from the sea;
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- (f) Commercial rearing of wild-life species;
- (g) Other agricultural projects that involve clearing of large areas of forest.

Extractive Industry

- water
- (a) *Extracting peat;*
 - (b) *Deep drilling, particularly, drilling for supplies;*
 - (c) *Extracting minerals such as marble, sand,*
 - (d) *Extracting ores.*

Energy Industry

- gases;
lignite;
- (a) *The surface and storage of natural gas;*
 - (b) *The underground storage of combustible*
 - (c) *The surface storage of fossil fuels;*
 - (d) *The industrial briquetting of coal or*
 - (e) *An installation for hydroelectric energy*
 - (f) *Any installation for the production of electricity, steam and hot water.*

Industrial Processing of Metals

The surface treatment and coating of metals.

Glass Making

The manufacture of glass.

Chemical Industry

The storage of petroleum, petrochemical or

Fertilizers

- (a) *Nitrogenous;*
- (b) *Phosphatic;*
- (c) *Mixed.*

Food Industry

- or
- (a) *The manufacture of vegetable or animal oils fats;*

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- vegetable
animals;
- (b) *The packing or canning of animal or products;*
 - (c) *The manufacture of dairy products;*
 - (d) *Brewing or malting;*
 - (e) *Confectionery or syrup manufacture;*
 - (f) *An installation for the slaughter of*
 - (g) *An industrial starch manufacturing*
 - (h) *Any fish processing installation;*
 - (i) *Any sugar processing installation;*
 - (j) *Any citrus processing installation.*

Textile, leather, and wood industries

- board
factory.
- (a) A wool scouring, degreasing and bleaching
 - (b) The manufacture of fibre board, particle for plywood;
 - (c) A fibre-dyeing factory;
 - (d) A leather tanning or leather dressing

Paper and Pulp (including Paper Products)

- crafts
the
- (a) Paper for writing, printing and wrapping;
 - (b) Newsprint;
 - (c) Paper board;
 - (d) Paper for packaging (corrugated papers, paper, paper bags, paper containers and like);
 - (e) Wood pulp, mechanical, chemical (including
 - (f) Sanitary paper;
 - (g) Cigarette paper;
 - (h) Other paper products.

Rubber Industry (natural and synthetic)

- (a) The manufacture and treatment of elastomer-
- (b) Natural and synthetic rubber;
- (c) Tyres and tubes;
- (d) Surgical and medical products including
- (e) Footwear;
- (f) Other rubber goods.

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Infrastructure Projects

- hold
residential
residential lots
- (a) An urban development project;
 - (b) The construction of a road or a
 - (c) Canalization or flood relief works;
 - (d) A dam or other installation designed to water or store it on a long term basis;
 - (e) An oil or gas pipeline installation;
 - (f) A long-distance aqueduct;
 - (g) A yacht marina.
 - (h) The establishment of Commercial Free Zones
 - (i) A subdivision resulting in over 5 residential lots in urban areas or over 10 residential lots in rural areas.

Other Projects

- cars
- (a) A resort facility or hotel complex;
 - (b) A permanent race track or test track for or motor cycles;

- (c) A waste water treatment plant;
- (d) The storage of scrap iron;
- (e) The manufacture of artificial mineral fibers;
- (f) Landfill;
- (g) Rural water supply and sanitation;
- (h) Agro industries;
- (i) Rural electrification;
- (j) The lease of under 500 acres of National Land for the exploration for minerals.

Modification

The modification of a development which has been carried out, where that development is within a description mentioned above.

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Schedule III Projects

The following projects do not require an EIA:

! educational projects (except school construction);

! computer processing;

! projects within a Commercial Free Zone or Export Processing Zone where two conditions are satisfied:

(1) the Commercial Free Zone or Export Processing Zone has already been the subject of an approved EIA and the project is not within the category of projects excluded by the EIA;

(2) the project will not result in air or water pollution or effluent discharge or otherwise adversely affect the environment;

! environmental clean up and rehabilitation projects.

SECTION 4: SCOPING OF THE EIA

Scoping

When an EIA is required, it is essential to plan the scope of the study at the beginning of the process. Many projects involve a large number of possible alternatives and impacts. Each alternative could have a variety of impacts, some more significant than others. In order to carry out the EIA in an efficient manner, the scope of the issues to be studied can be agreed on at the beginning of the process. This early phase of the EIA is widely known as "scoping".

Scoping should be used to determine the scope and significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the EIA and also to identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by a prior environmental review.

Scoping typically takes place in a meeting or series of meetings involving the public, the developer, DOE and the relevant government agencies. Scoping meetings can be conducted in a number of ways, and the appropriate structure for the meeting will depend on the number of participants involved and the nature and complexity of the project.

"Scoping" thus refers to the process used to determine the breadth of issues to be addressed, to identify the significant issues related to a proposed action and to identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues that are not significant.

The scoping of an EIA study should take place before the actual study begins. The process involves the selection of environmental parameters to be considered during the study. In this activity; emphasis is placed upon: 1. the location of the project site; 2. the type of project or activity proposed for the site; and 3. the quality of the natural environment prevailing in the study area.

During the scoping phase the developer should meet with all relevant bodies to be certain the design of the EIA study is appropriate. At the minimum, "relevant" bodies should include: the DOE; all permitting/licensing agencies; and other government agencies, NGOs etc.

The DOE will make itself available to assist developers with the scope of study for an EIA throughout the process.

SECTION 5: THE EIA REPORT

Required Components of an EIA Report

The EIA report should have the following contents:

(a) Cover Page. A single page listing the title of the proposed project and its location; the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person, a designation of the report as draft or final and

(b) Summary. A summary of the proposed project, preferably less than 15 pages in length, that accurately and adequately describes the content of the EIA report. The summary should stress the conclusions,

(c) Table of Contents. A list and page number index of the chapters, sections and subsections in the EIA report, including a list of tables and a list of figures;

(d) Policy, Legal and Administrative Framework. Any policy, legal or administrative issues that may impact on the proposed development;

(e) A description of the proposed development, comprising information about the site, the design and size and scale of the development, and its immediate surroundings;

(f) A description of the environment (local and regional);

(g) Significant Environmental Impacts. The data necessary to identify and assess the main effects which that development is likely to have on the environment;

(h) A description of the likely significant effects, direct and indirect, on the environment of the development, explained by reference to its possible impact on:

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human beings;
flora;

fauna;

soil;
water;
air;
climate;
material assets, including
the cultural heritage
and landscape;
natural resources;
the ecological balance;
any other environmental factor which
needs to be taken into account.

(i) A presentation of all reasonable alternatives in comparative form, exploring each alternative, including the no-action alternative, and the reason why certain alternatives were recommended or eliminated purpose and need of the proposed action;

(j) Environmental consequences of the project as proposed, and alternatives, identifying any adverse effects that cannot be avoided if the action is implemented, all mitigation measures to be employed to reduce adverse effects, the relationship between short-term uses of the of resources that would occur if the action were implemented as proposed;

(k) A mitigation plan;

(l) A monitoring plan;

(m) Inter-agency and public/NGO involvement;

(o) Report on public hearings (if any);

(p) A summary in non-technical terms of the language specified above;

(q) List of Preparers. A list of the names, and a summary of the professional qualifications, of persons who were primarily responsible for the preparation of the EIA report or significant background materials;

(r) List of agencies to whom copies of the EIA report have been sent;

(s) Index. A listing of the major components of the EIA report by topic or issue, together with page number references;

(t) Appendices. Materials prepared in connection with an EIA report that substantiate analyses fundamental to the report, that relate to the decision to be made, and that should be circulated inventory of site and environs. Material incorporated by reference are generally included in these appendices.

An environmental statement may include, by way of explanation or amplification of any specified information, further information on any of the following matters:

(a) The physical characteristics of the proposed development, and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phase;

(b) The main characteristics of the production processes proposed, including the nature and quality of the materials to be used;

(c) The estimated type and quantity of expected residue and emissions (including pollutants of water, air, or soil, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation) resulting from the proposed development when in operation;

(d) (in outline) the main alternatives (if any) studied by the applicant, appellant or authority and an indication of the main

*reasons for choosing
proposed, taking into account the
environmental effects;*

the development

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(e) The likely significant direct and indirect effects on the environment of the development proposed which may result from:

(i) the use of natural resources,
(ii) the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances, and the elimination of waste;

(f) The forecasting methods used to assess any impact on the environment about which information is given under subparagraph (e);

(g) Any difficulties, such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how, encountered in compiling any specified information.

In paragraph (e), "effects" includes secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long term, temporary, positive and negative effects.

Where further information is included in an environmental statement a non-technical summary of that information shall also be provided.

The Terms of Reference (TORS) involves the approach, areas of analysis and reporting required to complete the EIA.

While it is not mandatory, it is advisable to submit the TORS to the DOE for its comments. This ensures that there are no omissions. Omissions could prove to be very time consuming and costly.

Once the TORS has been decided, the EIA is then conducted and the findings of the study carefully documented in the EIA report. The report is then submitted to the DOE for review. This may require the participation of other government agencies as the DOE deems necessary.

Guidelines For The Technical Process:

1. Policy, Legal and Administrative

Framework

This forms the policy and legal basis within which the proposed project may be implemented. This section should also make reference to any laws, regulations and standards which apply to the project.

The objective is to ensure that the proposed project meets policy and legislative criteria and

- environmental quality
- health and safety
- protection of sensitive areas
- protection of endangered species
- land use control

2. Description of the Proposed Project

This deals with all the activities which will be involved in the proposed project from the construction phase through to start-up, commissioning and operation of the facilities. It provides maps, design drawings, capacity, flowsheets, heat and material balances (inputs and outputs), material characteristics, material handling, waste generation and management and identifies the major machinery and equipment and their characteristics and maintenance requirements.

It provides layout drawings and site plans. It also describes all support activities such as services, staffing and schedules.

A critical feature of this aspect of the process is to commence the identification of all activities which could impact on:

! Air quality;

! Water quality (marine, riverine, ponds and lakes);

! Land quality;
 ! The socio-economics of the population;
 ! Cultural and historical heritage resources.

The description should not only be qualitative, but should also be quantitative and time related.

3. Description of the Environment

The checklist in Appendix 1 illustrates the various factors which must be taken into account in describing the environment. This in essence forms the attributes of both the natural and man-made environment as well as the historical resources. The socio-economic environment may require the use of not only secondary data sources, but also primary data

The description of the environment forms the environmental baseline prior to project implementation. Among other things, it identifies the various aspects of the environment which could be affected by the project either environmental losses which could occur as a result of implementing the project.

It also gives a first hand assessment of whether the project is sustainable, and may not only put existing projects and resources at risk, but also the proposed investment at risk of closure before completing its economic life.

4. Significant Environmental Impacts

Not only should significant impacts be noted but also minor, short term and moderate, direct and indirect potential impacts. Obviously the significant adverse potential mitigation plan.

5. Analysis of Alternatives

_____This documents all the alternatives which were taken _____ into account in developing the project. It includes _____ setting, project design, environmental mitigation and _____ protection considerations, production technology,

A comparative analysis of the alternatives should be provided and as far as possible be illustrated with cost-benefit analyses. Each _____ alternative should be evaluated in respect of its _____ potential environmental impact and capital and _____ operating costs.

Fundamental to the alternative analysis is an _____ evaluation of not implementing the project. This _____ demonstrates the potential change(s) which _____ implementation of the project could cause.

6. Mitigation Plan

_____Mitigation plans for each potential adverse impact at _____ each stage of the project should be documented and _____ the cost assessed. This cost should be incorporated _____ in the capital and operating costs of the proposed _____ project.

In the case of beneficial impacts, it should be _____ illustrated how these impacts may be maximized.

7. Monitoring Plan

A detailed environmental monitoring plan should be _____ prepared, the basis of which is the mitigating _____ measures to be implemented during the construction _____ and operating phases of the project. It should _____ clearly state:

! The parameter(s) to be monitored;

! The methods to be employed;

- ! The standards to be used;
- ! The schedule and duration of monitoring;
- ! The method of recording the results;
- ! The action to be taken in the event that the results are outside of the limits of standards;
- ! The format and frequency of reporting.

The cost of implementing the monitoring plan should also be developed. This is essential for the profitability analysis and management plan of the project.

8. The Project Team

Given the inter-disciplinary nature of the specialist disciplines required and the depth of experience to effectively and efficiently

The proponent should also state the reporting periods throughout the course of implementing the study. Further, he should ensure that the required level and frequency of

The proponent should also provide the project team with all the relevant background information on the project.

9. The EIA Report

The EIA report follows the format previously mentioned and is concise and critical. Uncertainties and data deficiencies should be clearly stated and as necessary, T

SECTION 6: THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The decision on the EIA will be made by DOE on the advice of the Review Committee. The Review Committee will base its decision on the applicable EIA legislation, the EIA Procedures, the environmental issues involved, the EIA and any comments thereon from the public, NGOs or government agencies.

The Review Committee may recommend:

! that the EIA is inadequate and requires further investigation, in which case it will refer the EIA back to the developer for further investigation within a specified period;

! that further public consultation is necessary;

! that the development not proceed;

! that the development proceed subject to conditions.

The Review Committee will be chaired by the Chief Environmental Officer and will be comprised of the following:

! Commissioner of Lands or nominee;

! Chief Forest Officer or nominee;

! Principal Public Health Officer or nominee;

! Fisheries Administrator or nominee;

! Chief Hydrologist or nominee;

! Archeology Commissioner or nominee;

! Director of Geology and Petroleum or nominee;

! Housing and Planning Officer or nominee;

*Procedures For The Preparation of Environmental Impact
Assessment*

! Chief Meteorologist or nominee;

! one NGO representative;

*! one representative from the Belize
Chamber of Commerce and industry.*

*In addition to the above membership, the Review
Committee could invite other persons to attend meetings
as and when their special expertise is required.*

SECTION 7: THE INTEGRAL NATURE OF THE EIA AND THE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Development Planning Process are complementary. When effectively synchronized, coordinated and administered, they form the major elements for development control which ensures the optimization of sustainable economic and social development in tandem with natural resources conservation and preservation.

As illustrated in Section 2, the EIA Screening Process is one of the critical steps with which both economic and physical planners, as well as environmental managers must develop familiarity and expertise. While a list of projects which require EIAs has been provided, this is by no means

exhau

Although the procedures for integration of the EIA and the development process need to be drafted in detail, the following critical aspects of the development process must at this time relate to the EIA:

- ! Zoning of economic and social activities and projects;
- ! Screening of development projects for determination of whether an EIA is required;
- ! Environmental evaluation of submissions for Building Construction Approval.

SECTION 8: MONITORING

INTRODUCTION

Monitoring is the last phase in the process. The purpose of this section is to examine the need for and to make recommendations on monitoring procedures to follow an EIA approval of the project. Monitoring activities could also be justified when an undertaking was exempted.

A monitoring program can have three uses. It can determine the level of compliance with conditions of approval or exemption or other standards; an enforcement program can be developed to give assurance of compliance; and monitoring can be a source of information for the study of environmental effects.

MONITORING COMPLIANCE WITH CONDITIONS AND STANDARDS

Compliance monitoring is the use of monitoring to show how well an undertaking has been constructed, implemented and operated in accordance with the standards, terms and conditions of approval, and commitments contained in the EIA report.

A well-designed programme can benefit developers as well as regulatory agencies. Proper awareness and surveillance help identify and deal with on-site problems quickly, so as to reduce possible environment damage, public complaints and delays to the construction schedule. It can also facilitate the timely clarification and interpretation of approval conditions or indicate a need for modification.

The EPA Act requires an EIA to contain a prediction of effects on the environment and a description of action to mitigate those effects. Section 20 (7) provides authority for attaching terms and conditions to the approval of EIAs. Responsibility for meeting approval requirements rests with the developer.

For the purpose of compliance monitoring and for management of project implementation there is a need for consolidation of conditions and commitments into one easily referenced format. DOE should enter into a formal agreement with the developer to make the developer responsible for complying with commitments and statements of intent contained in the EIA document that relate to the implementation of the project.

The completion of any obligation should be reported along with proper verification from DOE. A final report on compliance should be contained in the Project Completion notice to advise that project implementation had been completed in accordance with all commitments, terms and conditions of approval.

VERIFICATION AND ENFORCEMENT

An effective compliance monitoring program must have means to verify that terms and conditions have been met and a system of enforcement with appropriate penalties for non-compliance. Currently there is no procedure for compliance verification within the Ministry.

To establish if compliance has been achieved some form of verification is necessary. There are three basic ways to obtain verification: supervision, surveillance and auditing.

Supervision indicates a program carried out by the proponent to ensure that the project is built and operated according to environmental specifications including any terms and conditions of approval, for instance for the use of special construction and mitigation practices to minimize impacts. Field inspections would be required to monitor environmental conditions and usually to report on problems encountered and the action taken. The determination of what constitutes a "violation", and the nature of verification and reporting is left to the discretion of the proponent. For many commitments and conditions this form of verification may be appropriate.

Surveillance or inspection is undertaken by the regulatory agencies to ensure conditions of approval are implemented and all statutes and regulations are obeyed. A surveillance officer or inspector may undertake field inspections and liaise regularly with the proponent, government agencies and the public to resolve problems. Field reports by the officer would provide the necessary verification of compliance for those conditions and standards under their jurisdiction.

Auditing can examine the overall performance and effectiveness of environmental monitoring programs from both an administrative and operational perspective. Independent audits are useful in determining whether adequate regulatory procedures are in place and effectively administered, whether verifiable reporting and documentation is available and whether environmental benefits are evident as a result of compliance.

The recommended approach to verification and enforcement is a combination of supervision, surveillance and auditing. To continue the principle that the proponent have as much involvement and responsibility as possible in the EIA process, the onus for verifying and reporting compliance should remain with them. DOE should coordinate and administer the program and be responsible for overall compliance and enforcement. Any violation or lack of compliance would be addressed by DOE.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS MONITORING

Effects monitoring involves recording and comparing conditions before, during and after project implementation to determine the actual environmental effects and net changes caused by an undertaking. It depends on base-line data collected prior to the start of construction as well as field data collection during and after construction, frequently extending beyond the period of compliance monitoring. Comparing this information to the effects predicted in the EIA can establish the accuracy and relevance of prediction in the planning and decision-making process. Effects monitoring results can also be used to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures and construction techniques to reduce impacts. It can provide information on the "net environmental effects" remaining after mitigation and restoration have been applied. Thus effects monitoring helps to evaluate, critique and improve the effectiveness of assessment methods, impact prediction models, and construction mitigation techniques. Monitoring studies also advance the scientific knowledge of biophysical effects and inter-relationships as well our understanding of social realities.

The technical benefits outlined above are all potentially advantageous to proponents. Furthermore, achieving a better understanding of effects can help to reduce controversy and build public confidence in a proponent's prediction and mitigation proposals. Finally, the citing of monitoring study results as evidence at hearings could reduce the need for certain conditions of approval.

APPENDIX I

**BASIC CHECKLIST USED TO
COMPILE
THE DESCRIPTION OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

COMPILE THE SETTING **BASIC CHECKLIST WHICH CAN BE USED TO DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL**

1. Basic Land Conditions

a. Geological Conditions

Major land formations (valleys, rivers)
Geologic structures (sub-strata, etc)
Geologic resources (minerals, oil,
etc.)
tidal wave
potential
Slopes stability and landslide

b. Soil Conditions

Soil conservation service
classification
or
Hazard potential (erosion, subsidence
expansiveness)
Natural drainage rate
Sub-soil permeability
Run-off rate
Effective depth (inches)
Inherent fertility
Suitability for method of sewage
disposal

2. Biotic Community Conditions

a. Plant

General types and dominant species
Densities and distributions
Animal habitat value
Historically important specimen
Watershed value

Man-introduced species
distribution and Endangered species (location, conditions)
Fire potential (dryness, grass, etc.)
Timber value
interest Specimen of scientific or aesthetic

b. Animal

fish, General types/dominant species (mammal, bird, etc.)
Densities and distribution
Habitat (general)
Migratory species
Game species
Man-introduced species
Endangered species
Commercially valued species

3. Watershed Conditions

water) Water quality (ground water and surface
supply on-site Sources of public or private water
surrounding Watershed importance (on-site and area)
surrounding Flood plain importance (on-site and area)
Water run-off rate
conditions and Streamside conditions (habitat stream flow rate)
Location of wells, springs
importance Marshlands, lakes, ocean frontage

4. Airshed Conditions

General climatic type

Air quality

Airshed Importance

Wind hazard area (min/max speeds)

Odour levels

Rainfall (average)

Temperature (average highs and lows)

Prevailing winds (direction and intensity)

Fog conditions (hazard potential)

5. Drainage, Flooding and Erosion Control

Drainage information from such sources as topographic maps, site inspections, persons living in the area, etc.

6. Fresh Water Resources

Discuss the relationship of the project site to any existing surface water or ground water resources in the area.

7. Oceanography

When a project bears any relationship to the marine environment, a thorough discussion of the biological and physical oceanography is warranted.

8. Wetlands

Discuss the effects of the project on existing wetland habitats and give the area of wetlands likely to be affected by dredging, filling and other related activities (impoundment, water level manipulation, thermal or other effluents) and list the predominant, emergent and/or submerged plant species.

APPENDIX II

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM
AND CHECKLISTS FOR PRELIMINARY PROJECT
ASSESSMENT**

**APPENDIX II
ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM
AND CHECKLISTS FOR PRELIMINARY PROJECT ASSESSMENT**

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The following Environmental Screening Form (ESF) is to be used under the Environmental Protection Act for determining whether the proposed project has the potential for causing an adverse effect on the environment and therefore requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Certain projects have been categorized as normally requiring an EIA (See Appendix A). This environmental screening should be conducted when it is uncertain whether a proposed project will have an adverse effect on the environment. Projects in Schedule II are examples of such projects. The effect is defined as an effect on the environment that is large in magnitude and its consequences are important. Both these characteristics (i.e., large magnitude and importance) must be characteristics of a particular impact to trigger an adverse effect determination and the EIA requirement.

In completing the form, the reviewer should be guided by the question: Have my decisions and determination been reasonable? The reviewer is not expected to be an expert environmental analyst in all fields and should call on other experts to answer questions and seek additional information.

This form screens a project to identify any effects which are considered large in magnitude.

It is expected that completion of this form will be dependent on information that is currently available and will not involve new studies, investigations, and research.

The provision of false or misleading information could result in the rejection of the project.

Department of Environment
Environmental Screening Form

**A. PROJECT NAME
ADDRESS
OWNER**

**NAME AND
OF**

NAME OF PROJECT:

(if different)

(Name)

(Name)

(Street)

(Street)

(Town and District)

ADDRESS AND NAME OF APPLICANT

(Name)

(Street)

(Town and District)

LOCATION OF PROJECT: (Provide map as well as address)

(Street)

(Town and District)

B. PROJECT TYPE

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: (Briefly describe type of project or action).

DESCRIBE AREA OF PROJECT

Indicate whether any of the following activities will result from the carrying out of the project:

- ! removal of forest cover (specify location and extent);
- ! removal of mangroves (specify location and extent);
- ! air pollution;
- ! water pollution;
- ! discharge of effluents;
- ! mining operations;
- ! other significant impacts;
- ! disturbance of cultural/historic resources.

Please also indicate:

1. Whether the human or natural resources potentially affected are considered important, e.g. human health and endangered species are considered important resources;
2. The regional consequences of the impact or effect;
3. The irreversibility of the impact or effect, including permanently lost resources or values;
4. The probability of the impact or effect occurring;
5. The duration of the impact or effect;
6. Whether the impact or effect can be controlled;
7. Its potential divergence from local needs and goals; and
8. Indicate whether there are any objections to the project by any Government agency or by members of the public and the nature of such objections.

LARGE IMPACTS CONSIDERED IMPORTANT (List and briefly describe impact and any mitigation).

1. Type of impact (e.g. impact to land resources)

2.

Attach other pages as needed.

Preparer is to complete the following statement:

I Confirm that all the information provided above is true and correct and that I am aware that providing false or incorrect information could result in the rejection of my project proposal.

DATED _____ DAY OF _____ 19

PREPARER'S NAME _____

PREPARER'S SIGNATURE _____

TITLE _____

DATE _____

WITNESS _____

OTHER DETAILS

Attach applicant's PIF and any other additional information as may be needed to clarify your determination.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: (Briefly describe type of project or action)

Is your project one of the following types of projects? Check most appropriate category.

Schedule I: Projects Which May Have Adverse Effects and Normally Require EIA

- a. power plants _____
- b. electrical transmission line 115 KV or greater

- c. port and harbour developments _____
- d. hotel/resort greater than _____ rooms
airports including runway expansion greater than
20% _____
office complex greater than _____ square feet
tourism (large scale) residential subdivision (over
5 lots in urban areas or over 10 lots in rural
areas)
- e. potable water and sewage treatment facilities (large
scale)
- f. mining and processing of ores
- g. quarrying greater than _____cu ft/year
sand
gravel
limestone
- h. industrial projects _____
chemical plant
pulp and paper wood processing
petroleum refinery
fish processing plant
detergent manufacturing
canning/bottling
distillery
cement
tannery
citrus processing
- i. road building or road improvement projects
- j. resettlement projects
- k. river basin development projects
- l. irrigation or water management projects including
dams and impoundments (large scale)
- m. drainage projects

- n. watershed development projects
- o. use of pesticides, or other hazardous and toxic or poisonous matter
- p. projects that pose a serious accident risk
- q. petroleum exploration/production/offshore or onshore.

Schedule II: Projects Which May Have Specific Adverse Effect And May Require EIA

- a. land reclamation
- b. fisheries
- c. forestry
- d. residential developments
- e. energy industry
- f. aquaculture or mariculture
- g. extractive industry

Schedule III: Projects Which Do Not Result In Adverse Effects, EIA Normally Not Necessary

- a. education, technical assistance and training programs
- b. controlled experiments and research
- c. institutional development
- d. nutrition and health programs

If your project is a Schedule 1 type project then a permit and an EIA is required. Contact DOE regarding guidelines for preparing an EIA.

If your project is a Schedule 2 type project an EIA may or may not be required. DOE will conduct an environmental screening based on the project information provided in this form.

If you are unsure of the category complete this form and submit to DOE for an EIA determination.

C. SITE DESCRIPTION (physical setting of overall project, both developed and undeveloped areas)

1. General character of land, generally uniform slope _____ or generally uneven and rolling or irregular _____ (check one).
2. Approximate percentage of proposed site with slopes;
0 -10% _____; 10 -25% _____; 25% or greater _____.
3. What is the predominant soil type(s) on the project site?
- 4.a. Are there bedrock outcropping on project site?
yes____; no____.
b. What is the depth to bedrock _____ (in feet).
5. Are there any karst or limestone i.e. sinkhole conditions on site? yes _____; no _____.
6. What is the depth to the water table? _____ (in feet).
7. Does the site occur in a high risk area _____; seismic risk area _____; and/or landslip risk area?
8. Is project located in flood plain or coastal zone or watershed area? yes _____; no _____; if yes, specify.
9. Are there any water wells on or adjacent to the site? no ____;
yes ____, if yes, please
describe_____
10. Are there any unique or unusual land forms on the project site (i.e. cliffs, dunes, caves or other geological formations? yes____; no____; if yes, describe: _____
11. Are there any river or streams or drainage within or contiguous to the project site? no ____; yes ____; if yes, name the waterbody_____
12. Are there any lakes, ponds or wetland areas within or contiguous to the project site? no ____; yes ____; if yes, name the waterbody_____
13. Do recreational or fishing opportunities presently exist in the project area? no ____; yes ____; if yes, identify.
14. Does the project site contain any endangered or threatened animal or plant species or important habitat

for these species? no___; yes___; if yes, identify species and habitats.

15. Present site land use: urban ___; industrial___; commercial suburban___; agriculture___; rural___; forest___; other.

16. What is the dominant land use and special development area (SDA) zoning classification (if applicable) within a 1/4 mile of radius of the project? (give scale and type of development).

17. Is the project site presently used by the community or neighborhood as an open space or recreational area? no___; yes ___; if yes, identify.

18. Does the present site offer or include scenic views or vistas known to be important to the community? no___; yes___; if yes, identity.

19. Are there any historical or archeological sites? no ___; yes ___; if yes, please identify sites.

D. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Provide physical dimensions and scale of project (fill in dimensions as appropriate).

a. total contiguous acreage owned by project sponsor___acres

b. project acreage developed: acres initially___; acres ultimately ___.

c. project acreage to remain undeveloped ___ acres.

d. approximate acreage:

	<u>presently</u>	<u>after</u>
<u>completion</u>		
grassland _____	_____	
forest _____	_____	
agricultural land _____	_____	
wetland; fresh or tidal _____	_____	
water surface area _____	_____	
roads, building and _____	_____	
other paved surfaces _____	_____	
unvegetated (rock, fill) _____	_____	
other (indicate type) _____	_____	_____

e. length of project in miles ____ (if appropriate).

2. Operational aspects of the project

a. Will there be sewage or trade effluent discharged during construction and/or operation? no____; yes____; if yes, describe the type, amount and source.

b. Will there be air emissions produced during construction and operation? no____? yes ____? if yes, describe the type of source.

c. Will there be any other poisonous, noxious or polluting matter discharged during construction and operation? no ____; yes ____; if yes, describe type of source _____

d. will blasting occur during construction? no____; yes ____.

e. will project produce operating noise exceeding ambient noise levels? no____; yes____.

f. will project routinely produce odours (more than one hour per day) no____; yes____.

g. total water usage per day ____ gal/day; source: surface____; underground____ other _____

h. if water supply is from wells, indicate pumping capacity gal per min. _____

i. is surface or underground liquid waste involved? no____; yes____; if yes, indicate the type of waste (sewage, trade, etc.).

j. if surface disposal, name disposal receiving waterbody which effluent will be discharged.

k. will the project use herbicides or pesticides? no____; yes____; if yes, specify types and amount.

l. how much material (i.e. rock, earth, etc) will be removed from the site ____ tonnes? cubic yard ____ where will it be disposed? specify.

m. how many acres of vegetation (tree, shrub, ground cover) will be removed from site?

n. will surface area of existing waterbodies e.g. streams, river, bays etc. be increased or decreased by

the project? no ___; yes ___; if yes, how much, explain.

o. will surface wetlands or other locally important vegetation be removed by this project? no ___; yes ___; specify.

p. are there any plans for re-vegetation to replace that removed during construction? no ___; yes ___;

q. will there be the removal of mangroves - if yes, specify extent.

r. if a single phase project: anticipated period of construction _____ months.

s. if multiphase project: total number of phases:

t. number of jobs generated: during construction; during operation.

u. number of jobs eliminated by this project.

v. will project require relocation of people; houses or facilities; no or yes, if yes specify.

w. will project construction increase traffic to and from the site? no ___; yes ___; if yes, explain types and amount per day.

x. will project result in increase in energy use? no___; yes___; if yes, specify.

y. does the facility involve the disposal of solid waste? no ___ yes ___; if yes, will existing solid waste facility be used? no ___; yes; specify disposal location.

Project Approvals:

a. is there any other Government license, permit or approval required? no___; yes ___; if yes, list approvals with responsible agency.

b. list any previous license or permit for this project:

- *issued
- *denied
- *other

c. are there any town or village approvals? no___; yes___; if yes, list approvals and responsible agency.

d. does the project involve offshore funding or financing? no ___ yes ___ if yes, specify funding or financing

E. OTHER DETAILS

Include sources of information.

Attach any other additional information as may be needed to clarify your project.

I confirm that all the information provided above is true and correct and I am aware that providing false or incorrect information could result in the rejection of my project proposal.

Dated _____ Day of _____ 19_____

PREPARER'S NAME _____

PREPARER'S SIGNATURE _____

TITLE _____

REPRESENTING _____

DATE _____

WITNESS _____

APPENDIX III

LIST OF PERMITTING AGENCIES

<u>STATUTE</u>	<u>PERMIT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>
Forest Act	Timber Logging Permit	Forest Department
Mangrove	Mangrove Cutting	"

Regulations	Permits	
Land Utilization Act	Subdivision Approval	Land Utilization Authority
Mines & Minerals Act	Mining Licences	Geology and Petroleum Department
Mines & Mineral Act	Dredging Permits	"
Mines & Minerals	Quarry Permit	"
Petroleum Act	Petroleum Exploration Licence	"
Export Processing Zone Act	Special Export Processing Zone Status	Ministry of Trade and Industry
Fiscal Incentives Act	Fiscal Incentives	Ministry of Economic Development
Fisheries Act	Fishing Licences Research Permits	Fisheries Department
Port Authority Act	Permits for Construction of Marinas and Piers	Port Authority
Belmopan (New Capital) Interim Provisions Act	Building Permits	Reconstruction and Development Corporation

<u>STATUTE</u>	<u>PERMIT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>
Hotels Act Tourist	Hotel Licence	Belize Board
Belize City Building Act	Building Permits for Belize City	Housing and Planning Department
Housing and Town Planning Act	Building and Planning Permits for Ambergris Caye	Housing and Planning Department
Housing and Town Planning Act	Planning Permits for Belize City	"
Local Government Town Act (By-Laws made under Act)	Building Permits for Dangriga	Dangriga Board
	Building Permits for Corozal	Corozal Town Board
	Building Permits for Punta Gorda	Punta Gorda Town Board
National Lands Act	Lease of National Lands	Ministry of Natural Resources
National Lands Act	Licence to Erect Piers	"
Trade Licencing Licencing Act	Trade Licences	Trade Boards
Factories Act	Registration of Factories	Labour Department
Ancient Monuments & Antiquities Act	Permit to Remove	Department of Archaeology