

National Impact Assessment Programme (NIAP)

Name of the Project	National Impact Assessment Programme
Cost	PKR 351,304,368/-
Duration	Four and Half years (15 th November 2009 – 15 th May 2014)
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan• Planning and Development Wing, Ministry of Disaster Management• Pak EPA, Ministry of Disaster Management• Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment• IUCN Pakistan
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improvement and strengthening the process of Environmental Impact Assessment in Pakistan• Introduction of Strategic Environmental Assessment in development planning initiatives taking place in Pakistan.
Donors	Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands

The National Impact Assessment Programme (NIAP) aims to contribute to sustainable development in Pakistan by strengthening the EIA regime and introducing SEA in all development planning. Improving the functioning of the EIA process will lead to environmentally sustainable development at the project level, while the introduction of SEA will ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of development planning.

About the programme

The NIAP is a unique initiative that uses a multi-pronged strategy to strengthen the system of impact assessment in Pakistan. The programme will undertake interventions at the policy level; carry out capacity building among stakeholders; develop tools, procedures and mechanisms for improved impact assessment; increase understanding of the importance of impact assessment processes; and advocate the adoption of impact assessment at all levels.

Goals

National Impact Assessment Programme aims to improve and strengthen the process of Environmental Impact Assessment and to introduce Strategic Environmental Assessment in development planning initiatives taking place in the country.

Objective

The programme seeks to promote sustainable development in Pakistan by strengthening the EIA process and introducing SEA in development planning. Improved EIA will lead to more environmentally conscious development at the project level, while the introduction of SEA will facilitate improved planning, not only by the integration of potential impacts into plan development and decision-making, but also through improved coordination between the authorities involved in planning.

Scope

The project will be implemented at the national and provincial levels, as well as in Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. While federal government departments are key partners, they will implement the programme across the country through their respective provincial and regional offices.

Programme approach

The programme approach includes an analytical inception stage, during which the status of EIA practice will be analyzed and opportunities for SEA will be identified. The implementation stage will concentrate on the development of tools, along with capacity building, and conducting pilot SEA and EIA exercises to demonstrate the value of the process.

Programme implementation & Partners

The NIAP is headed by a National Programme Director, appointed by the Planning Commission. A Programme Advisory Committee oversees and guides programme activities, and monitors progress. A Programme Coordination Unit, housed at the Planning Commission, is responsible for internal planning, monitoring and reporting. Programme Implementation Units have been established at the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, the Environment Wing of the Ministry of Disaster Management and IUCN Pakistan.

Partners

- Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan
- Planning and Development Wing, Ministry of Disaster Management
- Pak EPA, Ministry of Disaster Management
- Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment
- IUCN Pakistan

Outcomes

The programme has the following expected outcomes:

- EIA procedures improved through the development of tools and guidance material and implementation of pilot projects
- SEA introduced and piloted in planning processes and practice
- Understanding and capacity for EIA and SEA enhanced
- Effective programme management systems and mechanisms developed and introduced

Duration

Four and Half years (15th November 2009 – 15th May 2014)

Donors

Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands – Development Corporation

Website link:

For updates and further information, please visit <http://www.niap.pk>