

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Introduction

Mining is one of the prescribed activities under the first schedule of the Environmental Management Act (Cap 20:27) and should undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment process prior to implementation.

What is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)?

An EIA is an assessment of the possible impacts that a proposed project may have on the environment, consisting of the environmental, social and economic aspects.

What is the purpose of an EIA?

To ensure that decision makers consider the social, economic and environmental impacts of their operations when deciding whether or not to proceed with a project.

What does the law say on EIA?

Environmental Management Act (CAP 20:27) and Statutory Instrument 7 of 2007 compels prescribed projects listed under the first schedule of the EMA Act (CAP 20:27) to undergo an EIA process prior to implementation.

How long does it take to conduct an EIA study?

The initial stage is to submit a prospectus to EMA and EMA has 20 days to view the prospectus. When the prospectus has been approved, the developer should engage a registered independent consultant to prepare an EIA Report in terms of section 98 of the Environmental Management Act (CAP 20:27).

How long does it take to review an EIA study?

The Director General responds to the submission of an environmental impact assessment report within sixty (60) working days and will notify the developer of the decision. If the Director General does not respond within this time frame, the project shall be deemed to have been approved.

Who carries out the EIA study?

The developer shall engage a person independent (registered EIA consultant) of the project who is an expert in environmental planning and management services to prepare the environmental impact assessment report.

How do I get hold of consultants?

EIA consultant registers are found at a district, provincial EMA offices hence one is encouraged to visit any of the offices.

Who should be consulted during the EIA process?

- Local authorities
- Traditional leaders
- General public
- Interested parties
- Communities and other stakeholders found in the area for the intended project

How much are the EIA review fees?

Prospectus review by the Agency costs \$120,75, if the project is given the green light to continue, the EIA Report review costs \$210 or 1, 5% of the total project cost.

How long is the EIA valid for?

The certificate is valid for two years from the date of issue and is renewable every year thereafter.

Who carries out Environmental monitoring and audits?

Project developers are expected to adhere to the contents of the EIA report as far as possible during project implementation and shall submit quarterly progress reports on the implementation of the project. EMA shall carry out bi-annual environmental audits to ensure that all projects being implemented are in compliance with the Environmental Management Plans (EMPs)

Why is an EIA important?

- Helps identify effects and impacts
- assists in project planning and implementation
- it reduces operational cost
- it increases project acceptability
- enables stakeholder participation

- Increases project management and profitability
- Enables compliance with the Law