

Environmental Economics

Lecture 7

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Environmental Assessment Policy

(The EA Policy)

Environmental Screening

And

Transportation Projects

Overview

- Transportation projects involve both environmental and economic issues facing a community as it grows and changes.
- Considerations of sustainability require tools that facilitate long-term impact analysis and easy communication among built-environment professionals.
- Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is instrumental for studying transportation project impacts

- Assuming that the Egyptian government wants to propose a developmental project belonging to the transportation services.
- In case of lacking sources of finance, the government can ask for ODA.
- Examples,
 - ***Egypt Vehicle Scrapping and Recycling Program***
 - ***Cairo Airport Development Project***
 - ***Railways Restructuring Project***
- key sectors include energy, transport, water and sanitation, agriculture and irrigation, housing, social protection, as well as health and education.

■ What is an EIA?

- EIA is "the process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social, and other relevant effects of development proposals prior to major commitments being made.

■ Through this process,

- Information about environmental effects of a project are collected, assessed and taken into account.
- EA process generally begins with screening at the time of project identification.
- The Role of EIA to identify environmental limits and constraints on the project, not just its impacts on the environment.
- It is important to decide if project requires an EIA (with or without consultation with the Local Planning Authority)

■ Objectives

- To ensure that environmental considerations are explicitly addressed and incorporated into the development decision making process.
- To anticipate and avoid, minimize or offset the adverse significant biophysical, social and other relevant effects of development proposals
- To protect the productivity and capacity of natural systems and the ecological processes which maintain their functions
- To promote development that generates less destruction and optimizes resource use and management opportunities.

■ Determining the level of EA for any given project.

- The project is classified into one of three categories prior to issuance of the **Project Concept Document**.
- **This is based on Environmental grading system.**

Category	EA Requirements
Category A	A full EA is needed
Category B	EA is required (but its scope corresponds to the limited environmental impacts of the project)
Category C	No EA is required.

Category A and Category B projects (i.e. those projects with high and medium potential environmental impacts) (black listed projects)

■ Notes:

- The selection of the category should be based on:
- Professional judgment
- Information available at the time of project identification.

■ Project: Egypt Vehicle Scrapping and Recycling Program

- The Egyptian mass transport fleet is aging. The purpose of the project is to scrap and recycle old vehicles in Egypt. This is because the average taxi in Egypt had until recently been on the road for 32 years. Aging fleets are prone to frequent breakdowns and high emissions because older vehicles are typically not equipped with modern catalytic converters.

■ RESULTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- The equivalent of over 130,000 tons of carbon dioxide could be avoided.
- The new taxi fleet reduces emissions of other airborne pollutants (e.g., carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides) and contributes to increased traffic safety across Egypt.

- Summary of the project

Status	Closed/open
Approval Date	December 11, 2007
Closing Date	October 31, 2011
Financier	World Bank and non-bank sources including Global Environment Facility (Gef) and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Jbic)
Lending Instrument	Specific Investment Loan
Grant Amount	X - USD
Environmental Category	B
Total Project Cost	US\$ X- million
Borrower	GOVT. OF EGYPT
Implementing Agency	-----
Product Line	Developmental Project
IBRD Commitment	N/A
IDA Commitment	N/A

Thank you