Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA): From Screening to ESMP

5 – 9 April 2027
Paris - Right Bank business hotel



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Introduction:

New infrastructure, energy, mining and industrial projects stall or lose financing when their Environmental and Social Impact Assessment ESIA misses key receptors, rates significance inconsistently or produces a management plan nobody can implement. Weak baselines and late stakeholder consultation then surface as permitting delays, community grievances and lender conditions. This Core Concept course takes practitioners through the full ESIA cycle, from screening and scoping to baseline studies, impact significance, mitigation and the environmental and social management plan. Participants review a real ESIA and produce an ESIA Review Report and ESMP Gap Register.

Course Objectives:

- Screen and scope a proposed project, defining its area of influence, alternatives, valued receptors and the terms of reference for the ESIA
- Plan environmental and social baseline studies and judge whether existing baseline data is adequate for impact prediction
- Identify and rate impacts using a documented significance method, including cumulative and associated facility impacts
- Apply the mitigation hierarchy and translate residual impacts into an environmental and social management plan with owners, budgets and monitoring indicators
- Design stakeholder engagement, consultation and grievance arrangements for affected communities and vulnerable groups
- Review an ESIA report for adequacy against lender expectations described in the IFC Performance Standards and the Equator Principles

Target Audience:

- Environmental and social specialists who prepare or coordinate impact assessments for new projects
- Project development managers accountable for permits, approvals and financing conditions
- Lender and investor environmental and social reviewers responsible for project due diligence
- Assessment consultants who lead baseline studies, specialist inputs and report drafting
- Permitting and review officers who evaluate submitted impact assessment reports

Course Outline:

Day 1: ESIA Purpose, Process and Screening

- ESIA versus EIA: Scope, Triggers and Decision Points in the Project Cycle
- Project Description Checklist: Components, Phases and Associated Facilities
- Screening Criteria and Project Categorisation A, B and C under the Equator Principles
- Analysis of Alternatives: Site, Technology and No-Project Options
- Scoping Matrix and ESIA Terms of Reference Drafting

Day 2: Lender Standards and Baseline Studies

- IFC Performance Standard 1 and Guidance Note 1: Risk and Impact Identification
- The Eight IFC Performance Standards: Mapping Topics to Project Risks
- Area of Influence Definition and Valued Environmental and Social Components
- Physical and Biological Baseline Survey Design: Air, Noise, Water, Soil and Habitats
- Socio-Economic Baseline: Household Surveys, Land Use and Livelihood Profiles

Day 3: Impact Prediction, Significance and Mitigation

- Impact Characterisation: Magnitude, Extent, Duration and Reversibility
- Significance Rating Matrix: Receptor Sensitivity and Impact Magnitude
- Mitigation Hierarchy: Avoid, Minimise, Restore and Offset
- Residual Impact Assessment and Justification Records
- Environmental and Social Management Plan ESMP Structure and Commitments Register

Day 4: Social Impact, Consultation and Difficult Cases

- Social Impact Assessment: Land Acquisition, Economic Displacement and Community Health
- Stakeholder Mapping, Disclosure and Informed Consultation Plan
- Project-Level Grievance Mechanism Design and Case Logging
- Cumulative Impact Assessment and Contractor Supply Chain Risks
- ESMP Monitoring Indicators, Independent Review and Lender Reporting Covenants

Day 5: ESIA Report Review Case Study and Deliverable

- ESIA Review Checklist: Completeness, Baseline Adequacy and Method Consistency
- Energy Project Case: Critical Review of Significance Ratings
- Industrial Expansion Case: Testing the ESMP and Action Plan for Implementability
- ESIA Review Report and ESMP Gap Register Drafting
- Review Panel: Defending Findings and Conditions for Approval

Skills You Will Gain:

- Project Screening and Scoping
- Baseline Study Planning
- Impact Significance Rating
- Mitigation Hierarchy Application
- Social Impact Analysis
- Stakeholder Consultation Design
- ESMP Development
- ESIA Adequacy Review

Why Attend This Course:

- Return with an ESIA Review Report and ESMP Gap Register built from a real assessment, ready to adapt to your next project
- Challenge significance ratings and baseline gaps with a structured method instead of opinion
- Anticipate the environmental and social conditions lenders are likely to attach before financial close
- Compare assessment practice with peers from energy, mining, industry, transport and water projects across several countries

Conclusion:

An ESIA earns its value when its findings shape project design, approval conditions and the commitments carried into construction and operation. This course moves from screening, scoping and alternatives, through baseline studies, impact significance and the mitigation hierarchy, to social impact assessment, consultation, grievance arrangements and the ESMP. The final day applies these methods to multi-sector case material and produces an ESIA Review Report and ESMP Gap Register that participants can use when preparing, commissioning or reviewing their next impact assessment.