



# POLICY INTERVENTION ANALYSIS

## Environmental Impact Assessment

Ritu Paliwal • Leena Srivastava



The Energy and Resources Institute

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ISBN 978-81-7993-499-9

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**Suggested citation**

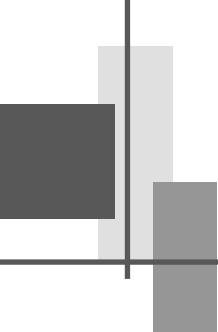
Paliwal, Ritu and Leena Srivastava. 2014. *Policy Intervention Analysis*.  
New Delhi: TERI

**Published by**

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)  
TERI Press  
Darbari Seth Block  
IHC Complex, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi – 110 003  
India

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**Website** www.teriin.org

Printed in India



## Preface

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The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure was first introduced in the USA in the late 1960s. Since then it has been accepted as a fair means of assessing environmental impacts of a project or activity as well as planning mitigation measures to contain those impacts. Based on the results of an EIA, policymakers can decide whether or not to proceed with a project. They do not have to adhere to a preset environmental outcome; rather, they require to consider environmental values in their decisions and to defend those decisions after considering thorough environmental studies and public comments on the possible impacts. They can use EIA as a management tool to ensure the optimal use of natural resources for sustainable development.

India adopted EIA in 1994, when an EIA notification was passed, which made environmental clearance mandatory for about 29 polluting activities. Several amendments were made to this notification, and later in 2006 a new notification was passed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) with the intention of making the Indian EIA process more efficient. The new notification was a great endeavour, but the entire focus remained on the process prior to project implementation, that is, the pre-decision stage. Least has been done to improve the implementation and follow-up activities so central to the success of an EIA process.

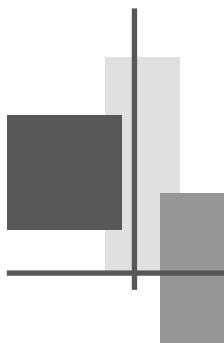
Follow-up refers to monitoring and evaluation of a project or activity during its implementation stage. It makes EIA an interactive process where environmental compliance of an activity is evaluated to identify the deviation of the process from desired results and measures are suggested to achieve what was originally intended. In India, it is well known that weak enforcement and poor compliance have undermined the outcomes of most of the environmental laws and regulations, and a good follow-up is quite crucial for an effective EIA process. Within this context, it was considered extremely significant to evaluate the Indian follow-up process and hence the reason for writing this book.

An outcome of several years of research, this book provides an insight into the institutional arrangement, roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders and the focus of terms of reference for the follow-up. It investigates the probable reasons for poor compliance whereby examining what is happening in reality. It gathers evidences from a case study and also observations made during site visit and discussion held with official of regulatory agencies involved in the process.

While writing this book, the authors came across several wonderful people whom they feel indebted to for their help and guidance in one way or another. It is not possible to name everyone here, but the authors sincerely acknowledge all the staff and officials of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), TERI University, DHI (India) Water and Environment Pvt. Ltd, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Regional Office of MoEF, Bhubaneswar, and West Bengal Pollution Control Board for their valued cooperation, comments, and helpful discussions. They also extend their thanks to representatives of various industrial units in Haldia for their cooperation.

On a personal note, Dr Ritu Paliwal likes to extend special thanks to all her friends who have been a source of support and constant encouragement. She also acknowledges the most important people in her life—her parents, younger brother, and husband. They have been a source of strength, encouragement, and support for her.

The authors are also grateful to almighty GOD for his blessings in the form of knowledge, wisdom and strength, and for enlightening them to be able to take the right path.



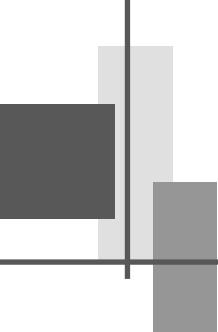
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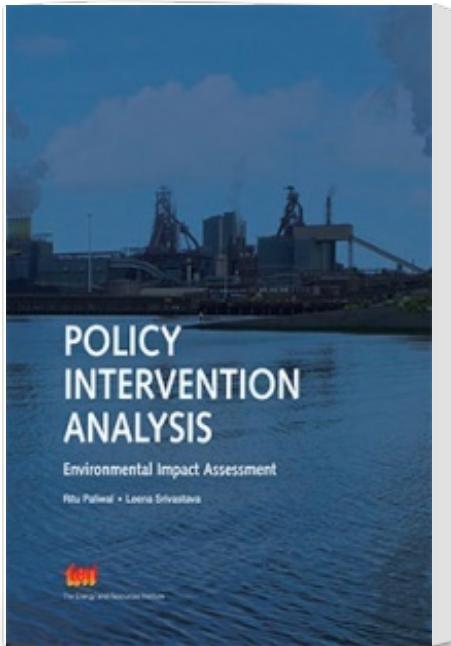


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# Policy Intervention Analysis : environmental impact assessment



Publisher : **TERI Press**

ISBN : **9788179934999**

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