

Agenda-free consultative impact assessment: A key to confidence building



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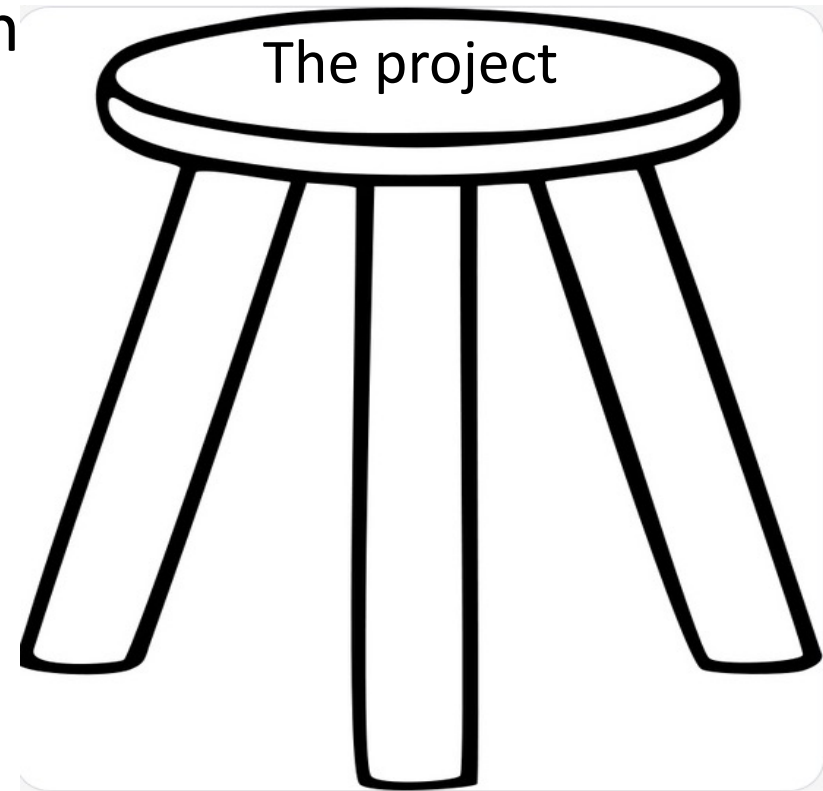
The actors

- The preparer
- The proponent
- The recipient
 - Client, donor, and stakeholders ranging from local to international
- All three interact with respect to practitioner integrity.

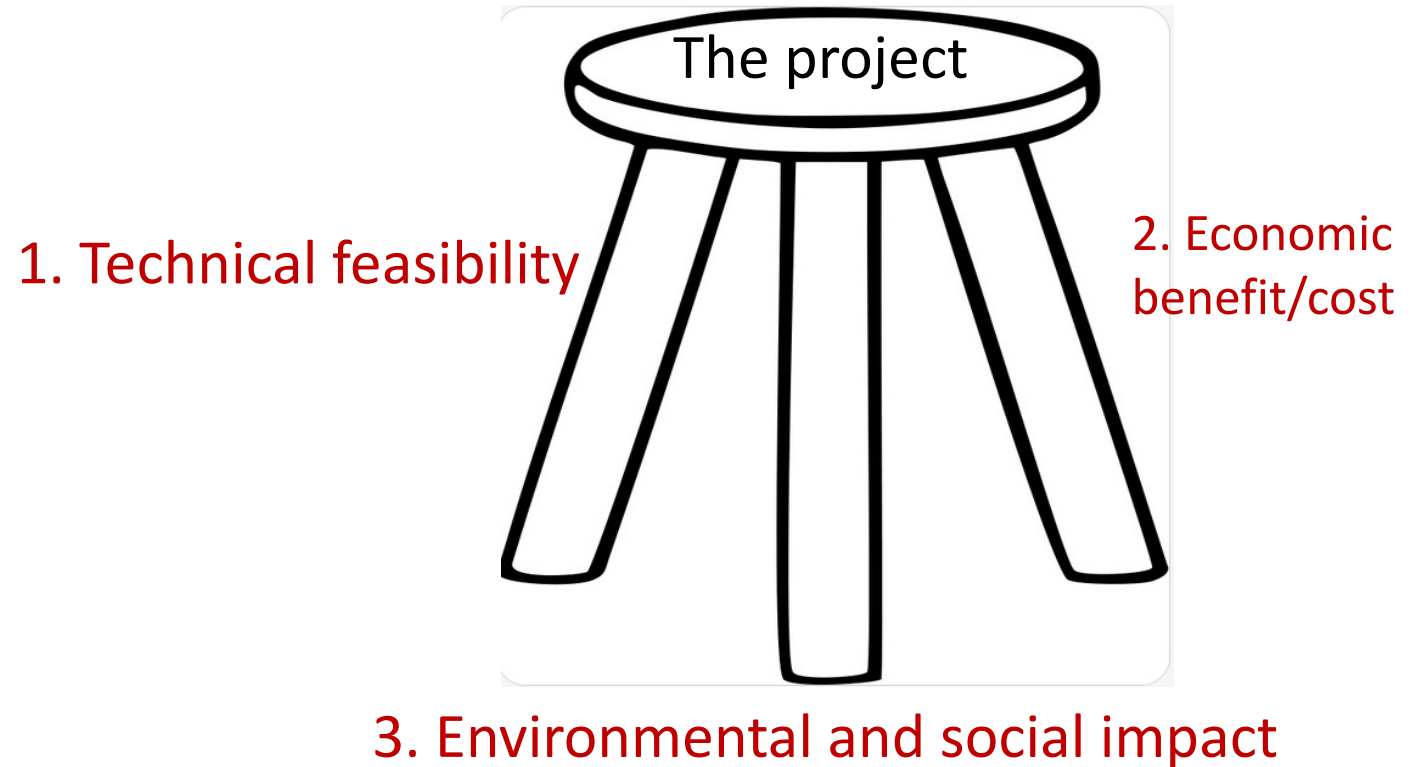
Back to basics, and the need for objectivity

- What is an EIA for, what is its purpose?
- Project evaluation: a little history lesson
- Start with the project

Project evaluation



What is an EIA for, what is its purpose?



- All three legs ideally provide the basis for project evaluation and decisions to proceed.

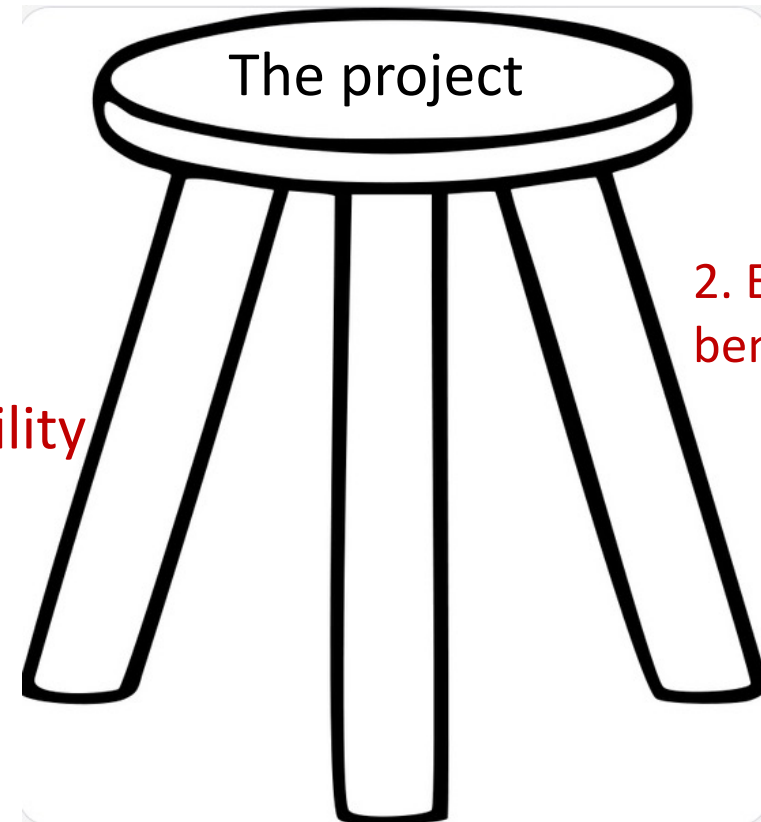
What is an EIA for, what is its purpose?

Environmental and social impact

- Provides information for a decision
- It is not the decision document itself

1. Technical feasibility

2. Economic benefit/cost



3. Environmental and social impact

The end result is supposed to be **better projects**

Not just better environmental impact statements and management plans



Orchards – MCC Armenia irrigation rehabilitation project

IA Integrity issues

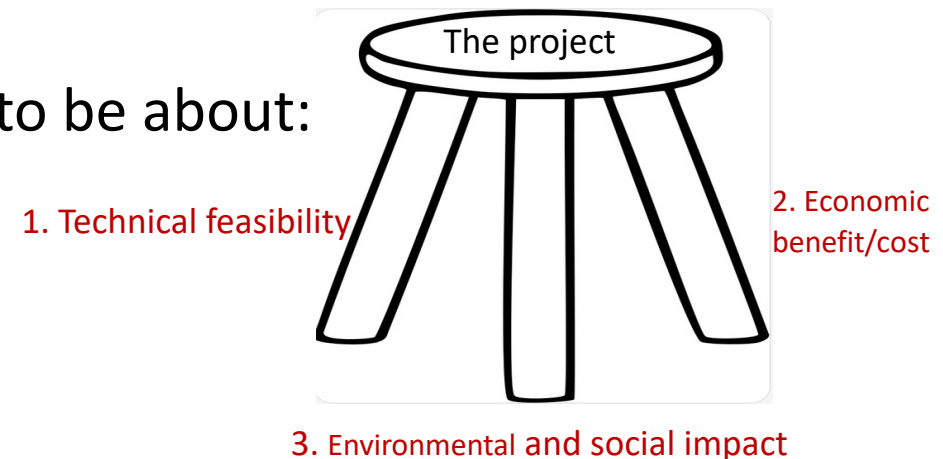
- Response to corrupt sponsor/client, contractor, supervisor
 - No easy answer
 - Try to persuade the sponsor/client
 - Don't let your name get associated with a faulty EIA.
 - Short run, lose the assignment, contract, or job
 - Long run, your reputation is what will matter
 - Consequences either way

Objectivity

- What is it?
- Judgment, that is
 - based on observable phenomena
 - uninfluenced by emotions or personal prejudices

Objectivity

- What good is it?
 - Better project gets you on the proponent's side; gets the proponent on your side.
 - Educates the proponent or client on the need for full consideration of sustainability to the other components to the success of the project,
 - Don't be afraid to change project during EIA
 - The main lesson for the sponsor/client: **A bad EIA can result in a bad, more costly, delayed, or cancelled project.**
 - A better project is what EIA is supposed to be about:



From George's intro:

- “If an EA, and those who prepare it, do not meet these and other important qualifications then the public...may not have confidence that the assessment is adequate, complete, objective and responsive to the public interest, or, worse, that the EA reflects biased and poorly informed information to be dismissed. Lack of such confidence can result in unfavourable outcomes for proponents...”

Mekong Delta regional connectivity project



What does it mean for IA Practitioner integrity?

- Recognize the validity of the proponent's goals for the project as well as concerns of the other stakeholders.
- Recognize the validity of the other components of the project evaluation process – the 3-legged stool
- Recognize the place of environmental and social sustainability in the whole project context, and the need for strict objectivity

Presentation methods

Adverse impacts are identified with variably sized circles, and are blackened if impacts are significant.

If there are also beneficial effects, a dot pattern is included.

For some resources, there are both adverse impacts and beneficial impacts.

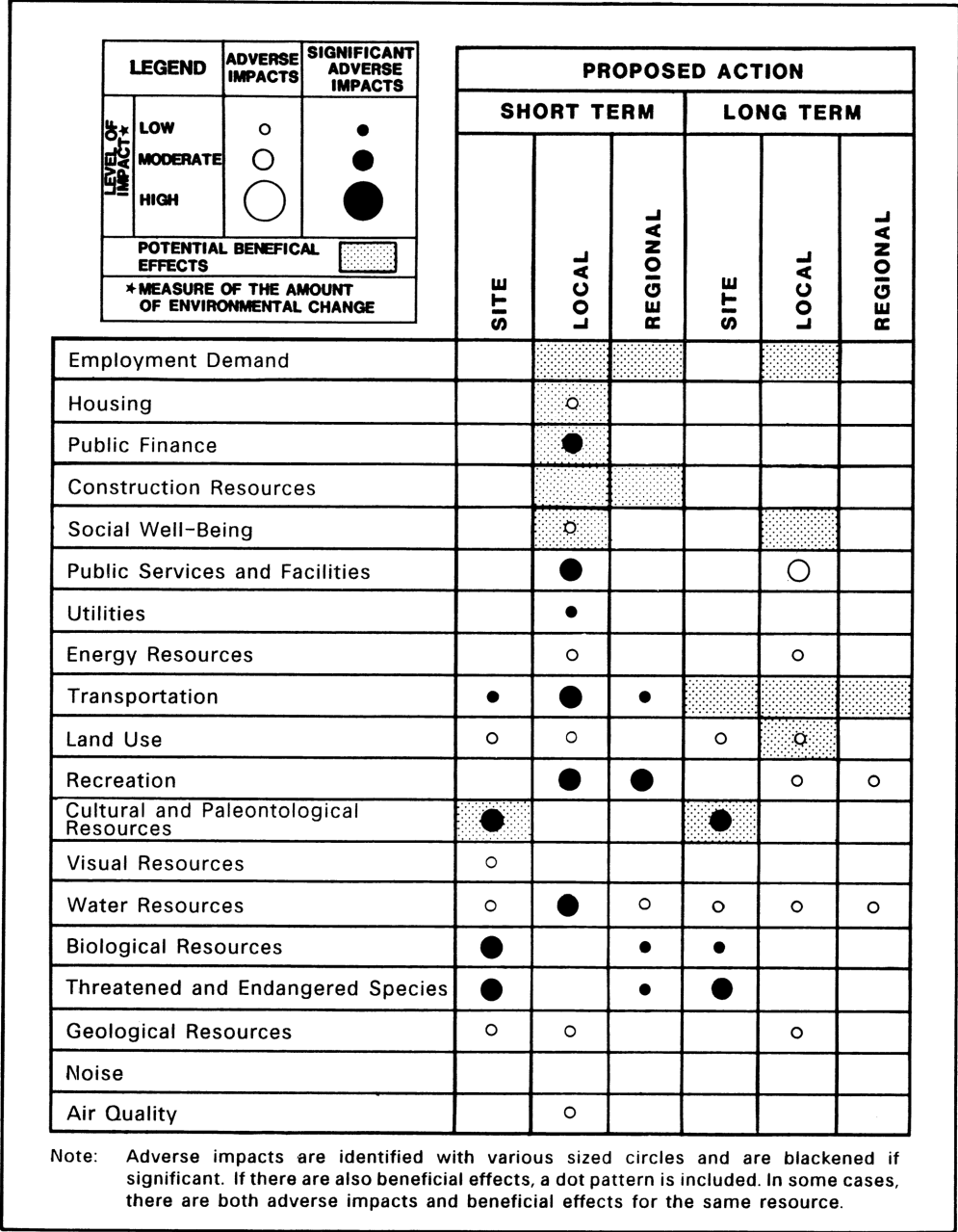









FIGURE S-4 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION IMPACTS

LEGEND		ADVERSE IMPACTS	SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS
LEVEL OF IMPACT★	LOW		
	MODERATE		
	HIGH		
POTENTIAL BENEFICIAL EFFECTS			
★ MEASURE OF THE AMOUNT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE			

PROPOSED ACTION					
SHORT TERM			LONG TERM		
SITE	LOCAL	REGIONAL	SITE	LOCAL	REGIONAL
Employment Demand	■	■		■	
Housing	○				
Public Finance	●				
Construction Resources	■	■			
Social Well-Being	○			■	
Public Services and Facilities	●			○	
Utilities	●				
Energy Resources	○			○	

Employment Demand
Housing
Public Finance
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Energy Resources

Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments via chat in the IAIA22 platform.



#iaia22

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