

New Methods, Skills and Tools in Participatory Integrated Watershed Management

Objectives

To describe an environmental assessment process for watershed programmes with emphasis on how to conduct assessment and prepare an EIS or an assessment report with a participatory approach

To outline the steps for environmental assessment where local people have an opportunity to participate from the planning stage to its implementation and monitoring

To consider the role of local people in developing and implementing the EIS to manage and utilize their watershed resources on a sustainable basis and to highlight the benefits of preparing an EIA through a participatory approach

Soil erosion is a major concern for the people both in the mountains and the plains. Mountain people experience the problems of increased soil loss and landslides while the people living in the plains are affected by deposition of unproductive soil on productive farmland. The source of the problem, by and large, is human activity in the watersheds.

Preparation of the EIS for a (watershed) development project largely facilitates the concerned organization to design actions holistically. A good EIS is prepared through a participatory process. People's participation has contributed in selecting and implementing programmes with intensive interaction among stakeholders. To this end, preparation and implementation of the EIS contributes to resource management and improves the quality of life of local people living in the watershed.