

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN NIGERIA 30 YEARS AFTER, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES: A REGULATOR'S PERSPECTIVE



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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ❑ Overview of Nigeria
- ❑ EIA in Nigeria Since 1992
- ❑ UNDRIP in Nigeria
- ❑ Regulators Perception on the Constraints of EIA in Nigeria
- ❑ Successes Recorded
- ❑ Future Outlook
- ❑ Conclusion

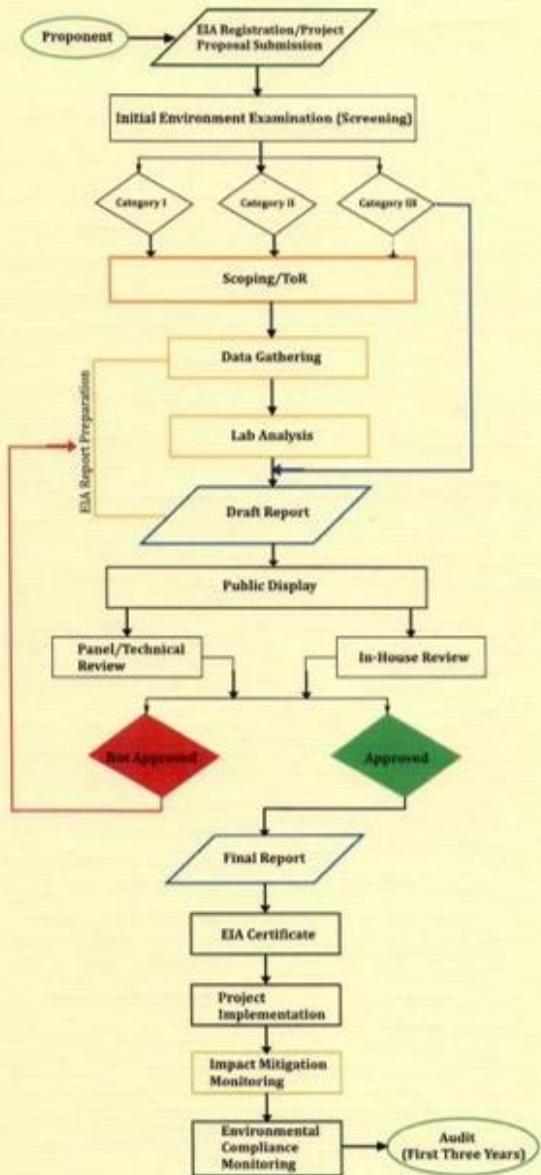


# OVERVIEW OF NIGERIA



- Nigeria located in West Africa is the most populous country on the African Continent composed of a diverse federation of 36 autonomous states and with a population exceeding 218 million as at 2022, it boasts the largest economy in Africa, reaching a gross domestic product (GDP) of approximately US\$472 billion in 2022.
- Nigeria is ethnically diverse, comprising over 250 ethnic groups, each with its own languages and cultural traditions
- Nigeria's economy is driven primarily by its oil and gas sector, which contributes significantly to government revenue and export earnings. However, the country is also rich in other natural resources such as minerals, agriculture, and renewable energy sources.
- Nigeria ranks 154 out of 185 countries in the Notre Dame Gain Index, indicating high exposure and sensitivity, and low ability to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change [<https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/>].

## EIA PROCESS FLOWCHART



# EIA IN NIGERIA SINCE 1992

- EIA implementation in Nigeria began in the late 1970s and early 1980s. During this period, there was a growing recognition of the need to assess and mitigate the environmental impacts of development projects, particularly in the oil and gas sector. Nigeria's first EIA law, the Environmental Impact Assessment Decree No. 86, was enacted in 1992.
- EIA in Nigeria is led and regulated by Federal Ministry of Environment via the Environmental Assessment Department
- States, local Governments and relevant Ministry, Department and Agencies collaborate in the delivery of Nigeria's EIA system at various stages and providing inputs and engaging with EIA's relevant to their area
- Various sectoral guidelines and regulations have been developed to provide detailed procedures and criteria for conducting EIAs in specific sectors.
- The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) plays a regulatory role in ensuring compliance with environmental standards.

# UNDRIP IN NIGERIA



Gbagyi Tribe of Abuja

- May 28, 2007 - Nigeria has opposed the draft UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, citing concerns about its implications for the rights of its many indigenous populations.
- The National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (NAP) is the response of the Government of Nigeria to the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference on Human
  - The rights to Peace, Protected Environment and Sustainable Development
  - Rights of Women and Children
- Development of Stakeholders Engagement Framework, Stakeholders Engagement Plan & Environmental and Social Impact Assessment



# Environmental Assessment Department, Nigeria

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# REGULATORS PERCEPTION ON THE CONSTRAINT IN EIA PROCESS

- Capacity Constraints: Inadequate skilled professionals and expertise in conducting EIAs.
- Political & Systemic Interference: Political tussle in Nigeria continues to influence all sectors including the EIA process this has led to bias in assessments.
- Reduced interest by NGOs, CBOs and the General Public in the review and provision of comments on Draft EIA reports during Public Disclosure of the document which has led to reduced public participation
- Ensuring that Cumulative Impact Assessment of projects is thoroughly done is of great concern to regulators, stakeholders and consultants.
- Data gaps remains a growing issue in the EIA process. Sometimes data is very difficult to collect or when collected may be unreliable or irrelevant.
- Financial and budgetary constraints encountered during the EIA process limits the overall functioning of the regulatory bodies involved. The process is currently proponent facilitated
- The revised EIA Act is still yet to be passed into Law by the Nigerian National Parliament since its review in 2010 making it difficult to implement some key aspect. This has affected enforcement and compliance mechanism



Research Report

## Enabling Digital Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Nigeria



# SUCCESSSES RECORDED

- Introducing Sustainability Reporting and Monitoring
- Review of EIA Process Timeline for Mini-Grids & Telecom Projects
- Enhanced web based Public disclosure of reports
- Development of Electronic Content Management System (ECMS)
- Development of Guideline on Climate Change reporting in the EIA Preparation
- Development of EIA Procedure and Guideline Regulations 202
- Development of An Application for the review of EIA reports
- Provision of digital facilities and tools to support Virtual EIA reviews and video conferencing





# FUTURE OUTLOOK



- Enhanced International Collaborations (IAIA, World Bank, AfDB, AFD, EIB)
- Implementation of Digital EIA and Web Based EIA Process enhancing effectiveness and efficiency
- International Trainings, Mentorship and Capacity Building thereby boosting Knowledge exchange
- Expedite action on the passage of the revised EIA Act which would in turn strengthen the EIA process
- Increased collaboration and development of MoUs with various organisations that may have overlapping interest in EA matters.
- Promoting public awareness and sensitization programmes on EIA process through social media, conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.
- Environmental Assessment to go beyond “project site specific” to “Policies, Plans and Programmes” (PPP).

# CONCLUSION

Environmental Impact Assessment in Nigeria for the past 30 years, has primarily focused on improving management practices for sustainable development.

Addressing challenges and leveraging opportunities is crucial for enhancing the effectiveness of EIA implementation in Nigeria and promoting sustainable development.



# Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA24 app.



## #iaia24

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