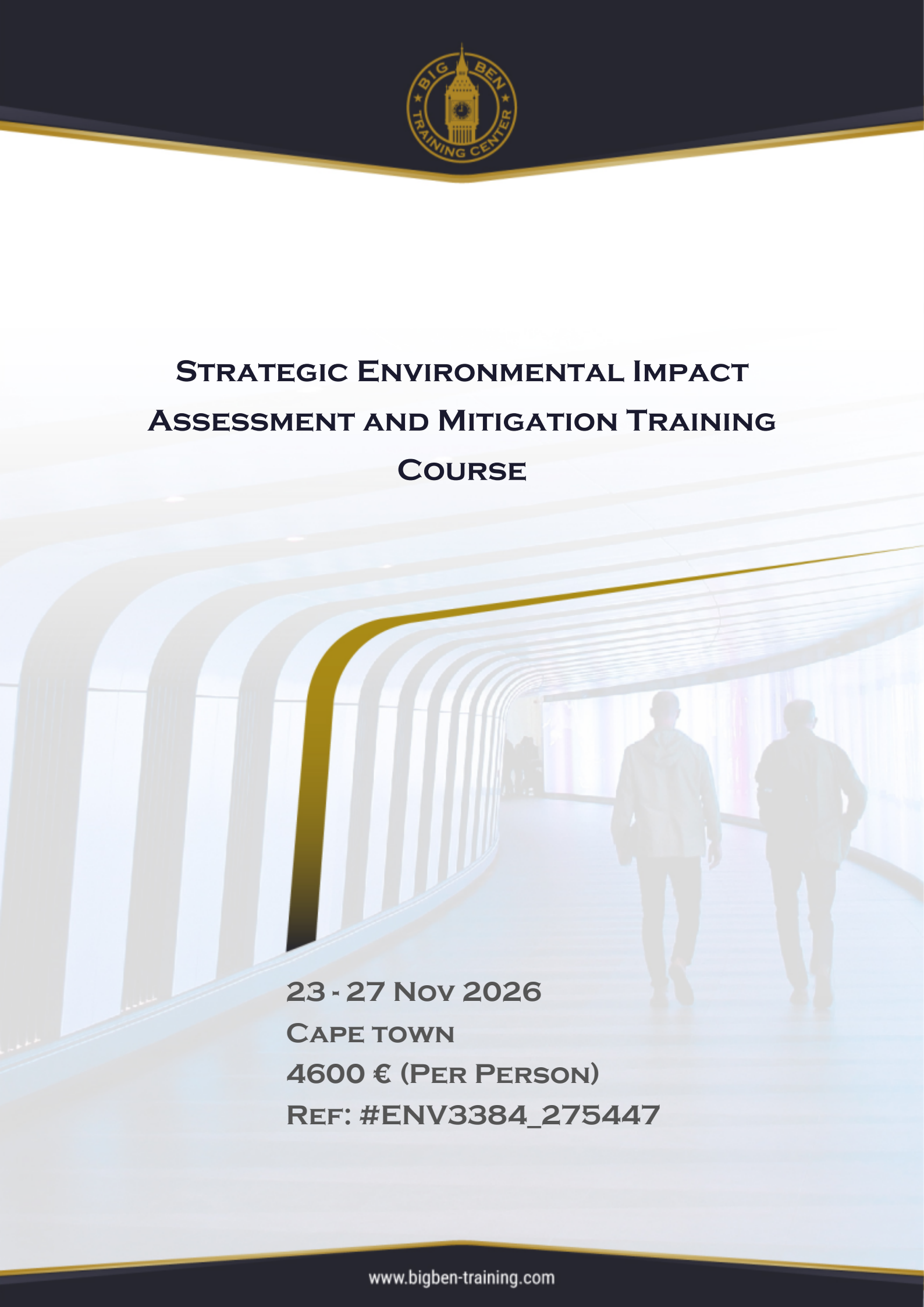
Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and Mitigation Training Course



23 - 27 Nov 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #ENV3384_275447

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive exploration of Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) and mitigation planning, moving beyond traditional project-level analysis to address the environmental implications of policies, plans, and programs. In an era of increasing environmental scrutiny and complex regulatory landscapes, a strategic approach is essential for sustainable development. This training delves into the core principles and methodologies that underpin effective SEIA, drawing on the foundational work of experts like Riki Therivel, a pioneer in the field, whose insights in publications such as "Strategic Environmental Assessment in Action" have shaped modern practice. Participants will learn to proactively integrate environmental considerations into the earliest stages of decision-making, thereby preventing costly conflicts and irreversible damage. The curriculum at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to equip professionals with the skills to conduct thorough assessments, evaluate cumulative impacts, and design robust mitigation and monitoring strategies. This course is not merely theoretical; it is a practical guide to navigating the entire SEIA process, from initial scoping and stakeholder engagement to influencing sustainable policy outcomes and ensuring long-term environmental compliance and stewardship.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Environmental Consultants and Practitioners.
- Project Managers and Directors.
- Government Regulators and Environmental Agency Staff.
- Urban and Regional Planners.
- Policy Makers and Advisors.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Managers.
- Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Professionals.
- Engineers and Technical Specialists in major projects.
- Legal Professionals specializing in environmental law.
- Sustainability Officers.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Energy Sector (Oil, Gas, and Renewables).
- Mining and Natural Resource Extraction.
- Construction and Infrastructure Development.
- Transportation (Road, Rail, Aviation, and Maritime).
- Urban and Rural Development.
- Waste Management and Processing.
- Water Resource Management and Utilities.
- Governmental bodies and public sector agencies.
- Manufacturing and Industrial Processing.
- Tourism and Hospitality Development.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Environmental Affairs and Management.
- Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE).
- Project Management Office (PMO).
- Planning and Development.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainability.
- Legal and Regulatory Compliance.
- Operations and Engineering.
- Strategic Planning and Policy.
- Research and Development.
- Risk Management.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Differentiate between project-level Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- Master the key stages of the SEIA process from screening and scoping to reporting and monitoring.

- Analyze and interpret complex environmental data for baseline studies.
- Apply various methodologies for predicting and evaluating the significance of environmental impacts.
- Develop effective and practical environmental mitigation and enhancement measures.
- Understand the legal and regulatory frameworks governing SEIA in different jurisdictions.
- Design robust stakeholder engagement and public participation plans.
- Assess cumulative, synergistic, and secondary environmental effects.
- Integrate SEIA findings into policy, plan, and program development.
- Create comprehensive Environmental Management and Monitoring Plans (EMMPs).
- Communicate SEIA results effectively to decision-makers and the public.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation strategies through post-implementation monitoring.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to foster a dynamic and engaging learning environment that bridges theory and practice. This course utilizes a blended approach, combining expert-led presentations with highly interactive learning modules. Participants will move beyond passive listening and actively engage with the material through real-world case studies, analyzing successful and challenging SEIA projects from various global industries. Collaborative group exercises and workshops will be a central feature, allowing attendees to work together on simulated SEIA scenarios, from scoping to developing mitigation plans. This hands-on approach ensures that participants can directly apply the concepts learned. Interactive sessions, including Q&A panels and facilitated discussions, encourage the sharing of experiences and perspectives, enriching the learning process for all. Continuous feedback is provided by the instructor to guide participants in refining their skills. The methodology is focused on building practical competencies, ensuring that attendees leave with the confidence and tools to implement effective SEIA strategies within their own organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Introduction to Environmental Assessment Principles.
- The Evolution from Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- Key Differences and Synergies between EIA and SEA.
- International Conventions, Protocols, and Legal Frameworks for SEIA.
- The Role of SEIA in Sustainable Development and Policy Making.
- Core Terminology and Concepts in Strategic Assessment.
- Overview of the Complete SEIA Process and Key Stages.

Unit Two: The SEIA Process - Scoping and Baseline Analysis

- Screening: Determining the Need for an SEIA.
- Scoping: Defining the Scope, Objectives, and Alternatives.
- Establishing the Environmental Baseline: Data Collection and Analysis.
- Identifying Key Environmental, Social, and Economic Receptors.
- Techniques for Baseline Data Collection (GIS, Remote Sensing, Field Surveys).
- Understanding the Policy, Plan, or Program (PPP) Context.
- Initial Stakeholder Identification and Analysis.

Unit Three: Impact Identification, Prediction, and Evaluation

- Methodologies for Impact Identification (Checklists, Matrices, Networks).
- Predicting the Nature and Magnitude of Potential Impacts.
- Assessing Cumulative, Indirect, and Synergistic Effects.
- Evaluating the Significance of Environmental Impacts.
- Techniques for Social Impact Assessment (SIA) within SEIA.
- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Assessment.
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) as a Component of SEIA.

Unit Four: Mitigation, Management, and Reporting

- The Mitigation Hierarchy: Avoid, Minimize, Restore, and Offset.
- Developing Strategic Mitigation and Enhancement Measures.
- Formulating an Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP).
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Environmental Monitoring.
- Structuring and Writing a Clear and Defensible SEIA Report.
- Techniques for Presenting Complex Findings to Diverse Audiences.
- The Role of the SEIA in the Decision-Making Process.

Unit Five: Advanced Topics and Strategic Implementation

- Effective Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement Strategies.
- Integrating Climate Change Considerations into SEIA.
- SEIA for Transboundary Policies and Plans.
- Post-Decision Analysis and Monitoring for SEIA Effectiveness.
- The Future of SEIA: Trends, Challenges, and Innovations.
- Case Study Workshop: A to Z Application of SEIA on a Major Program.
- Developing an Action Plan for Implementing SEIA in Your Organization.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

As predictive analytics and AI become more sophisticated, how might they transform the process of forecasting cumulative environmental impacts in large-scale strategic planning?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by focusing intensely on the "strategic" dimension of environmental assessment, a critical competency often overlooked in standard EIA training. While many courses concentrate on project-specific compliance, this program elevates the participant's perspective to the level of policies, plans, and programs, where the most significant environmental outcomes are determined. The curriculum is uniquely structured to bridge the gap between high-level policy and on-the-ground environmental management, providing a holistic view of sustainable development. We emphasize the proactive, rather than reactive, application of environmental principles, teaching participants how to influence decision-making at its earliest and most formative stages. The course content is deeply rooted in practical application, utilizing a wealth of contemporary case studies that explore both successes and failures in SEIA implementation across diverse sectors. This approach moves beyond theoretical knowledge to build critical thinking and problem-solving skills, preparing participants to navigate the complex interplay of environmental science, public policy, and stakeholder interests that defines modern strategic environmental management.