Environmental Impact Assessment for KSA Giga-Projects Training Course



26 - 30 Oct 2026

Vienna

5800 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

This specialized training course provides a comprehensive A-to-Z guide on conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) specifically tailored for the unique scale and complexity of Saudi Arabia's giga-projects. In line with KSA's Vision 2030, the Kingdom is undertaking unprecedented development, making robust environmental stewardship more critical than ever. This program, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, moves beyond theoretical concepts to deliver practical, actionable knowledge on navigating the intricate regulatory landscape governed by the National Center for Environmental Compliance (NCEC). Participants will delve into the entire EIA lifecycle, from initial screening and scoping to impact analysis, mitigation, and post-project monitoring. The curriculum is informed by established international best practices, referencing foundational principles from experts like John Glasson, co-author of "Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment". This course is meticulously designed to equip professionals with the skills to ensure these monumental projects not only achieve their economic objectives but also set new global standards for environmental sustainability and social responsibility, safeguarding the Kingdom's natural heritage for future generations. It is an essential program for anyone involved in the planning, execution, or oversight of large-scale development in Saudi Arabia.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Project Directors and Managers.
- Environmental Engineers and Scientists.
- Urban and Regional Planners.
- Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Managers.
- Regulatory Affairs and Compliance Specialists.
- Government Officials and Environmental Agency Staff.
- Sustainability Consultants.
- Construction and Infrastructure Managers.
- Legal Advisors specializing in environmental law.
- Investment and Development Analysts for large-scale projects.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Construction and Engineering.
- Real Estate and Urban Development.
- Energy, including Oil, Gas, and Renewable Energy sectors.
- Tourism, Leisure, and Hospitality.
- Transportation and Infrastructure (Airports, Ports, Rail).
- Mining and Natural Resource Extraction.
- Waste Management and Utilities.
- Governmental and regulatory bodies, including municipalities and environmental agencies.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Project Management Office (PMO).
- Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Department.
- Planning and Development.
- Engineering and Technical Services.
- Legal and Compliance.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainability.
- Operations and Maintenance.
- Strategic Planning.
- Procurement and Contracts.

Course Offerings:

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

- Analyze the specific KSA legal and regulatory framework for environmental assessment.
- Master the complete EIA process from screening and scoping to final report submission.
- Conduct comprehensive baseline studies to establish environmental and social benchmarks.
- Identify, predict, and evaluate the potential environmental impacts of giga-projects.
- Develop effective Environmental Management and Monitoring Plans (EMPs).
- Design and implement robust stakeholder engagement and public consultation strategies.
- Prepare a high-quality EIA report that meets NCEC and international standards.
- Integrate principles of sustainable development and Vision 2030 into the EIA process.
- Evaluate cumulative impacts arising from multiple large-scale projects in a region.
- Apply Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) concepts to policies, plans, and programs.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and directly applicable to the professional challenges faced by participants. This course moves beyond traditional lectures to foster a dynamic learning environment where knowledge is built through active participation and real-world application. A cornerstone of the program is the extensive use of case studies based on current and planned giga-projects within Saudi Arabia, allowing participants to analyze real challenges and develop viable solutions. Interactive workshops and group exercises will be used to practice key skills such as impact identification, risk matrix development, and mitigation strategy formulation. Facilitated group discussions will encourage the sharing of diverse perspectives and professional experiences. The training will also feature role-playing scenarios, particularly for modules on stakeholder engagement and public consultation, to build confidence and communication skills. Our expert instructors provide continuous feedback and guide participants through complex technical and regulatory materials, ensuring a deep and lasting understanding of the subject matter. The focus is on empowering attendees with the practical competence to lead and execute effective EIAs immediately upon returning to their roles.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of EIA in the Context of KSA Vision 2030

- Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment principles and objectives.
- The strategic importance of EIA for KSA's giga-projects and sustainable development.
- Overview of the Saudi Arabian environmental legal and institutional framework.
- The role and mandate of the National Center for Environmental Compliance (NCEC).
- Key international environmental conventions and their relevance to KSA.
- Integrating Vision 2030 and the Saudi Green Initiative into the EIA process.
- Understanding the difference between Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Unit Two: The EIA Process - Scoping and Baseline Analysis

- Project screening to determine the necessity of a full EIA.
- The critical process of scoping to define assessment boundaries and key issues.
- Techniques for identifying potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts.
- Methodologies for conducting comprehensive environmental baseline studies.
- Collecting and analyzing data on air quality, water resources, and soil.
- Assessing biodiversity, ecosystems, and sensitive habitats.
- Establishing the socio-economic and cultural heritage baseline.

Unit Three: Impact Prediction, Evaluation, and Mitigation

- Methods for predicting the magnitude and significance of environmental impacts.
- Air and noise pollution modeling and assessment techniques.
- Water quality and hydrological impact analysis.
- Assessing impacts on terrestrial and marine biodiversity.
- Evaluating socio-economic and health impacts on local communities.
- Developing a hierarchy of mitigation measures: avoid, minimize, restore, and offset.
- Formulating a detailed Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Unit Four: EIA Reporting and Stakeholder Engagement

- Structure and key components of a comprehensive EIA report.
- Techniques for presenting complex technical data clearly and concisely.
- Best practices for writing an effective non-technical summary.
- The role of public participation and stakeholder consultation in the EIA process.
- Planning and executing effective consultation meetings and workshops.
- Managing and responding to stakeholder feedback and concerns.
- The EIA review and decision-making process by regulatory authorities.

Unit Five: Advanced Topics, Monitoring, and Auditing

- Introduction to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for policies and plans.
- Techniques for assessing cumulative environmental effects of multiple projects.
- Developing robust environmental monitoring programs for construction and operation phases.
- Key performance indicators for tracking environmental compliance and performance.
- The principles and practice of environmental auditing post-EIA approval.
- The role of GIS and remote sensing technologies in EIA and monitoring.
- Future trends in EIA, including climate change integration and digital transformation.

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:

Beyond regulatory compliance, how can the EIA process be leveraged as a strategic tool to enhance the long-term sustainability and global reputation of KSA's giga-projects?

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

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond generic EIA training to offer a highly specialized and contextualized program focused exclusively on the unprecedented scale of Saudi Arabia's giga-projects. Unlike other courses that provide a broad overview, this curriculum is deeply rooted in the specific regulatory environment of the Kingdom, with a core focus on the requirements of the National Center for Environmental Compliance (NCEC) and the ambitious goals of Vision 2030. The program's primary strength lies in its practical application, utilizing real-world case studies and scenarios drawn from projects like NEOM, the Red Sea Project, and Qiddiya. This approach ensures that participants are not just learning theory but are actively problem-solving within the context they will operate in. Furthermore, the course emphasizes the strategic dimension of EIA, teaching participants how to use the assessment process not merely as a compliance tool, but as a project enhancement mechanism that improves design, reduces risk, and builds a positive international reputation for sustainability. It uniquely integrates advanced topics such as cumulative impact assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which are critical for the interconnected nature of the Kingdom's development plans.