



شروق  
SHUROOQ

The case for  
Environmental Impact  
Assessments  
in the UAE



# Shurooq Vision

- To achieve social, cultural, environmental and economic development on the basis of Sharjah's distinct Arab and Islamic identity
- To encourage investment and attract investors to Sharjah by adopting the best standards in providing quality services
- To provide all facilities and incentives to investors and overcome obstacles facing investment activity in Sharjah
- To evaluate and follow up on tourism, investment and heritage-related infrastructure projects



# Environmental issues affecting the UAE

Industrialization, urbanization and changing lifestyles over the years have affected the environment drastically, causing pollution and environmental degradation. This has led to ecological imbalance and potential health hazards.

Transition from a traditional to a modern, highly urbanized country in just a few decades is affecting the environment.



# Environmental priorities for the UAE

- Increasing the number of organizations willing to implement long term sustainable conservation actions
- Assisting local governmental and non-governmental agencies to plan, develop and implement comprehensive conservation programs
- Promoting and assisting in establishing a national network of protected areas
- Aiding in the implementation of international conservation initiatives
- Promoting sustainability in the UAE



# What is EIA?

EIA is the appraisal process used to identify, predict, evaluate and justify the ecological, social, and related biophysical effects of a proposed policy, program or project on the environment.

It enables an organization to identify:

- The most environmentally suitable option for their project at an early stage
- The best possible environmental option
- Alternative processes or options



## Projects that may require an EIA include:

- Projects located in or close to protected areas, or areas that are environmentally or ecologically sensitive
- Establishment of any activities, facilities, and works on islands and coastal zones
- Reclamation/landfill operations on coastlines and island edges
- Projects that may affect the historical, archaeological, entertainment, scientific, cultural and service character of adjacent areas
- Hospitals/health facilities, including laboratories and medical incinerators.



# Benefits of EIA

- The sustainable use of natural resources
- Reduced project costs and delays
- Minimized risks of environmental disasters
- Increased protection of human health



## Key objectives of any EIA should be:

- Establishing the existing environmental conditions
- Identifying, predicting and assessing the significance of environmental impacts of the project,
- Identifying mitigation, enhancement and monitoring measures to prevent, reduce or remedy significant adverse impacts
- Providing an assessment of the residual effects following the implementation of mitigation measures





# Impact assessment and mitigation

Mitigation is the stage of the EIA process when measures are identified to avoid, minimize or remedy adverse impacts on the environment.

The main purpose of mitigation is to identify measures that will safeguard the environment and the community affected by the proposed project.



# Impact management

- Planning - this involves defining specific goals to accomplish regarding the environment
- Doing – this means taking whatever steps are necessary to implement the processes laid out in the planning stage
- Checking - this involves monitoring the environmental management plan, evaluating its effects and adjusting the procedures as necessary
- Acting - this involves reviewing the plan after it is complete and looking at reports from activities conducted or talking to those who were directly involved to get feedback and adjust the plan accordingly



# Legislation

Legislation provides an opportunity for increasing public awareness, initiatives of environmental groups and business community and to integrate environmental consideration into plans and policies.

Where gaps are present in UAE Federal or local legislation, the regional and international treaties and conventions ratified by the UAE apply.



# Conclusion

EIA is about creating solutions that meet environmental, social and economic objectives in a balanced and holistic way.

We all have a part to play.



# Thank You

