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Environmental Consents

The process of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a practice to assess the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of a proposed project. It is a mandatory exercise in many countries for projects of a particular type or size to examine the potential impacts of a project during the construction, operational and the decommissioning phases. In the context of offshore wind farms, it is necessary to understand the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project throughout its various stages in order to mitigate any impacts where necessary.

Impacts that should be addressed in an EIA study.

Typically the impacts that are addressed in an offshore wind farm EIA during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases are listed below:

- Impacts on the offshore physical environment
- Impacts on the offshore biological environment
- Impacts on the offshore human environment
- Impacts on coastal and onshore physical environment
- Impacts on coastal and onshore biological environment
- Impacts on coastal and onshore human environment

Typical Environmental and Social Impacts

An example of some of the typical impacts addressed during an offshore wind farm EIA, covering the construction, operation and decommissioning phases, are shown below.



Regulatory Procedure in India

The typical regulatory procedure for attaining an EIA clearance from Indian authorities is based on which Category (Category A or B) the project falls under and the predicted impacts from the type of project.

Depending on which Category the project falls within, the EIA will be submitted to either the state or national level authorities. A block diagram has been drawn below to present the various regulatory bodies in India examining the project specific EIA study.

Applicable- Regulatory Process

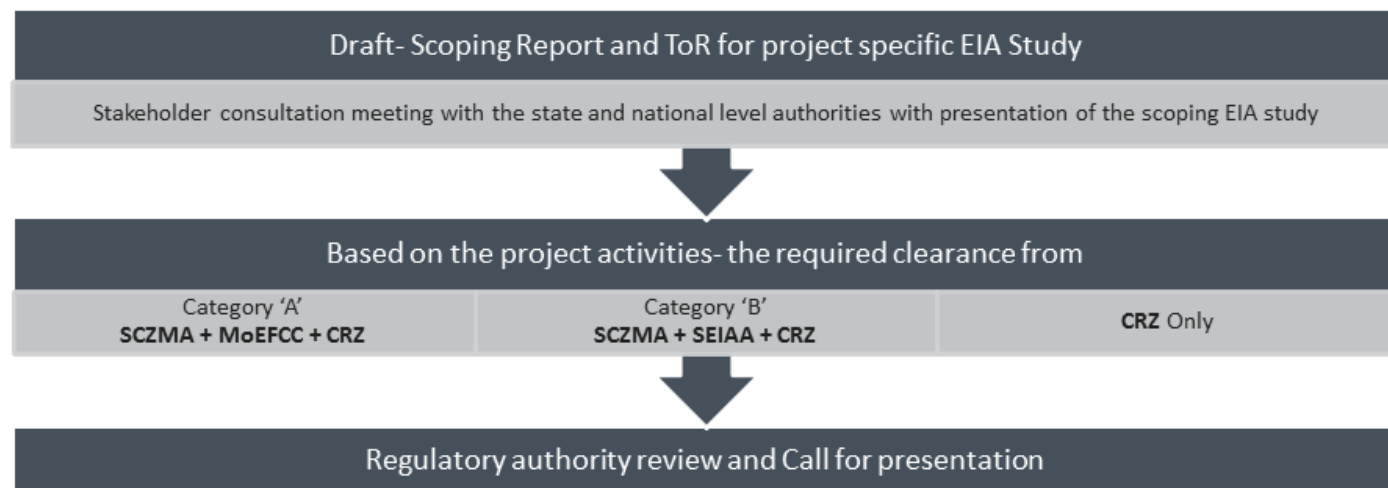


Abb.:

CRZ- Coastal Regulation Zone

SCZMA- State Coastal Management Authority

MoEFCC- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

SEIAA- State level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority



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Categoryization of Projects under EIA notification, 2006

1. Category A Projects

According to the EIA notification by MoEF (2006), "All projects or activities included as Category 'A' in the Schedule, including expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities and change in product mix, shall require prior environmental clearance from the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) on the recommendations of an Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) to be constituted by the Central Government for the purposes of this notification."

Offshore wind farm projects have not yet been classified as either Category A or B in the EIA notification. It is however expected that such projects will fall within Category A and thus require an EIA.

The list of Category A projects requiring prior environmental clearance can be accessed here

<http://envfor.nic.in/legis/eia/so1533.pdf> (<http://envfor.nic.in/legis/eia/so1533.pdf>)

2. Category B Projects

All projects or activities included as Category 'B' in the Schedule, including expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities as specified in sub paragraph (ii) of paragraph 2, or change in product mix as specified in sub paragraph (iii) of paragraph 2, but excluding those which fulfill the General Conditions (GC) stipulated in the Schedule, will require prior environmental clearance from the State/Union territory Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).

The SEIAA shall base its decision on the recommendations of a State or Union territory level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) as to be constituted for in this notification. In the absence of a duly constituted SEIAA or SEAC, a Category 'B' project shall be treated as a Category 'A' project.

The list of Category B projects requiring prior environmental clearance can be accessed here

<http://envfor.nic.in/legis/eia/so1533.pdf> (<http://envfor.nic.in/legis/eia/so1533.pdf>)

Procedures of the EIA process in India

The following flow chart sets out the process of Category identification and preparation of the EIA and / or Coastal Regulation Zone application. Once the Category has been established and the required application has been identified, the regulatory authority will define the necessary Terms of Reference (ToR) of the EIA study.

Procedures- Environment and Consents



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Abb.

MoEF: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

CRZ: Coastal Regulation Zone

EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment

ToR: Terms of Reference

For more information, refer the following informative links/material:

- **Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF)** : <http://envfor.nic.in/>

Guidelines for preparation of pre-feasibility report for obtaining prior environment clearance in terms of the provision of EIA notification, 2006

<http://www.moef.nic.in/downloads/public-information/guidelines-pre-feasibility.pdf>

(<http://www.moef.nic.in/downloads/public-information/guidelines-pre-feasibility.pdf>)

List of Accredited EIA Consultant Organizations for Sector-1(b)- Offshore

<http://182.19.5.116/dsf/Content/pdf/Annexure-1.pdf>

(<http://182.19.5.116/dsf/Content/pdf/Annexure-1.pdf>)

- **Gujarat Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA)** : www.gczma.org/
 (<http://www.gczma.org/>)

Procedural guidelines for the permissible activities as per the provisions of the CRZ Notification 2011: For various projects

<http://www.gczma.org/uploads/Docs/GUIDELINES.pdf>

(<http://www.gczma.org/uploads/Docs/GUIDELINES.pdf>)

- **National Centre for Earth Science Studies** (Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala : www.ncess.gov.in (<http://www.ncess.gov.in/>)
- **Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS)** under Indian Space Research Organization, Department of Space, Govt. of India : www.iirs.gov.in
- **National Institute Of Oceanography(NIO)** : www.nio.org
- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** National Offshore Wind Energy Policy, October 2015 (<https://mnre.gov.in/file-manager/UserFiles/National-Offshore-Wind-Energy-Policy.pdf>)

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Nodal Ministry for Offshore Wind Energy

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