

PIP – Environmental Analysis Tool

Tool is based on the guidance provided in GAC's Environmental Handbook for Community Development Initiatives (2017) – [available online here](#). See also Additional Resources – [PDF download here](#).

GAC Principles of Environmental Tools

Self-assessment - Partner organizations are responsible for anticipating and assessing the environmental effects of their initiatives.

Early Application - Environmental tools must be applied at the beginning of an initiative's planning process, before important decisions about its design are finalized.

Comprehensive Definition of the Terms "Environment" and "Environmental Effect" - All potential environmental effects must be taken into consideration, including effects on the natural environment, health and hygiene, socio-economic conditions, current land and resource use, as well as physical and cultural heritage.

Open and Participatory Process - Communities in the host country must be consulted, and decisions must reflect their concerns. It is important to include all interested parties. Transparency and accountability to Canadians are also important principles.

Efficiency and Cost-effectiveness - The effort and level of detail applied to these tools must reflect the nature and scope of the initiative. Characteristics of the proposed location and the seriousness of the potential effects should determine the extent of the study.

SECTION 1: SUGGESTED PROCESS

- ✓ Consult Contribution Agreement initiatives of your project requiring an Environmental Analysis
- ✓ Consult with local implementing partners about country policies and legislation regarding the initiatives
- ✓ Workshop details of technical specifications for initiatives and potential impacts (positive and adverse) with technical advisors/local partners
- ✓ Conduct desk research as needed for best practices to validate/complete analysis of impacts and to inform mitigation measures
- ✓ Conduct community consultations regarding initiatives (especially important for infrastructure), ensuring broad demographics, and document concerns (can use as opportunity to share preliminary mitigation measures to assure community members)
- ✓ Draft environmental analysis per findings of above using the outline provided in Section 2 below
- ✓ Incorporate mitigation/monitoring measures into your detailed workplan, gender analysis, and monitoring & evaluation plan

SECTION 2: TEMPLATE FOR PIP SECTION

1. Description of the Initiative

Provide a brief overview of the project elements requiring an environmental analysis (per your CA) and their purpose. Outline technical specifications of the activities that may have environmental implications (breaking down into the various phases of work – e.g., site preparation, construction, operations, decommissioning). Describe how the design/approach has incorporated consideration for local environment and seeks to enhance environmental benefits (e.g., improved environmental capacities, improved infrastructure, etc.)

2. Description of the Local Environment

Provide a brief overview of the local environmental features, with particular focus on the extent to which local environment is already being impacted or is particularly fragile. Break down your overview into biophysical environmental features and human environment – use table below if helpful.

Type of Features	Description	How is this already being impacted? How is it particularly fragile (if applicable)
Biophysical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••
Human	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••

3. Overview of Relevant Host Country Legislation

Cite any relevant host country policies or legislation related to the intervention and briefly outline how your plans are in line with local legal requirements.

4. Methodology for Environmental Analysis

Briefly describe how you have conducted your environmental analysis, including any desk research or documents consulted, who was consulted, how you gathered information from informants (tools used – e.g. surveys, interviews, site visits, etc. – and who collected the information). Indicate the process you used to assess the significance of potential environmental effects (see section 5).

5. Environmental Effects and Their Significance

Outline the potential positive and adverse effects of the initiative on the local environment as well as the potential environmental effects on the initiative. Use a scale to evaluate the potential impact (as you would in your overall risk analysis) considering probability, intensity of impact, scope or scale of impact, etc. A high significance rating would be appropriate if potential exists for permanent damage to a natural resource, if the impact takes place close to a sensitive feature (like water point or steep slope vulnerable to erosion) or if it directly impacts human health. Use the table below if helpful.

Description	Type of impact (positive/adverse)	Significance (low/med/high)
	•	•
	•	•

6. Public Participation and Concerns

Outline how you have made efforts to engage the local people affected by the initiative in your analysis. Describe the demographic characteristics of the people consulted. Describe the concerns raised by members of the public and how you are addressing them. Describe how you will monitor and respond to public concerns throughout the implementation of the initiative.

7. Mitigation Measures

List all the identified potential adverse impacts and the mitigation plans. Identify any residual impacts that may persist in spite of your mitigation efforts. Use table below if helpful.

Potential impact	Mitigation Measures	Potential Residual Impact
	•	•
	•	•