

OZONECO RESOURCE

EIA Process Guide

Step-by-step guide to Environmental Impact Assessment in Saudi Arabia.

Document Type	Technical Guide
Audience	Project owners, EPC contractors, HSE leads
Jurisdiction	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
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What is an EIA?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the structured study of a project's likely environmental, social, and health effects, conducted before construction or operation begins. In Saudi Arabia, EIA is mandatory for projects categorized under NCEC's Environmental Categories Schedule.

Project Categorization

Category I	Low impact — environmental statement only.
Category II	Moderate impact — full EIA report required.
Category III	High impact — full EIA + Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The 7-Step EIA Process

1. Screening

Confirm whether the project requires an EIA based on NCEC categorization. Submit Project Information Document (PID) to NCEC for confirmation.

2. Scoping

Identify environmental aspects, stakeholders, and study boundaries. Issue a Scoping Report and obtain NCEC sign-off.

3. Baseline Studies

Collect air, noise, water, soil, biodiversity, and socio-economic baseline data — typically over 1 to 4 seasons.

4. Impact Assessment

Predict and evaluate impacts using recognized models (AERMOD, CALPUFF, MIKE21). Quantify magnitude, extent, duration, and reversibility.

5. Mitigation & Management

Define avoidance, reduction, and offset measures. Develop the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).

6. Reporting & Disclosure

Compile the EIA Report (Arabic + English), publish a Non-Technical Summary, and conduct stakeholder consultation.

7. Review & Approval

Submit to NCEC; respond to clarifications; receive Environmental Permit. Implement ESMP throughout construction and operation.

Typical Timeline

Phase	Duration	Outputs
Screening & Scoping	4 – 6 weeks	PID, Scoping Report
Baseline studies	3 – 12 months	Baseline data, monitoring reports
Impact modelling & ESMP	6 – 10 weeks	Models, ESMP, mitigation register
EIA report & consultation	6 – 8 weeks	Draft EIA, stakeholder log
NCEC review & permit	8 – 16 weeks	Environmental Permit

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

- Skipping seasonal baseline data — NCEC will reject reports without it.
- Using non-accredited laboratories for sampling.
- Under-scoped cumulative impact assessments in industrial clusters.
- Weak stakeholder consultation logs (must be evidenced with photos and minutes).
- Generic ESMP without site-specific KPIs and responsible parties.

OzoneCo's EIA Service

We deliver end-to-end EIAs across Saudi Arabia — from scoping through permit issuance — with a bilingual (AR/EN) deliverable package and full NCEC liaison support.