



30 years Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment

Water as Leverage Cartagena *Construyendo con el Agua*

The role of the NCEA

September 2023



'Water as Leverage Cartagena' is a **partnership** between the City of Cartagena and the Government of the Netherlands through the Netherlands Enterprise and Development Agency (RVO). The partnership focuses on the **development of innovative, integral and implementable projects**, as part of an inclusive process. Two multidisciplinary teams are hired to develop infrastructural interventions for water- and climate change adaptation in Cartagena.

'Water as Leverage' has **three phases**. In phase 1, eight to twelve conceptual designs will be developed out of which four to six designs will be selected. In phase two, the selected designs will be further specified in project proposals on a pre-feasibility level. In phase three, two remaining proposals will be detailed out in one full feasibility study per team.

RVO, endorsed by the Netherlands Embassy in Bogotá and Invest International, has asked support of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) in this partnership. The table below describes the **anticipated role of the NCEA throughout the phases of the partnership**. The costs for this support will be covered by the Dutch government.

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Project deliverables where the NCEA will focus on	Deliverables include an indicative risk and impact assessment for 4-6 conceptual designs per team. A multi-criteria analysis (MCA) will be done by the teams to advise on the most promising designs for further development in phase 2.	Deliverables include an ESIA scoping and Terms of Reference for at least three project proposals per team, according to the Colombian ESIA requirements and the IFC Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability.	Assuming a positive decision from the 'Water as Leverage' Advisory Board, the teams will develop the selected proposal from phase two to full feasibility. Deliverables include a full ESIA in accordance with Colombian requirements and IFC Performance Standards .
Role of the NCEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check whether the MCA and underlying risk and impact assessment are imitable and transparent. In consultation with Colombian environmental authorities, check whether Colombian ESIA requirements are correctly included in next phases. Assess needs for capacity building of Colombian environmental authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent quality review of ESIA scoping reports including site visit to Cartagena. Maintain contact with environmental licensing authorities to align ESIA review process in terms of timing and contents. Capacity development support, depending on the results of the needs assessment in phase 1. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent quality review of ESIA reports. Maintain contacts with Colombian environmental licensing authorities to align ESIA review process and provide technical support if needed.
Planning of NCEA input	Sep- Oct 2023	Feb - Mar 2024	Dec 2024 - Jan 2025

Expertise
Independency
Transparency

The Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment has more than 30 years of experience in supporting governmental organisations in the Netherlands and abroad with SEA and ESIA. Our expertise includes: independent advice, coaching, capacity building and knowledge & learning activities. For our work we have access to a large pool of qualified experts in all relevant environmental, social, and subject-specific areas.



Environmental and social assessment

Environmental and social assessment can be conducted at two levels of decision making: the strategic and the project level.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for decision making on plans, programmes and policies, such as a land use or national energy plan.

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for decision making on projects, such as a dredging project or a windpark.

What does the NCEA look for in an environmental and social assessment process?

Information

Does the process deliver all information needed for decision making, such as impacts, alternative options, mitigation measures and impact management measures?

Dialogue

Does the process engage affected stakeholders in a timely, transparent and inclusive way?

Influence

Does the process address relevant issues and provide usable inputs for decision makers? Is this done at the right time? Can decision makers be held accountable for their use of the assessment outcomes?



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Watch 6 short animations on the ESIA process



ESIA and SEA in Colombia

Also see: www.eia.nl/en/countries/colombia

In Colombia ESIA is regulated since 2015. Decree 1076 describes the procedure for the elaboration of an ESIA in order to obtain an environmental license prior to the implementation of projects, works and activities. For policies, plans and programs, an SEA can be developed on a voluntary basis. Several manuals exist to support the process. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is the entity that oversees all ESIA and SEA developments. The competent authorities for environmental licensing are the National Agency for Environmental Licensing (ANLA) and the Regional Autonomous Corporations and Sustainable Development Corporations. In some cases, also municipalities, districts and metropolitan areas can be competent authorities.

Contact us

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