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**AN EVALUATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT PROCESS IN SRI LANKA**

by

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## **Abstract**

The framework of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Sri Lanka and its implementation over the last ten years is described. A series of EIA reports were evaluated. The comments of a cross-section of officials involved in the implementation of EIA were obtained. Salient features of the EIA process such as the provisions for public and expert participation, the requirement for alternatives and provisions for equity are discussed. Loopholes whereby investors whose projects have significant environmental impact have circumvented the EIA legislation are described. The monitoring compliance and enforcement of environmental regulations is assessed. The policy of locating all new high and medium polluting industries in industrial estates is described. The function of the EIA process as a means of ensuring justice for those adversely affected by projects is highlighted. The use of extended cost-benefit analysis is discussed.

It is recommended that policies be set out to guide investors, regulators and the public as to what type of projects are encouraged and where these ought to be located. Measures are suggested to alleviate the shortcomings of the management and legislation of the EIA process. A system of collating and disseminating environmental data is suggested. In setting effluent standards, the need to take account not only of effluent quality but the quantity and character of the receiving body is identified. Suggestions are made as to how to raise revenue for the EIA process.