

(6) Thailand: Comparison with International EIA Procedures

The EIA system in Thailand has many similarities in terms of the factors (impact identification, mitigation and performance improvement, monitoring, involvement with relevant people, etc.) listed in the Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) concerning the performance standards specified by the International Finance Corporation (IFC). The categories of projects that require ESMS have similarities to the list of projects that require EIA, EHIA or IEE in Thailand, but the details are different.

On the other hand, with regard to climate change mitigation measures, the Thailand's current system does not have any detailed description about identification of potential risks and impacts of greenhouse gases shown in the IFC's performance standards and consideration and implementation of alternative measures that are technically effective, financially available, and cost-effective to reduce greenhouse gases.

The table below shows the comparison of the IFC's performance standards, especially of social impacts. For more details, please see the requirements listed in individual guidelines used in Thailand.

Comparison between IFC Performance Standards and Thailand's EIA (Focusing on Social Impacts)

IFC Performance Standards	Thailand's EIA (Uncovered factors, differences, etc.)
PS1: Evaluation and management of environmental and social risks and impacts	Mostly covered, excluding items not partially falling under the Thailand's EIA (cumulative effects and impacts from relevant facilities, organizational quality and ability, procedures for efficacy evaluation of management programs, etc.).
PS2: Labor and working conditions	Grievance mechanism is controlled by the Ministry of Labor. The Labor Law of Thailand is applied to employment of those under 18 years old, while the EIA Law does not stipulate any regulation concerning this.
PS3: Effective use of natural resources and pollution prevention	Mostly covered.
PS4: Community health, safety and security	Mostly covered, excluding assignment of the Security Committee members.
PS5: Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement	Mostly covered. (For projects regarded to have less impact, only a description of the procedures for land acquisition)
PS6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management	Mostly covered.
PS7: Indigenous peoples	Possibly mostly covered, but detailed measures corresponding to individual provisions may not exist.
PS8: Cultural heritage	Mostly covered.

(Source: Created based on ERM 2014 and Supat Wangwongwatana et. al 2015)