

(12) Reflecting the assessment results in the project scheme

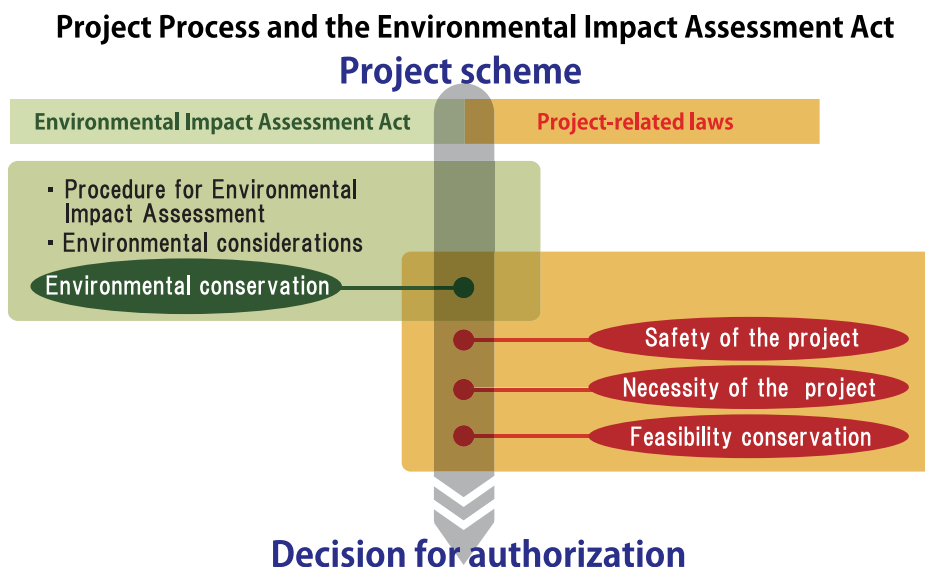
The procedure for EIA prior to the project concludes with the public notification of the final EIS.

However, EIA itself is not the purpose; it is extremely important for the project proponent to reflect the results of the assessment in the project scheme.

The projects subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment Act are projects to be approved, authorized, subsidized or conducted by the national government. In other words, the government can decide whether the projects will be implemented or not.

In granting licenses or subsidies, etc. for a project based on the project-related laws (such as the Road Act and the Railway Business Act), the screening process may not necessarily include a review of whether or not the project gives due consideration to environmental protection.

In this context, the Environmental Impact Assessment Act includes provision not to give authorization to projects that do not take enough environmental protection into account.



TOPICS : Expanding chances of Information sharing

In order to utilize the widespread information on the environment, it is important for project proponents to announce project details thoughtfully and collect environmental information from relevant citizens and others, namely "information sharing".

Before the revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, explanation on the contents of EIA Documents was obligatory only at the stage of the Draft EIS. Taking account the voluminous and specialized contents of the document, however, a brief session (explanatory meeting) at the stage of the Procedural Document has additionally been obligated by the Revised Act. Accordingly, anyone who has opinions from the standpoint of environmental conservation can receive the explanation by the project proponent before they implement survey, forecast and evaluation.

In addition, publication of the documents on EIA via internet has been also obligatory in order to expect opinions from more people.

Adequate information sharing is expected to be an effective way of consensus building for decision making, as well as helpful for collecting environmental information.