

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS QUESTIONNAIRE

The tables that follow present all indicators (including their components, if applicable) under each pillar, with a reference to the corresponding question number in parenthesis. The questions are listed before each table for ease of reference.

For Y/N questions, the Y response accounts for the score and is considered as the good practice, unless otherwise indicated with the sign “N → good practice”.

In the tables that follow, “AND” means all referenced questions must have a good practice response to obtain a score on the indicator.

In the tables that follow, “OR” means one or more referenced questions must have a good practice response to obtain a score on the indicator.

Certain questions are marked as “not scored,” which indicates that they do not affect the score in any way. The purpose of these questions is to further inform and refine the questions design for subsequent years of the pilot, as needed, as well as to substantiate and provide further information for the scored questions.

*Note: The gender indicator of the Business Location topic is shared between property transfer, building permits, and environmental permits. In those cases, the same question is asked for each area (property transfer, building permits, environmental permits). However, the scoring on the indicator is shared among the three areas to avoid triple counting. This shared indicator is marked with *. In terms of the scoring, the 1 point for this indicator feed into the overall Business Location topic score based on the information collected from the 3 questionnaires.*

PILLAR I—QUALITY OF REGULATIONS FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY LEASE, PROPERTY OWNERSHIP, AND URBAN PLANNING	
Parameters	
Largest city	The largest (most populous) city in the economy. Geographical location determines the relevant regulatory framework governing environmental permits. For Pillar I, if regulations differ across states within an economy, the experts will be asked to provide information regarding regulations of the largest city.
Type and size of project	The type and size of project (housing development project) determines the type of environmental permitting required. A specific parameter of the construction of a new residential dwelling housing development project is provided, with a total surface area of residential housing development project of 10 acres (40,468 sqm). The type of residence considered is detached single family house with 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms, each with its own driveway, and the estimated number of houses are 100 single family homes, with an estimated 600 residents.

1.1 REGULATORY STANDARDS FOR BUILDING REGULATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSES

1.1.1 Environmental Clearances in Construction

- 1. Are there any national or local regulations or standards related to pollution and waste management in construction activities that are applicable in [B-READY largest city]? (Y/N)**

2. **Have these regulations or standards been updated or revised in the past five years to reflect new environmental and technological developments related to pollution and waste management in construction activities? (Y/N)**
3. **Have penalties or fines been established in [B-READY largest city] to enforce compliance with regulations or standards regarding pollution and waste management? (Y/N)**
4. **Does the legal framework on environment projects in [B-READY largest city] clearly define environmental risks in new building construction projects? (Y/N)**
5. **What types of environmental risks are defined in the legal framework regarding new building construction projects? (*not scored*)**
 - 5a. Projects that may affect biodiversity and natural resources threatening to the protection, conservation, maintenance and restoration of natural habitats and biodiversity, including ecosystems, protected areas, and forests.
 - 5b. Projects that may contribute to greenhouse gas emissions or are vulnerable to climate change impacts.
 - 5c. Projects that may affect cultural heritage sites or artifacts, including archaeological and historic sites.
 - 5d. Projects that may cause physical or biological hazards, such as contamination of air, water, soil, or noise pollution.
 - 5e. Projects that may require land acquisition, resettlement, and/or rehabilitation of affected communities.
 - 5f. Projects that may pose occupational health and safety risks to workers, such as exposure to hazardous materials or dangerous working conditions.
 - 5g. Projects that may require pest management measures, such as the use of pesticides or other chemicals.
 - 5h. Projects that may generate or release pollutants, such as wastewater, solid waste, or air emissions, and require measures to prevent or abate pollution.
 - 5i. Projects that may affect water resources, including water quality, quantity, and access, and require measures to manage and conserve water resources.
6. **Is it mandatory by law that an environmental impact assessment (EIA) must be conducted by a qualified professional or professional agency? (Y/N) (*not scored*)**
7. **In practice, who prepares and conducts the environmental impact assessment (EIA)? (*not scored*)**
 - 7a. Project owner
 - 7b. Professional agency or independent expert
 - 7c. It is not conducted in practice
 - 7d. Other (please specify)
8. **Based on the legal framework for a housing development project as described earlier, what criteria would trigger an environmental impact assessment (EIA)?**
 - 8a. Size of project
 - 8b. Geographical location
 - 8c. Nature of industry
 - 8d. Other (please specify)
9. **Based on the existing legal framework, does the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process include each of the following mandatory requirements (select all that applies):**

- 9a. Scoping and baseline studies (identification of the scope of the assessment, including the issues to be addressed and the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project)
- 9b. Impact assessment (identification and evaluation of the potential positive and negative environmental impacts of the proposed project, including direct and indirect impacts, short-term and long-term impacts, and cumulative impacts)
- 9c. Mitigation measures (development of measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for the negative environmental impacts of the proposed project, and enhancement of positive impacts)
- 9d. Public participation (Consultation with the public and other stakeholders to obtain their views on the proposed project and the potential environmental impacts, and consideration of their concerns and suggestions in the decision-making process)
- 9e. Monitoring and follow-up: implementation of a monitoring program to verify the accuracy of the impact predictions, and to ensure that the mitigation measures are effective in reducing the negative environmental impacts

10. According to the legal framework, what type of review is the EIA subject to?

- 10a. Internal review (undertaken by the responsible authority or other government agency, with or without formal guidelines and procedure)
- 10b. Internal review (undertaken by the responsible authority or other government agency, with or without formal guidelines and procedure)

11. Is public participation with concerned stakeholders mandatory by law for environmental impact assessments (EIAs)? (Y/N)

12. Does the legal framework for EIAs include the following activities and approaches that enable stakeholders to contribute to the decision-making?

- 12a. Information in a form and language understandable to project-affected parties and other interested parties
- 12b. Clear and accessible information (in an accessible place, online, in gazettes, media etc.)
- 12c. Surveys and polls to capture inputs and feedback from the stakeholders
- 12d. Capacity buildings (training, resources, and technical assistance to stakeholders, as needed)

1.1.2 Gender Incentives for Professional Participation

13. Are there any incentives for increasing the representation of women in professions related to environmental clearances for construction projects in [B-READY largest city]? (Y/N)

14. Please indicate the professions for which such incentives exist: (*not scored*)

- 14a. Surveyors
- 14b. Environmental specialists/engineers
- 14c. Other (please specify)

15. Please specify which incentive programs are provided for women in order to increase their representation in the professions you have selected: (*not scored*)

- 15a. Scholarships
- 15b. Training programs
- 15c. Grants
- 15d. Recruitment policies
- 15e. Prizes and awards
- 15f. Others (please specify)

1.1.3 Dispute Resolution Mechanisms for Environmental Clearances in Construction

16. According to the legal framework can environmental clearances and permits be disputed by any party? (Y/N)

17. According to the legal framework, is arbitration offered as an out-of-court resolution mechanism for disputing environmental clearances and permits? (Y/N)

18. According to the legal framework are conciliation and mediation offered as an out-of-court resolution mechanism for disputes? (Y/N)

19. Which agency/body is responsible for handling such disputes in [B-READY largest city]? (*not scored*)

19a. Independent tribunal or arbitrator dedicated to handle environmental clearances and permits.

19b. Regulator

19c. Environment ministry/department providing environmental clearances, permits

19d. Other (please specify)

1.1 REGULATORY STANDARDS FOR BUILDING REGULATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSES			
1.1.1 Environmental Clearances in Construction			
Indicators	FFP	SBP	Total points
Existence of national environmental regulations during construction (1)	0	1	1
Update or revision of national environmental regulations during construction (2)	0	1	1
Penalties or fines in place for non-compliance with the regulations (3)	0	1	1
Environmental risks as defined by legal framework (4)	0	1	1
Qualified professional/professional agency to conduct EIA (6)	0	1	1
Criteria that trigger an EIA	0	1	1
- Extent (size) of project	0	0.33	0.33
- Nature of industry	0	0.33	0.33
- Geographical location	0	0.33	0.33
Requirements for an EIA process	0	1	1
- Scoping and baseline studies (9a)	0	0.20	0.20
- Impact assessment (9b)	0	0.20	0.20
- Mitigation measures (9c)	0	0.20	0.20
- Public participation (9d)	0	0.20	0.20
- Monitoring and follow-up (9e)	0	0.20	0.20
Legal responsibility for checking compliance	0	1	1
- Internal review (10a)	0	0.50	0.50
- External (10b)	0	0.50	0.50
Requirement of public consultation with concerned stakeholders (11)	0	1	1
Requirement for public consultations	0	1	1
- Ensuring that the information is provided in a language that is accessible to the intended audience (12a)	0	0.25	0.25
- Disseminating information about the meeting in advance (12b)	0	0.25	0.25
- Ensuring that the meeting takes place at a time and place that are appropriate for the stakeholders (12c)	0	0.25	0.25
- Ensuring that the meeting does not take place at a stage where all relevant decisions concerning the project have been made (12d)	0	0.25	0.25

Total points	0	10	10
1.1.2 Gender Incentives for Professional Participation*			
Indicators	FFP	SBP	Total points
Are there any incentives for increasing the representation of women in professions related to property transactions*	0.33	0.33	0.66
Are there any incentives for increasing the representation of women in professions related to construction*	0.33	0.33	0.66
Are there any incentives for increasing the representation of women in professions related to environmental clearances (13)	0.33	0.33	0.66
Total points	1.00	1.00	2.00
1.1.3 Dispute Resolution Mechanisms for Environmental Clearances in Construction			
Indicators	FFP	SBP	Total points
Ability to dispute environmental clearances and permits (16)	1	1	2
Out of court resolution mechanisms for environmental disputes	1	1	1
- Arbitration (17)	0.33	0.33	0.66
- Conciliation (18)	0.33	0.33	0.66
- Mediation (18)	0.33	0.33	0.66
Total points	2	2	4

Note: FFP = firm flexibility point; SBP = social benefit point.

*Shared indicators between property transfer, building permits and environmental permits

PILLAR II–QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND TRANSPARENCY OF INFORMATION	
Parameters	
Largest city	The largest (most populous) city in the economy. Geographical location determines the agency governing environmental clearances, as well as the type of clearances required. For all questions in Pillar II, the experts will be asked to provide their response accounting for this specific parameter unless specified otherwise in the question per se.
Project type, size	The type and size of project (housing development project) determines the type of environmental permitting required. A specific parameter of the construction of a new residential dwelling housing development project is provided, with a total surface area of residential housing development project of 10 acres (40,468 sqm). The type of residence considered is detached single family house with 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms, each with its own driveway, and the estimated number of houses are 100 single family homes, with an estimated 600 residents.

2.1 AVAILABILITY AND RELIABILITY OF ONLINE SERVICES

2.1.1 Building Permits and Environmental Licenses–Digital Public Services

20. Please indicate whether there is an electronic system that facilitates the processing of environmental licenses in [B-READY largest city] for each of the following:

- 20a. Online payment
- 20b. Online communication
- 20c. Online notification
- 20d. Online submission
- 20e. Auto-generated checklist

21. Can final decisions on environmental clearances/licenses be disputed online? (Y/N)

2.1 AVAILABILITY AND RELIABILITY OF ONLINE SERVICES			
2.1.1 Building Permits and Environmental Licenses–Digital Public Services			
Indicators	FFP	SBP	Total points
Electronic system to submit environmental licenses	1	1	2
- Online payment (20a)	0.20	0.20	0.40
- Online communication (20b)	0.20	0.20	0.40
- Online notification (20c)	0.20	0.20	0.40
- Online submission (20d)	0.20	0.20	0.40
- Auto-generated checklist (20e)	0.20	0.20	0.40
Mechanism available to file a dispute online on the final decision on environmental licensing (21)	1	1	2
Total points	2	2	4

Note: FFP = firm flexibility point; SBP = social benefit point.

2.2 TRANSPARENCY OF INFORMATION

2.2.1 Transparency of Information on Building Permits and Environmental Licenses

22. Are the requirements for submitting an application to obtain an environmental license for constructing a building with moderate environmental risk in [B-READY largest city] available online? (Y/N)
23. Is the applicable fee schedule for obtaining any type of environmental clearances in [B-READY largest city] available online? (Y/N)
24. Are there official, updated and publicly available online statistics that track the number of environmental impact assessments (EIA)? (Y/N) (*not scored*)
25. How many years of statistics tracking the number and type of EIAs in [B-READY economy] are available?
- 25a. Available for 1 year
- 25b. Available for 2 years
- 25c. Available for 3 years
- 25d. Available for 4 years
- 25e. Available for 5 years or more

2.2 TRANSPARENCY OF INFORMATION			
2.2.1 Transparency of Information on Building Permits and Environmental Licenses			
Indicators	FFP	SBP	Total points
Public online availability of requirements (22)	1	1	2
Applicable fee schedule (23)	1	1	2
Publicly available statistics	1	1	2
- Available for 1 year (25a) OR	0.20 OR	0.20 OR	0.40 OR
- Available for 2 years (25b) OR	0.40 OR	0.40 OR	0.80 OR
- Available for 3 years (25c) OR	0.60 OR	0.60 OR	1.20 OR
- Available for 4 years (25d) OR	0.80 OR	0.80 OR	1.60 OR
- Available for 5 years or more (25e)	1	1	2

Total points	3	3	6
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Note: FFP = firm flexibility point; SBP = social benefit point.

PILLAR III—EFFICIENCY OF OBTAINING A BUILDING PERMIT IN PRACTICE	
Parameters	
Largest city	The largest (most populous city) in the economy. Geographical location determines the agency governing environmental clearances, as well as the type of clearances required. For all questions in Pillar III, the experts will be asked to provide their response accounting for this specific parameter unless specified otherwise in the question per se.
Project—type, size	The type and size of project (housing development project of 10 acres, 100 houses, 600 residents) determines the type of environmental permitting required and cost.

The data on the indicators for Pillar III will be normalized to a common unit—for example, on the scale from 0 to 100 points, where 0 represents the lowest and 100 represents the best performance. In turn, best (worst) performance is defined by the highest (lowest) standards and/or practices, measured as a single point or range of values.

The data for Pillar III on the Efficiency of Environmental Permits will be collected primarily through expert consultations using the following parameters and questions:

26. For this housing development project what kind of environmental clearances would be required?

(not scored)

Note: Based on the type of environmental assessment or clearance you have selected in question 48, please select only relevant processes that would be required according to your economy's environmental regulation.

- 26a. Self-declaration of compliance with environmental regulations
- 26b. Certificate of Environmental Clearance
- 26c. Simplified environmental impact assessment (i.e., environmental permit involving environmental study with limited scope)
- 26d. Full environmental impact assessment (see glossary for definition)
- 26e. No licensing requirements apply to such project
- 26f. Other (please specify)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process

27. On average, how many calendar days does it take to complete each of the following steps:

- 27a. Development of Terms of Reference (TOR)
- 27b. Obtain approval of TORs
- 27c. Hire registered environmental expert or company to prepare the EIA
- 27d. Environmental scoping/screening
- 27e. Preparation of the environmental study/report
- 27f. Obtain environmental license/permit/authorization
- 27g. Other (please specify)

28. On average, how much does it cost (in local currency) to complete each of the following steps:

- 28a. Development of Terms of Reference (TOR)
- 28b. Obtain approval of TORs
- 28c. Hire registered environmental expert or company to prepare the EIA

- 28d. Environmental scoping/screening
- 28e. Preparation of the environmental study/report
- 28f. Obtain environmental license/permit/authorization
- 28g. Other (please specify)

29. For a project as described in the parameters above, is a wastewater runoff clearance required? (Y/N)

30. On average, how many calendar days does it take to obtain the wastewater runoff clearance?

31. On average, how much does it cost (in local currency) to obtain the wastewater runoff clearance?

Public participation and reporting

32. On average, how many calendar days does it take to complete each of the following steps:

- 32a. Public consultation during the scoping phase of the project
- 32b. Public consultation during the preparation of the EIA
- 32c. Public consultation after the completion of the EIA
- 32d. Other (please specify)

33. On average, how much does it cost (in local currency) complete each of the following steps:

- 33a. Public consultation during the scoping phase of the project
- 33b. Public consultation during the preparation of the EIA
- 33c. Public consultation after the completion of the EIA
- 33d. Other (please specify)

Monitoring of EIA Implementation

34. Is there a post-audit of the EIA implementation? (Y/N)

35. On average, how many calendar days does it take to complete the post-audit of the EIA implementation?

36. On average, how much does it cost (in local currency) to conduct the post-audit of the EIA implementation?

Environment Management Plan

37. Based on the law, and the type of environmental clearance required, would an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) be required? (Y/N)

38. On average, how many calendar days does it take to complete each of the following steps:

- 38a. Preparation of EMP
- 38b. Monitoring of the EMP implementation
- 38c. Obtain final clearance
- 38d. Other (please specify)

39. On average, how much does it cost (in local currency) to complete each of the following steps:

- 39a. Preparation of EMP
- 39b. Monitoring of the EMP implementation
- 39c. Obtain final clearance

39d. Other (please specify)

40. What is the total time to complete all steps to obtain environmental licenses?

Note: Please consider the time indicated above for all EIA or EIA process, public participation and report, monitoring of EIA implementation and Environmental Management plan, if applicable). Please also consider the simultaneity of steps: that is, whether certain steps can be completed at the same time. For instance, if two steps can be completed within the same day, then the total time for both steps will only be 1 day.

41. What is the total cost (in local currency) to complete the entire process of obtaining environmental clearances?

Note: Please consider the cost indicated above for all EIA or EIA process, public participating and report, monitoring of EIA implementation and Environmental Management plan (if applicable).

3.1 TIME			
Indicators	FFP	SBP	Total points
Time to Obtain Environmental Permits (40) <i>Further corroborated with data from 27, 28, 30, 32, 35, 38</i>	100 (100%)	n.a.	100 (100%)
3.2 COST			
Indicators	FFP	SBP	Total points
Cost to Obtain Environmental Permits (41) <i>Further corroborated with data from 28, 31, 33, 36, 39</i>	100 (100%)	n.a.	100 (100%)
Total points	100	n.a	100

Note: n.a. = not applicable (refers to the cases when the impact on firms or society is either ambiguous or nonexistent).
FFP = firm flexibility point; SBP = social benefit point.