

Chapter

2



Methodology

Chapter 2 Methodology

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Throughout the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) process, SEIC has made a strong commitment to building local capacity through partnership with individuals and institutions on Sakhalin. This chapter describes the general methodology adopted for the SIA process and the capacity building efforts that have been made. The major steps in the data collection and consultation are summarised below.

TABLE 2-01: MAJOR STEPS IN THE SIA PROCESS

Stage of Consultation	Dates	Activities	Chapter, Section
Local Capacity Building	Sep. 2001 Oct. 2001	Organisation of SA Group	2.2
		Organisation of Indigenous People's (IP) Consultation Team	2.2
Preliminary Activity and Preparatory Consultations and Data Collection	Sep. 2001-present Sep.-Dec. 2001 Oct.-Dec. 2001 Oct.-Dec. 2001 Sep. 2001-Nov. 2002	Development of Local Staff and In-House Training in SIA	2.2
		Preliminary Consultation Activities	3.2.1, 6
		Development of Methodology	2, 3.2.1, 6
		Collection of Statistical Data for TEO-C and PEIA	3.2.2
		Other Activities	3.2.1
Public Hearing Activities and Public Meetings	Nov.-Dec. 2001 Nov.-Dec. 2001 Dec. 2001 Dec. 2001	Pre-Public Hearing Activities	3.3.1
		Pre-Public Hearing Activities for Indigenous People	6
		Public Hearings	3.3.2
		Post-Public Hearing Environmental Presentations	3.6.4
Baseline Data Collection and Consultation	Jan. 2002 Jan.-Apr. 2002 Jan.-May 2002	Development of Methodology	2, 3.4, 6
		Baseline Data Collection for SIA	3.4
		Baseline Data Collection and Consultation with Indigenous People	6
Consultation on Impacts and Mitigation Measures	Jun. 2002 Aug. 2002	Preliminary Consultation on Impacts and Mitigation Measures	3.5
		Consultations with Reindeer Herders in their Summer Camp as part of Social Impact Assessment	6
Ongoing Consultation	Jul.-Aug. 2002	Ongoing Consultation Efforts relating to Project Sites	5
Efforts	Aug. 2002-present	Ongoing Consultations on Compensation and Supplementary Assessment Process	3.6

The scoping process and results of the consultation programme are presented in Chapter 3. The methodology and results of the indigenous peoples' consultation programme are presented in Chapter 6.

2.2 LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES (2001-2002)

2.2.1 Structure of the SA Group

In September 2001, SEIC initiated an innovative programme of local capacity building to complete the SIA for Phase 2 of the Sakhalin II Project. In this case, SEIC decided to retain well-known and respected local sociologists and economists and provide them with the training needed to be able to fully assess the potential impacts of the Project, develop mitigation measures and assess potential benefits to the region and local communities.

SEIC retained an independent international SIA consultant with extensive experience and knowledge of oil and gas development to train and manage the group between 2001 and 2002. The group was provided with office space in the SEIC headquarters building in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

The SA Group reported to the Director of Sustainable Development in Rijswijk, The Netherlands, and the Corporate HSE manager in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. The group had full access to environmental specialists conducting field studies for the Phase 2 development, the engineers involved with road, bridge, rail and other infrastructure upgrades, and senior management.

2.2.2 Development of the SA Group

Between September and November 2001, a core SA Group of nine Russians was retained. This included some of the most prominent social scientists on Sakhalin. This group, now consisting of ten individuals, included:

- The head of the Social Science Laboratory of Sakhalin State University (SSU),

- The chairman of the Sociology Faculty of SSU,
- A lecturer from the Management Faculty, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Institute of Economics, Law and Information Technology, and
- The assistant director of the Sakhalin Regional Museum - a recognised international expert on Sakhalin's indigenous peoples.

In addition, two local social survey specialists, a Nivkh Native issues assistant, a database specialist, and one translator were hired. The international SIA consultant managed the group. In November 2001 seven student trainees were hired for one month from SSU to assist with the preliminary pre-public hearing fieldwork.

In January 2002, in anticipation of the major baseline data collection programme, the Group was again expanded to include:

- A local group manager with a background in sustainable development and international aid programmes on Sakhalin,
- An international consultant on community participatory consultation techniques, and
- An international consultant specialising in Sakhalin's indigenous peoples, local communities and impacts of oil and gas development.

Another translator was also hired at this time.

Between February and June 2002, twelve additional researchers and trainees were hired to assist with the baseline data collection effort. They included three senior researchers, three junior researchers and six student trainees. Additional details on the professional qualifications of this team are presented in Appendix B.

2.2.3 Language

Since the Sakhalin II, Phase 2 Project represented the first major oil and gas project in the Russian Far East, local scientists had no previous experience in preparing large-scale SIAs. With a few exceptions, most major SIAs are only available in English, as is the literature on SIA methods and techniques.

Since most SIA information and Project planning documents were in English, two interpreters/translators were hired to assist the SA Group. This allowed for fairly spontaneous conversations to take place between the group and specialists and enabled the group to attend meetings. Key SIA documents were also translated into Russian for training purposes.

2.2.4 Seminars

As part of the capacity building effort the group attended a number of seminars between September 2001 and June 2002. These were led by experts in a range of issues related to SIA and Project development. Seminar themes included:

- General Project impacts,
- Environmental impact of Project-related construction,
- Socio-economic impacts,
- International models of impact assessment,
- Native issues,
- Nature protection, rivers and bio-resources,
- Fishing, gathering and hunting policies,
- Oil spill response,
- Health and safety,
- Data collection, impact assessment and interview methods,
- Fieldwork safety, and
- Preliminary training and conflict management skills.

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2.2.5 SA Group Activities

The SA Group developed a programme of research involving a range of methods. These methods were carefully chosen in accordance with the nature of the information needed and with consideration for local specifics (below). The basic activity was collection of information to provide a sound foundation for impact assessment, development of mitigation measures, assessment of local community needs and enhancement of Project benefits.

The SA Group research programme was based on several months of intensive fieldwork, which entailed travelling out into local communities to talk directly with residents and community leaders. The group met with local people in a range of situations and locations, including formal public meetings, informal discussions at home, pre-arranged meetings at enterprises and chance meetings in public places such as shops and unemployment centres. This flexible approach allowed researchers to respond to local conditions and maximise opportunities to engage with local residents.

Fieldwork provided a great deal of primary data (survey results, opinions expressed in public meetings, direct observation). Secondary sources, such as existing statistical data, reports, maps and other materials were also analysed.

2.3 METHODOLOGY OF INFORMATION COLLECTION

2.3.1 Introduction

Information has been collected in three phases, providing continuous and ongoing observation:

- Preliminary information collection (September - December 2001),
- Community baseline information collection (January - May 2002), and
- Ongoing information collection (June 2002 to present).

2.3.2 Methodology Issues

The following methodological issues were addressed:

- Aims of data collection,
- Objects of data collection and corresponding units of measurement,
- Types of data collection and methods,
- Research programme (*i.e.*, lists of questions),
- Tools (*i.e.*, questionnaires, forms, charts), and
- Schedule of data collection.

2.3.3 Methods

The selection of methods depended on factors such as the aims of the research, the object of the observation and the type of information being gathered (e.g., primary/secondary information). The following methods were used:

- Direct observation,
- Surveying, and
- Analysis of secondary sources (*e.g.*, SEIC documents, statistical data, reports, and enterprise records as described in Chapter 18).

Direct observation included the following:

- Counting houses and public buildings in smaller settlements,
- Observation of quality of roads and other infrastructure,
- Price recording (food and medicines), and
- Identification of local recreational sites, fishing and hunting grounds and harvesting grounds for berries, mushrooms and other wild plants.

The following survey methods were used:

- Semi-structured interviews ('free' interviews based on a list of questions),
- Structured interviews (standard interviews using a questionnaire: interviews were pre-arranged or requested on the spot at an enterprise or other official location),
- 'Catch' interviews ('spontaneous' interviews using a questionnaire: respondents were stopped in a shop or other public place and asked to take part in the interview), and
- Information was also collected during group consultations and public meetings.

All the above methods of information collection were used for each phase. The information is presented in more detail in the Table 2-03.

2.4 FIELDWORK

Fieldwork consisted of a series of trips into local communities, where the SA Group met with local residents and community leaders, both officially and unofficially. They supplemented the primary information gathered with their own observations about local infrastructure, housing and services.

2.4.1 COMPOSITION OF FIELDWORK TEAMS

For the purpose of conducting fieldwork the SA Group was split up into a number of field teams led by senior, experienced personnel. The table below illustrates the composition of the field teams:

TABLE 2-02: COMPOSITION OF FIELDWORK TEAMS

Consultations	No. Groups	Group Leader	Researcher		Assistants Trainees	Other
			Senior	Junior		
Pre-Public Hearing	4	1	0	0	1-2	
Environmental Presentations	2	1	0	0	0	Two environmental experts from SEIC corporate HSE and IUP groups
Baseline Data Collection	3	1	1	1	2	
Impact/Mitigation	3	1	1	1	0	
Indigenous Peoples	1	1	Various	Various	0	See organisation of IP sub-group
Ongoing Consultations	1	1	1	0	0	Approvals Group engineer or IUP specialist (as appropriate)

2.4.2 Stages of Fieldwork

The SA Group conducted fieldwork in 54 different communities along the pipeline route.

There have been five major stages of fieldwork:

- Preliminary activity and preparatory consultations and data collection,
- Public hearing activities and public meetings,
- Baseline data collection and consultation,
- Consultation on impacts and mitigation measures, and
- Ongoing consultation efforts.

Every stage of fieldwork included several areas of activity, within which the group followed specific goals, directly or indirectly linked to the process of SIA. Table 2-04 summarises methods used during each stage, specifically:

- The main aim and dates work completed,
- Number of settlements visited,
- Objects of data collection or consultation and corresponding units of measurement, and
- Methods, tools, and materials.

TABLE 2-03: INFORMATION COLLECTION

Primary Information Collection		Secondary Information Collection	
Direct Observation			
Surveying			
Preliminary Information Collection			
8-11 Nov. 2001	Visits to communities and proposed Project construction sites. Trial recording of food and medicine prices in communities from Val to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.	25 Sep. 2001 Nov. 2001 Nov. -Dec. 2001	Preliminary survey of residents, Prigorodnoye. Short interviews with present and former residents of the Nogilki camp, at the camp and at the SEIC office in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Interviews with passers-by, groups, experts before public hearings. Questionnaires filled out during environmental presentations.
Collecting Basic Information about Communities			
Feb. -Mar. 2002	Trial recording of food and medicine prices.	Feb. -Mar. 2002	Collection of community statistics (stock-taking, state statistics departments, local administrations, public services, institutions and organisations). Review of SEIC materials (IUP, Environment protection, HSE and regional Approvals Group materials).
Apr. 2002	Recording of food and medicine prices.		
Feb. -Apr. 2002	Counting of houses and public buildings and assessment of infrastructure in small settlements.	Jan. -May 2002	Interviews with indigenous people.
Feb. -Apr. 2002	Identification of mushroom and berry fields, hunting, fishing and recreation sites.	Feb. -May 2002	Focused interviews with experts, heads of administrations, enterprises and organisations.
Ongoing Information Collection			
Aug. -Sep. 2002	Identification of land users in Prigorodnoye.	Jun. 2002	Questionnaire survey as part of consultations on Sakhalin II Project impacts.
		May- Jun. 2002	Telephone interviews with heads of local administrations, enterprises, institutions and organisations for additional information.
Sep. 2002-present	Identification of potential hot spots (cases of unregistered/non-formal land use).	Sep. 2002	Interviews with residents, Prigorodnoye Interviews with heads of local administration, Korsakov District.
		Mar. 2002-present	Analysis of information from web-sites of Sakhalin Region and Department of Internal Affairs Collection of data on Sakhalin Region from the Regional State Statistics Committee. Local mass media materials.

TABLE 2-04: STAGES OF FIELDWORK

Stage of Consultation	Goal ¹	Dates	No. Settlements ^{2*}	Objects					Methods ^{3***}					Tools and Materials ^{4****}										
				Individuals	Experts	Public activists	Interest groups	Focus groups	Local administrations	Direct observation	Surveying	Group consultations	Public meetings	Analysis of secondary sources	SEIC documents	Statistical data	Minutes of meetings/interviews	Forms/list of Questions	Questionnaires	Materials for presentations	Materials for distribution	Maps	Cameras/photographs	
Preliminary activity and preparatory consultations	To determine the volume of work and develop appropriate methodology and data collection	Sep. - Dec. 2001	Various	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X
Public hearing activities and public meetings	To inform the local population/public about Phase 2 of the Project and its development	Nov. - Dec. 2001	54	X	X	X			X			X	X								X	X	X	X
Baseline data collection and consultation	To collect baseline information about settlements	Jan. - May 2002	23	X	X				X			X	X								X	X	X	X
Consultation on impacts and mitigation measures	To elicit public opinion on potential Project impacts and secure local input into development of mitigation measures	Jun. - Aug. 2002	25	X		X		X					X	X									X	X
Ongoing consultation efforts	Various	Jul. 2002-present	Various	X	X	X			X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

¹ Additional goals were determined as well as the main goal. These are listed in Chapter 3.

^{2*} The number of settlements varies depending on the activity. This table shows the overall number of settlements visited during the given stage of fieldwork. More detailed information about the number of settlements covered by specific activities is given in Chapter 3.

^{3***} The actual use of methods is covered in Chapter 3.

^{4****} The use of tools is covered in Chapter 3 and examples of specific tools are available in Appendix A.