

Kingdom of Bahrain

Environmental Health Impact Analysis

Project Characteristics

- *Developed Environmental Health Impact (EHIA) Guidelines*
- *Conducted Three Case Studies to Tailor EHIA Guidelines to the Environmental and Public Health Realities in Bahrain*

The Kingdom of Bahrain, as a consequence of two Gulf wars and unstructured economic diversification, has been subjected to serious environmental and health hazards. The government has recognized that sustainable development of the country can only be assured if a range of potential impacts of development projects are assessed in a timely fashion, and if action proceeds from that assessment.

To improve the analysis of health impacts from development projects, the Kingdom of Bahrain is writing its first Environmental and Health Impact Assessment (EHIA) Guidelines. This process is advancing the Kingdom of Bahrain towards some of the most modern and advanced thinking in environmental protection within the international community. The Environmental Assessment and Planning Directorate of the General Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was tasked with developing the Bahraini EHIA Guidelines.

This project supports sustainable national development by building the capacity for the environmental health impact assessment, monitoring, control and management of the development projects.



Bahrain in the Arabian Gulf



Used Oil Spill in Bahrain

The project integrates health, environment, social and economic impact assessment methods and procedures and aims to develop national self-reliance in Bahrain on all matters related to the protection and management of the physical and social environment in order to protect and enhance human health.

The Woods Hole Group initially worked with local experts and stakeholders to complete three case studies to ensure that the EHIA Guidelines would address the specific environmental and public health conditions in Bahrain. These case studies covered the most pressing development issues faced by the island kingdom: Tourism, Transport, and Lifestyle Changes.

Woods Hole Group then drew upon the information gathered for the case studies and lessons learned from other countries implementing EHIA to develop guidelines for the Kingdom of Bahrain to integrate human health into the environmental assessment process. This prospective tool will help to ensure that Bahrain's development continues in a manner that is sustainable for the environment and human health.