Postgraduate Certificate in Environmental Impact Assessment

Environmental Management and Mitigation Measures

Environmental Management and Mitigation Measures Glossary

Air Quality: The measure of the concentration of pollutants in the air, which can have adverse effects on human health and the environment.

Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP): A comprehensive strategy developed to monitor, assess, and improve air quality within a specific area.

Biodiversity: The variety of life forms in a particular habitat or ecosystem, including plants, animals, and microorganisms.

Carbon Footprint: The total amount of greenhouse gases emitted directly or indirectly by human activities, typically expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide.

Climate Change: Long-term alterations in temperature, precipitation, and other atmospheric conditions due to human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels.

Compliance: The state of adhering to environmental regulations, laws, and standards set by governing bodies.

Contaminant: Any substance that is present where it does not belong or at levels above what is considered safe, potentially causing harm to human health or the environment.

Decommissioning: The process of permanently shutting down and dismantling a facility or infrastructure, often involving the removal of hazardous materials and waste.

Ecological Footprint: The measure of human demand on nature, representing the amount of biologically productive land and water required to sustain a population or individual.

Ecotourism: Sustainable travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people.

Emergency Response Plan: A detailed strategy outlining procedures and protocols to be followed in the event of an environmental emergency or disaster.

Endangered Species: Plant or animal species that are at risk of extinction due to factors such as habitat loss, climate change, and pollution.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): A systematic process to identify, predict, and evaluate the potential

environmental effects of a proposed project or development.

Environmental Management System (EMS): A framework that helps organizations manage their environmental responsibilities through policies, procedures, and objectives.

Environmental Monitoring: The systematic collection and analysis of data to evaluate the condition of the environment and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Environmental Planning: The process of integrating environmental considerations into land use, infrastructure development, and resource management decisions.

Environmental Policy: A set of principles and guidelines that outline an organization's commitment to environmental protection and sustainability.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): A government agency responsible for regulating and enforcing environmental laws and policies to protect human health and the environment.

Environmental Risk Assessment: The process of identifying, evaluating, and managing potential risks to human health and the environment posed by a particular activity or project.

Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI): A tool used to map and classify coastal resources based on their vulnerability to oil spills and other environmental hazards.

Environmental Sustainability: The practice of using resources in a way that meets current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Greenhouse Gas: Gases in the Earth's atmosphere that trap heat and contribute to the greenhouse effect, leading to global warming and climate change.

Habitat Restoration: The process of repairing and rehabilitating damaged or degraded ecosystems to restore their ecological functions and biodiversity.

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA): A comprehensive method for evaluating the environmental impacts of a product, process, or activity over its entire life cycle.

Marine Protected Area (MPA): A designated zone in the ocean where human activities are regulated to conserve marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

Mitigation Measures: Actions taken to minimize or offset the negative environmental impacts of a project or development, such as pollution control or habitat restoration.

Noise Pollution: Excessive or disruptive noise that can have harmful effects on human health, wildlife, and the environment.

Non-renewable Resources: Natural resources that are finite and cannot be replaced within a human lifespan, such as fossil fuels and minerals.

Recycling: The process of collecting, sorting, and reprocessing materials to create new products, reducing the need for raw materials and energy.

Renewable Energy: Energy derived from natural resources that are continuously replenished, such as sunlight, wind, and water.

Sustainability: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, balancing economic, social, and environmental considerations.

Toxicity: The degree to which a substance can cause harm to living organisms, often determined by its chemical properties and concentration.

Waste Management: The collection, transport, treatment, and disposal of waste materials in an environmentally responsible manner to minimize negative impacts on human health and the environment.

Water Quality: The chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water that determine its suitability for various uses, such as drinking, irrigation, and aquatic habitats.

Wetland Conservation: The protection and restoration of wetland ecosystems, which provide essential services such as flood control, water filtration, and wildlife habitat.