

Box 2. Checklist for Ecological Impact Assessment

While verifying the Impacts on ecology delineated in the Impact Assessment statement, the reviewer may consider such of the following matters that are relevant to the proposed development:

- The general character of the existing site in terms of fauna and flora; landscape and geological features, lakes, creeks, marsh, mangroves, coral, forest and bush, sand dunes, mud flats, breeding and spawning grounds, habitats, flight paths, migratory paths and aesthetics.
- The consistency of the proposed development with any relevant statutory instruments, planning policies, heritage orders, measures under tribal or native people legislation, or international conventions (protecting, say, wetlands and migratory birds, or threatened or endangered species).
- Alternative sites for the proposed development, or alternative designs or techniques, which might pose reduced ecological risks. Reasons why this site is clearly preferable to all others.
- In that event, an ecological inventory of at least the most endemic and endangered species with major plant and animal habitats, particularly habitats critical to the preservation of threatened or endangered species. The geographical relationship of species on the site.
- Artificial features of the site as existing, such as roads, railways, buildings and other facilities relating current uses to the local ecology: agricultural activities.
- A history of tribal activity on the site, with reference to archaeological, cultural, and heritage items.
- Outstanding individuals such as the oldest or largest of the trees; rare or uncommon species, races, variants, and populations; unique or scarce habitats. Communities threatened or endangered.
- Plants or animals that could affect public health or safety: allergenic plants, poisonous and venomous species, pest or nuisance population; populations that might expand dramatically if the immediate environment were changed.
- The possible effects of the proposed development on terrestrial species (plants and animals); on aquatic species (fauna, fish, coral); on habitats; on the aesthetics of the site; on natural resources such as soil, geological formations, dunes, beaches, lakes, forest (including rain forest), coral reefs, mangroves, swamps, outcrops, and the atmosphere; including the possible effects of noise.
- The implications of clear felling or selective logging for timber and other forest products; the effects of road-building, drainage of wet areas, and the skidding, hauling of logs; the possibility of replacement by mono culture plantations; the danger of forest fragmentation causing genetic isolation of animal populations.