

BUILD YOUR EXPERTISE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Professional Short Course | 7–11 December 2026

MUST City Campus, Blantyre

1.1. Introduction

The Malawi Centre for Excellence in Environmental and Social Sustainability (MCEESS) is a learning centre established in partnership with the Malawi Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) and supported by the World Bank. The centre functions collaboratively within a network of partner institutions, particularly the Malawi Higher Education Institutions Network on Climate Change Learning (MHEINCCL). This network comprises the University of Malawi (UNIMA), Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST), Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS), Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Mzuzu University (MZUNI), and The Catholic University of Malawi (CUNIMA).

1.2. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Training

MCEESS provides a training program on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment that fulfills the certification requirements set by MEPA for a minimum of 40 hours of course attendance for registration as Lead Environmental Assessment Consultant or Associate Environmental Assessment Consultant. Furthermore, earning this certificate elevates your professional credibility, enhances your employability, and deepens your content mastery within environmental and sustainability fields. As a result, MEESS is inviting interested candidates to register for the short course on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). All participants who complete the ESIA course will be awarded a Certificate of Course Completion that is recognized by MEPA and Consortium Universities.

1.3. Rationale of the Training

The ESIA training course will provide participants with the necessary skills, knowledge, and best practices for conducting Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) in Malawi and elsewhere. Participants will learn how to prepare ESIA in accordance with the Guidelines on Environmental Assessment (2025), the Malawi Environmental Management Act (EMA, 2017), and the World Bank Environmental and Social Frameworks.

1.4. Target participants

The training course is open to a wide range of professionals, but will greatly benefit:

i. Project Managers, engineers, planners, and project coordinators.
ii. Business Development Professionals
iii. Contractors & construction companies.
iv. Consultants
v Academicians
vi. All interested participants.

1.5. Indicative content

Introduction to Environmental & Social Impact Assessment	• Principles and concepts of ESIA • Historical evolution and global drivers of ESIA • Key stages and components of ESIA • ESIA roles and responsibilities of project stakeholders • Case Study: Review of an ESIA of a high risk classified project.
Legal, Policy, and Institutional Framework for ESIA	• National environmental laws and regulatory requirements • International conventions and standards (IFC, World Bank, UNEP) • Sector-specific environmental and social regulations • ESIA institutional roles and compliance processes
Screening, Scoping, and Terms of Reference (ToR) Development	• Project screening methods and criteria • Determining project significance and categories • Scoping procedures and stakeholder identification • Developing a robust ESIA Terms of Reference • Case Study: Review of Scoping exercise for a water supply project
Environmental Baseline Studies	• Methods for collecting biophysical environmental data • Socioeconomic baseline study techniques • Use of GIS and remote sensing in baseline mapping • Baseline data analysis and documentation • Case Study: Review of Baseline survey conducted for a Road Infrastructure Project
Impact Identification, Prediction, and Evaluation	• Developing practical mitigation strategies • Designing ESMPs and monitoring programs • Integrating mitigation into project life cycles • Budgeting and resource allocation for ESMP implementation • Case Study: Review of ESMP design for a Water Supply Project.
Mitigation Measures and Environmental & Social Management Plans (ESMPs)	• Developing practical mitigation strategies • Designing ESMPs and monitoring programs • Integrating mitigation into project life cycles • Budgeting and resource allocation for ESMP implementation • Case Study: Review of ESMP design for an Irrigation Development Project.

Stakeholder Engagement and Public Participation	• Stakeholder mapping and analysis tools • Participatory approaches in ESIA processes • Conflict resolution and grievance mechanisms • Communication strategies for diverse stakeholder groups
ESIA Reporting and Documentation	• Structure and content of professional ESIA reports • Technical writing for environmental and social reporting • Integrating data, visuals, and GIS outputs • Review and disclosure processes
ESIA Implementation, Monitoring, and Follow-Up	• Monitoring techniques and performance indicators • Adaptive management and improvement strategies • Integrating ESIA into organizational sustainability systems
Field Excursion Visit	• Site visit to one of the high-risk projects

1.6. Date and Duration of the training

The training course is scheduled to occur at MUST City Campus in Blantyre from **December 7 to December 11, 2026**.

1.7. Training Course Charges

Each participant will be required to pay a total training fee of **K600,000**, along with a non-refundable registration fee of **K50,000**.

1.8. Training Registration

Interested participants should register by **4 December 2026** via the email *mceess@must.ac.mw*, with the subject line stating "Expression of Interest (EoI) to Attend ESIA Training Course." Your expression of interest should be submitted along with proof of a deposit slip for a non-refundable fee of **K50,000** to the following account details:

Account Name: Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST)

Bank: Standard Bank: Account Number: 9100001063429

SWIFT Code: SBICMWMX

Branch Code: 101004

1.9. Logistical Arrangements

Attendees will receive breakfast tea, lunch, and afternoon tea. MSCEES will also arrange transport for the field excursion, covering travel from the training venue to the site and back. Participants are responsible for their own lodging accommodations and for transportation to and from the training venue, including travel from and back to their respective points of origin

1.10. Training Course Enquiries

All inquiries regarding the training course can be directed to: Dr. Isaac Mwalwimba: MHEINCCL Technical Lead Chair & MCEES Coordinator Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST); P.O. Box 5196, Limbe, Malawi Email: *imwalwimba@must.ac.mw* or +265 (0) 999247037