



## Environment - Prakas on procedure and implementation guidelines for the preparation of an initial environmental and social impact assessment for all kinds of construction

*Ministry of Environment (“MoE”) - Prakas No. 228 dated 29th June 2021 on the procedure and implementation guidelines for the preparation of an initial environmental and social impact assessment (IESIA) for all kinds of construction (“Prakas”)*

The MoE released this Prakas on 29 June 2021 with the intention to introduce and standardize the IESIA for all construction work with a size between 15,000 to 45,000 square meters (with the exception of construction in certain sectors) and to determine the timeline for the approval process as well. Note that the construction of developments greater than 45,000 square meters in size are required to prepare a full of environmental and social impact assessment.

Types of construction that are required to prepare an IESIA include the construction of office buildings, multi-sectoral buildings, commercial buildings, Condos, Borey, Flat houses & Villas, supermarkets and other buildings which have a total construction area of between 15,000 to 45,000 square meters (except for the construction of buildings to be used in the sectors of industry, agriculture, tourism, health, and infrastructure as determined by the MoE separately).

Project owners can prepare an IESIA by themselves or hire an independent consultant company/individual that is recognized by the MoE, by following the guidance in the Prakas.

As part of the preparation of an IESIA for all types of construction, it is required to consult with those stakeholders who will be impacted by the project and the relevant local authorities. If necessary, it is also required to consult with the municipality/provincial administration, relevant in charge officials, and inter-ministerial focal points.

The MoE will take thirty (30) working days to review and approve an IESIA after receiving it from a project owner. In case there are any requested amendments raised on the IESIA by the MoE, the timeline will be adjusted to thirty (30) working days after receipt of the amended IESIA by the MoE. During the thirty (30) working days after submission of the IESIA, the in-charge officials of the Environmental Impact Assessment Department of the MoE will conduct an inspection at the project site and comment on the IESIA in preparation for the higher-level staff of the MoE to review and approve accordingly.

This Prakas is effective from the signature date, 29 June 2021.

## Our comments

This Prakas is vital for Cambodia's development, especially by focusing on the important steps to monitor the environmental and social impacts of construction activities, by applying a standardized environment and social impact assessment for construction projects in the country. It is essential for investors and project owners to comply with government regulations and to prepare a proper IESIA report before starting any construction activities which fall under the scope of this Prakas in order to ensure full compliance with the law and avoid facing penalties or delays to their business activities. Thus, as a committed corporate consultant to our clients, we are more than happy and willing to discuss the relevance of the above matters to your business.

## Contact us

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