

### 3.2.1 Angola

*(From V. Russo, P. Roque & H Kruggmann – In SAIEA 2003)*

#### a) Legal framework

##### **The Constitution**

Articles 12 and 24 of the Constitution is the basis for the Environmental Framework Act No.5), which was approved in 1998 by Parliament. Article 12 states that “the State shall promote the protection and conservation of natural resources guiding the exploitation and use thereof for the community as a whole; and Article 24 declares that: “All citizens shall have the right to live a healthy and unpolluted environment; the State shall take the requisite measures to protect the environment and national species of flora and fauna throughout the national territory and maintain ecological balance; acts that damage or directly or indirectly jeopardise conservation of the environment shall be punished by law.”

##### **The Environmental legislation**

The Environmental Framework Act is not the only legislation governing environmental issues; it is accompanied by a variety of sectoral legislation, most of which embrace the requirement to execute environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for new projects likely to affect the environment.

#### b) The EIA process

Article 16 of the Environmental Framework Act proposes seven steps that should be carry out in the EIA process, which can change depending on the situation and project. These steps are as follows:

##### **Box 4. The steps within the EIA process for Angola**

- A non-technical summary of the project;
- A description of the activities;
- A general description of the state of the environment of the chosen locations for the project;
- **A summary of the options and criticisms resulting from public consultations;**
- A description of possible environmental and social change caused by the project;
- An indication of the measures foreseen to eliminate or minimise negative social and environmental effects; and
- An indication of the systems foreseen to control and follow up project implementation.

Article 17 deals with the issue of licensing and Article 18 with environmental auditing.

### **Citizen engagement**

Projects that require an EIA have to adhere to stakeholder engagement process, which starts by communicating the more important likely impacts of the project to the public. The public is given a period of 20 to 60 days to comment and the comments are compiled into a summary report. However, the majority of the EIAs demonstrate a very narrow involvement of interested and affected parties. Furthermore, the part played by the local media in the EIA is minor. “The media in Angola typically focuses on covering daily events and activities rather than exploring environmental issues, due to the lack of skills and interest shown at management level. A noteworthy exception is the *Juvenlude Ecologica Angolana* (Ecological Youth of Angola), an environmental NGO, which has for the last seven years been using radio programmes to report on EIA processes, raise public awareness of environmental issues, and inform people about the progress and outcome of projects affecting their lives and environmental.”

Moreover, the majority of information on EIAs in Angola has been published by the international media and foreign organisations instead of local media.