

Module 1: EIA Good Practice in the Pacific Islands





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NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS

Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific

The **objective** of the EIA is to **prevent and mitigate undue harm to people and their environment** in the development process.





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It is important to be familiar with the national Definition of 'environment' under EIA law

In many jurisdictions environment includes (but is not limited to):

- Land and water
- Layers of the atmosphere
- Organic & inorganic matter, living organisms, ecosystem services
- Weather & climatic systems
- Cultural & human systems

In the Pacific many countries consider social
intrinsically linked to environment





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EIA Purpose



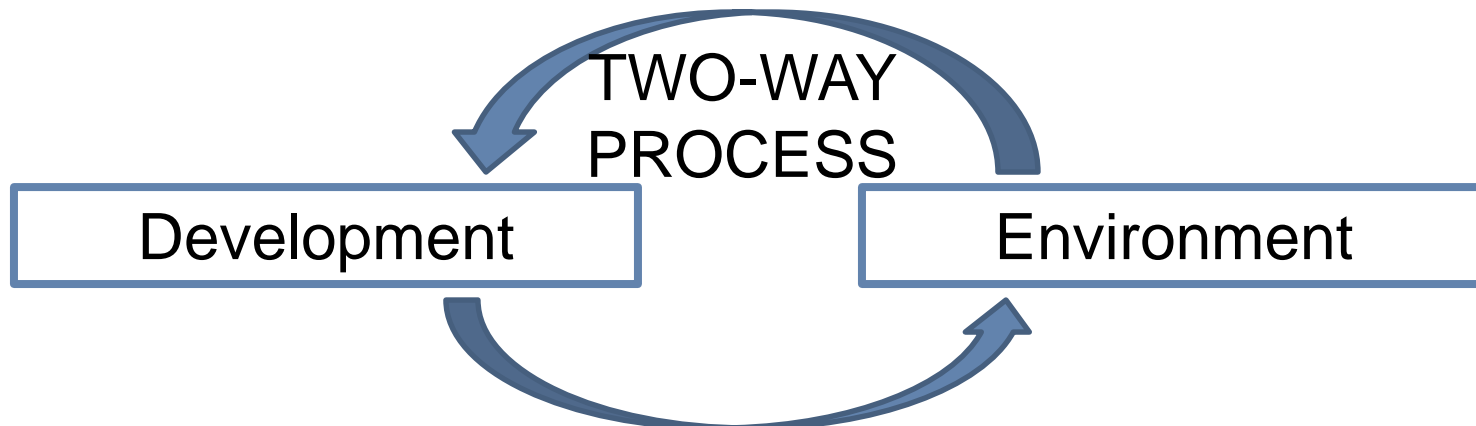
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EIA is a tool for sustainable development

- **Proactive planning & decision making process:** identifies impacts and propose safeguards and mitigation measures before development commences
- Addresses:
 - negative & positive impacts of development on the environment
 - impacts of the environment on development e.g. flooding, climate change, coastal erosion.





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What is EIA & what does it do?

- **Identifies mitigation measures** to enhance positive impacts & avoid, minimise, rehabilitate or compensate for negative impacts (using the mitigation hierarchy)
- **Participatory process**, involving the proponent, government & other relevant stakeholders e.g. customary landowners, civil society organisations, industry groups, local businesses
- **Supports informed decision-making**, based on understanding environmental consequences
- It is not a road block to developments, it **promotes sustainable development**





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EIA benefits



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There are many....

- Assists in early identification of environmental constraints and impacts
- Encourages design modifications, during the project planning phase
- It can result in projects better suited to the local environment and to the project beneficiaries.
- In turn leading to smoother project construction and operation
- Helps to avoid costly redesign, clean up costs, delays or fines, due to environmental problems.





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Early identification of environmental constraints and impacts help the proponent, government and the community to gain the greatest possible value from project investment and development.

- So why then do EIA's fail?





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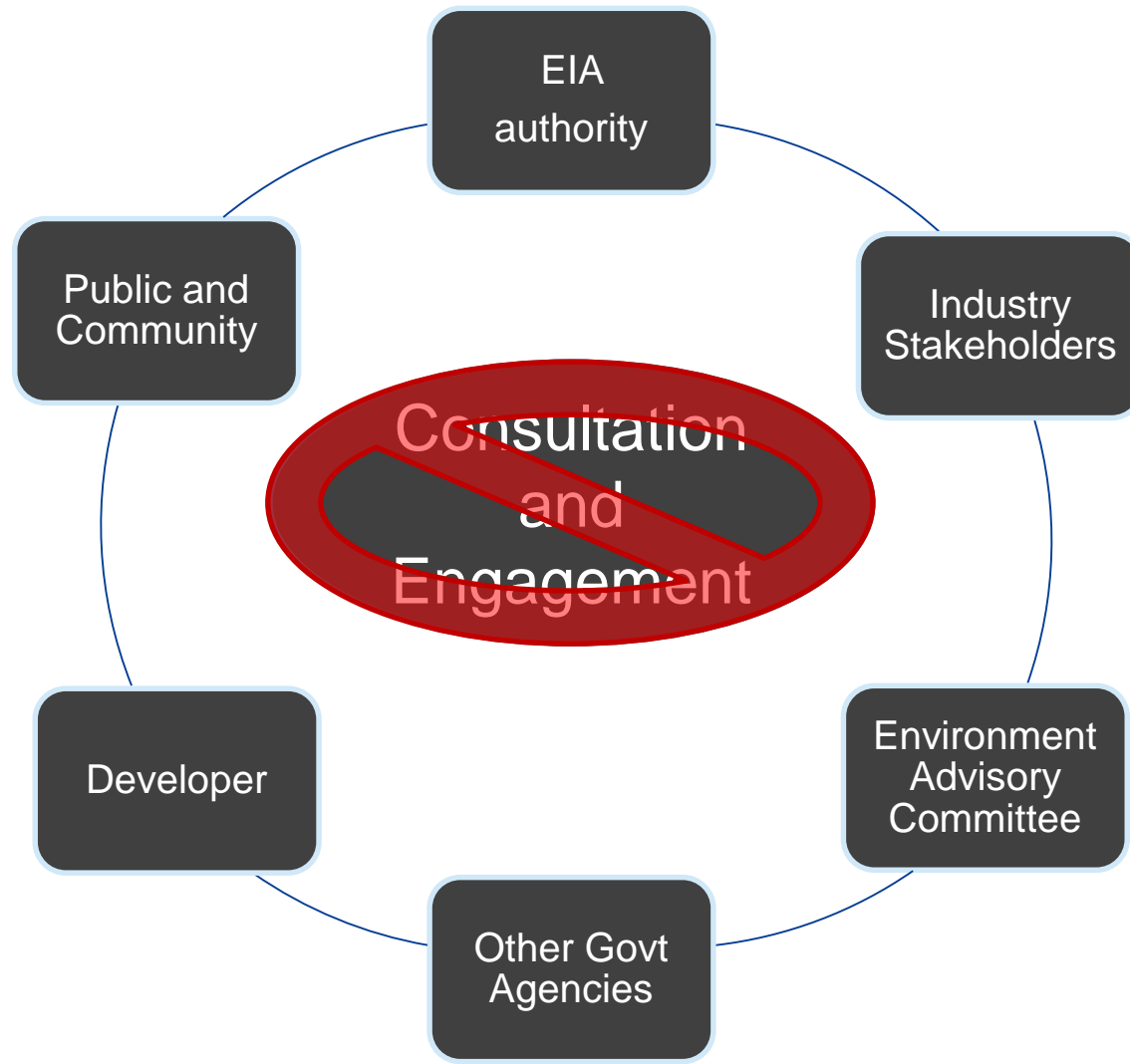


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Examples of Key Players or Stakeholders



Why EIA guidelines (safeguards) are needed

- Developments in different economic sectors can provide substantial benefits for Pacific island countries and territories by:
 - opening up new livelihood opportunities;
 - facilitating access to international markets and foreign exchange;
 - improving national and regional transport services/networks; and
 - increasing the provision of goods and services that can raise standards of living.





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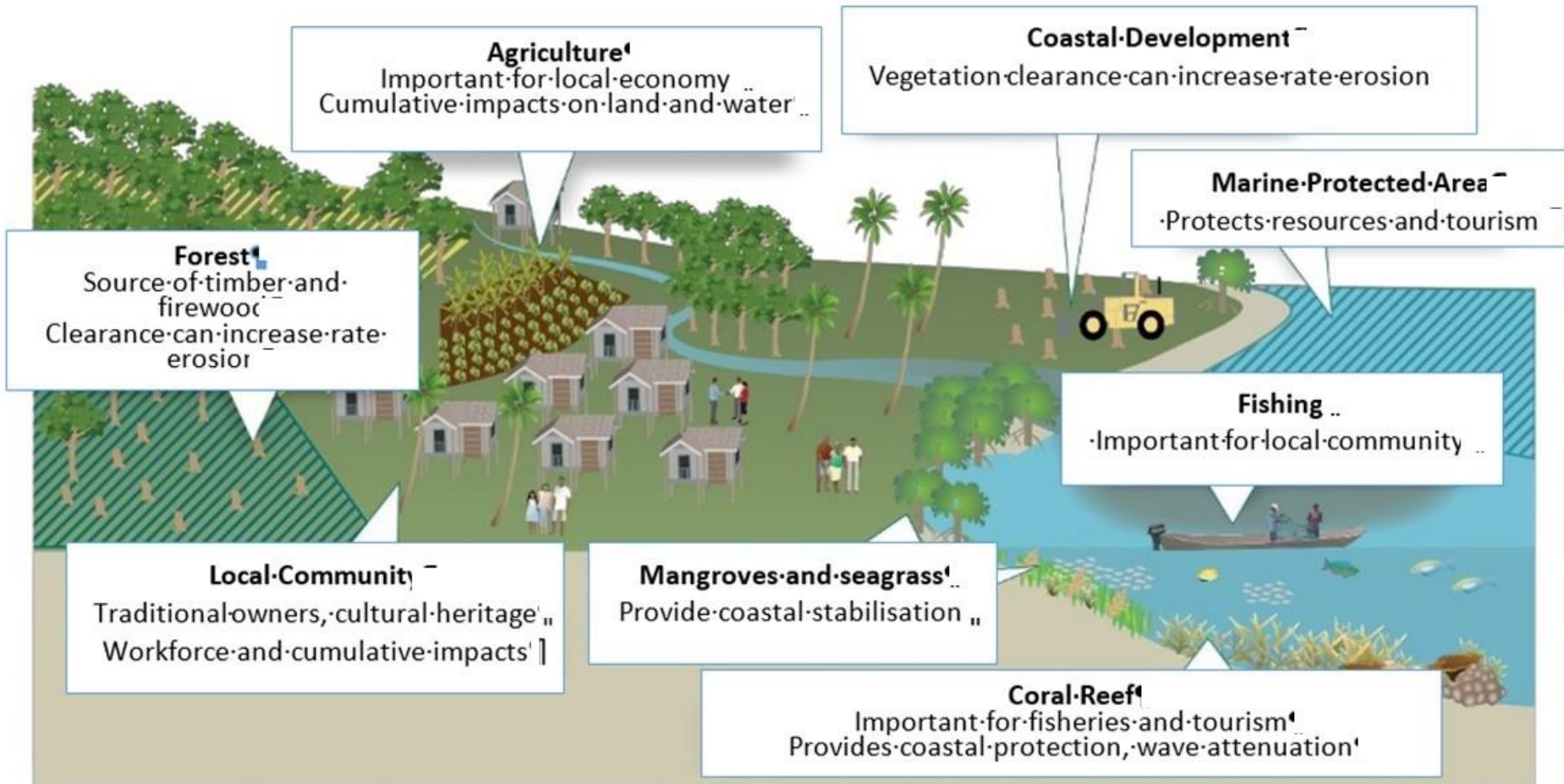
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Good Developments take into account the interdependencies of other activities and the environment



Why EIA guidelines (safeguards) are needed

- If impacts are managed poorly and climate change and disaster risks are not factored into planning processes, these same developments can negatively affect Pacific lands, seas and lifestyles through:
 - natural habitat destruction and loss;
 - generation of waste and pollution;
 - release of GHG emissions; freshwater depletion;
 - spread of invasive plants and animals;
 - intrusion upon village communities and their lifestyles;
 - generation of social tension; loss of livelihoods;
 - damage to cultural heritage sites; and
 - damage to or loss of physical infrastructure (e.g. buildings, bridges, roads).



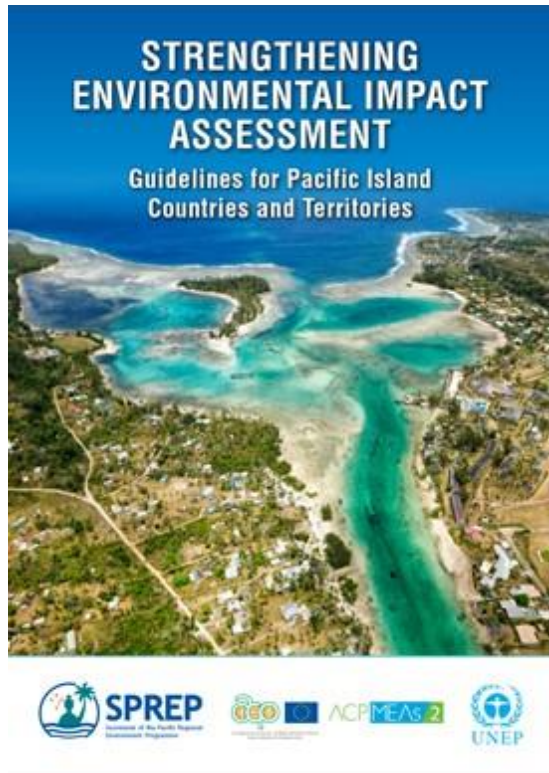
How can the Regional EIA Guidelines help?

- Targeted at officials involved in the EIA process
 - (e.g. officers working in areas such as planning, health, energy, water, transport, fisheries, agriculture, natural resources).
- Applicable to full range of development sectors
- Support implementation of EIA legal requirements
- Emphasise the importance of consultation from before a development proposal is ever submitted.
- Recommends assessing potential impacts of development on the environment and the potential impacts of the environment on development, especially impacts related to climate change and disasters;
- Supported by an **EIA toolkit** that includes templates and checklists for EIA screening, scoping and review



Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Pacific island countries and territories

[SPREP publications virtual library](#)



Published in 2016

for the Pacific islands, with inputs from Pacific Island countries and territories.

Often called the Regional EIA Guidelines

This publication incorporates examples of good practice and includes toolkits for regulators to assess developments throughout the EIA process



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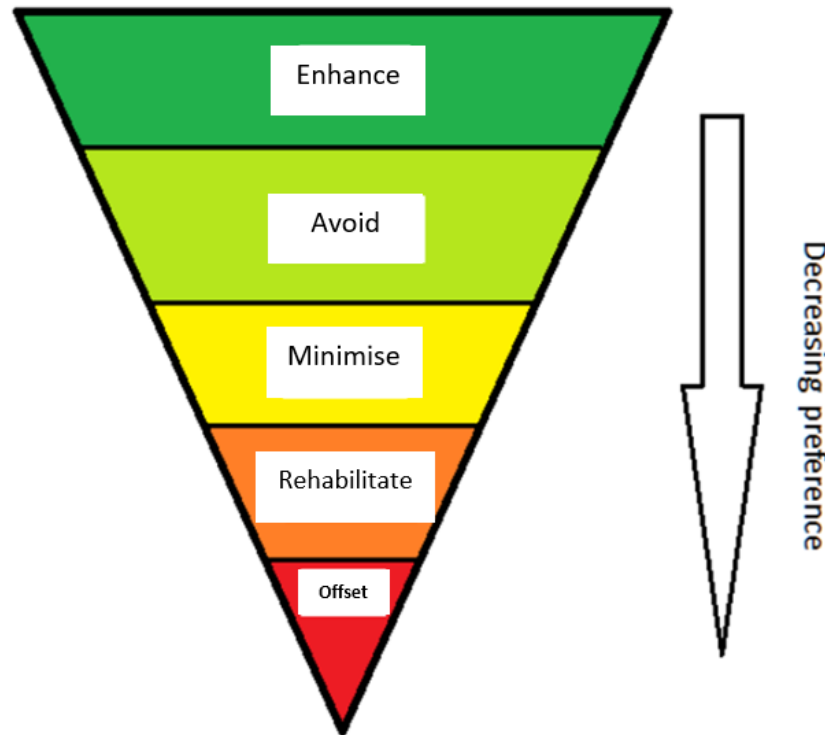
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Emphasis on Enhancing positive impacts/outcomes and Avoiding negative Impacts

Mitigation Hierarchy



Refer to Box 8 The mitigation hierarchy p 30 Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment



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Mitigation Hierarchy

Apply from the outset of development planning

1. **Enhance** – seek opportunities or take measures enhance positive impacts
2. **Avoid** – creating negative impacts
3. **Minimise** – the duration, intensity and/or extent of negative impacts, where they *cannot* be avoided
4. **Rehabilitate** – degraded ecological or social systems following exposure to negative impacts that *cannot* be avoided or minimised
5. **Offset** (or compensate) – negative impacts that *cannot* be avoided, minimised or rehabilitated



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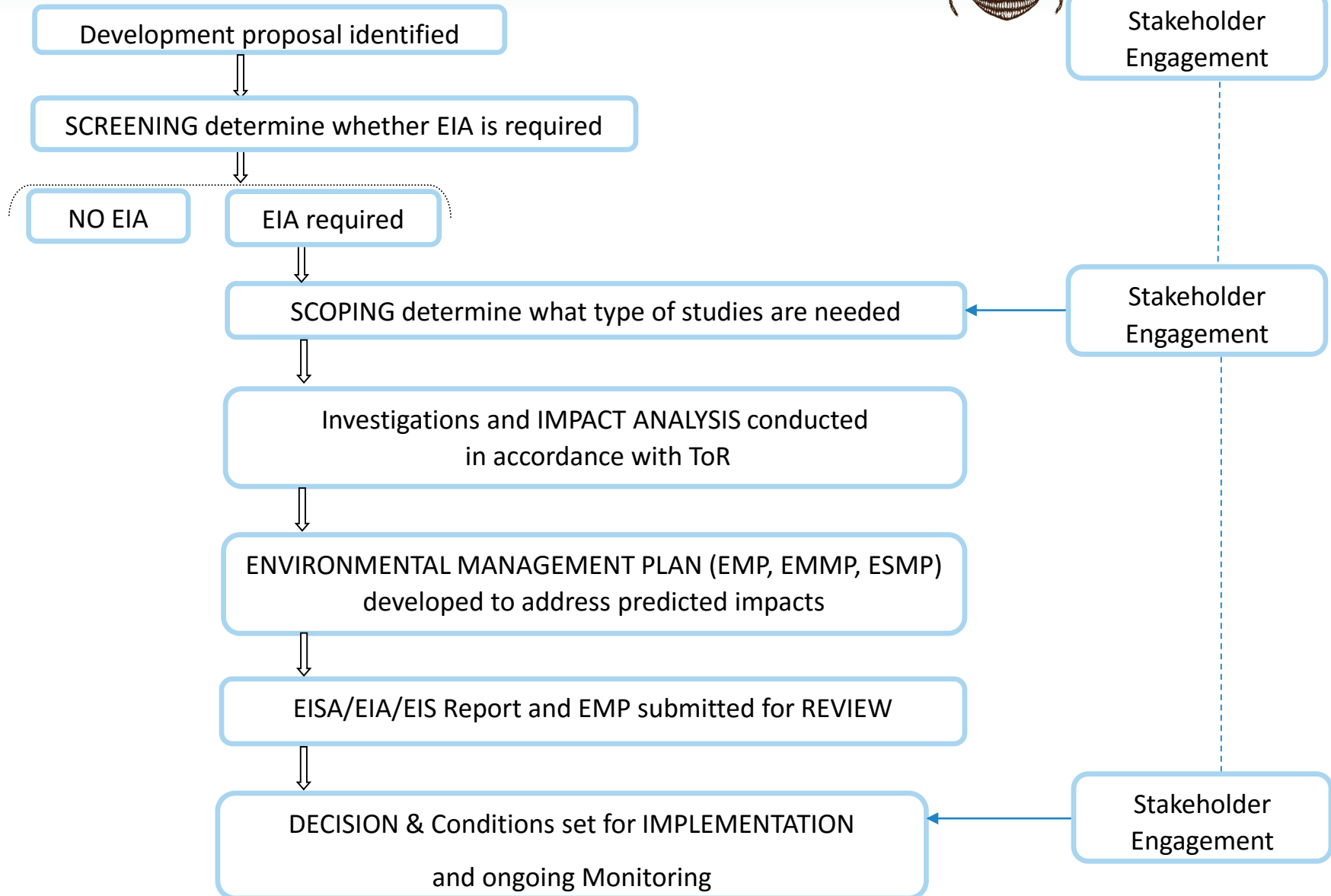
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SPREP Guidelines provide step by step examples

TABLE 1 Step-by-step EIA process

STEP IN PROCESS	DESCRIPTION
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A typical EIA process begins with the proponent submitting a development proposal to government, usually to the EIA administrator.• The proposal should outline the type, scale and location of the development; the proposed development timeframe <p>Proposal to be modified and improved as result of EIA FEEDBACK and investigations</p> <p>progress, to be progressively expanded upon, modified and improved as a result of EIA feedback and investigations.</p>
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SCREENED Refer to Tool 1: EIA screening checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Screening is the preliminary assessment of a development proposal to determine if an EIA is required. <p>Screening usually led by EIA Administrator in consultation with relevant stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The EIA administrator's screening decision is usually made on the basis of answers to a set of standard questions that evaluate the size, scope, technical complexity, physical/environmental location, social setting of a development, and any relevant legal matters. See Tool 1 for a screening checklist with example questions.



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Important outcomes of the EIA process

By using the principles of the mitigation hierarchy

1. Selection of an optimal development site & design
2. Preparation & implementation of an environmental management & monitoring plan (EMMP)
3. Reduced vulnerability to environmental hazards & environmental change



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EIA toolkit (Section 6.0 of guidelines)

p35

TOOL 1 EIA screening checklist

TOOL 2 Terms of reference template

TOOL 3 EIA report review template

TOOL 4 Risk assessment for EIA reports – an example approach



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TOOL 1 EIA screening checklist

Screening phase

(p37 of guidelines)

- Completion of a checklist supports robust EIA decision-making and good record-keeping
- The checklist can be referred to during later stages of the EIA
- Many questions can be answered yes/no
 - asks whether there is evidence of stakeholder engagement
- Helps to identify where more information may need to be sort
- Prompts to identify key stakeholders early on
- Upon completion of checklist helps EIA officers to reach an informed decision and deliver a recommendation to the EIA administrator about whether an EIA is required



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The guide provides tips

EIA REQUIRED
or

- Following screening the EIA administrator informs the proponent and approval authority about the course of EIA action to be taken. If an EIA is deemed necessary, the next step is scoping.

EIA NOT REQUIRED

- If an EIA is not required the approval authority may issue a permit or licence for the development to go ahead. The approval authority may also stipulate environmental management conditions that need to be followed as part of the permit.
- Once the permit is received by the proponent they can action the development.
- The development proposal should be disclosed to the public.

IF EIA NOT
REQUIRED

Permit conditions,
setting environmental
management

Notify the public of the
decision and conditions



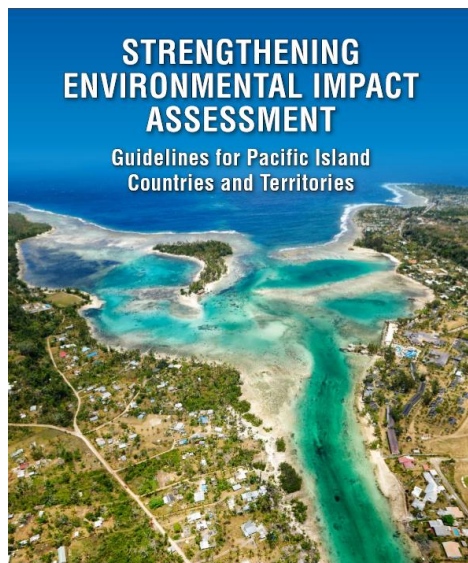
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From SPREP Screening Toolkit Determination of significance examples

Where the screening finds that impacts are likely to be significant, an
Environmental Impact Assessment is required.

Using the Toolkit 1 for Screening from the SPREP Regional Guidelines
e.g. vehicle and engine repair yard or 7 large houses or wharf or mine



SIA SCREENING CHECKLIST

SECTION 1 - PROJECT DETAILS			
Project information is:			
Project name			
Project proponent/owner			
Proposed/Current address			
Proposed/Current location			
Project location (including coordinates, if available)			
Project location (if not in the project area)			
SECTION 2 - SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT			
Activities to be conducted	Normal SIA tool description	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? (yes/no)	Does the activity need to be further investigated? (yes/no)
1. What are the main activities to be conducted?	No	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. What are the main activities to be conducted? (yes/no)	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. What are the main activities to be conducted? (yes/no)	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. What are the main activities to be conducted? (yes/no)	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SECTION 3 - SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT			
Activities to be conducted	Normal SIA tool description	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? (yes/no)	Does the activity need to be further investigated? (yes/no)
1. What are the main activities to be conducted?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. What are the main activities to be conducted? (yes/no)	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SECTION 4 - PROJECT LOCATION			
Activities to be conducted	Normal SIA tool description	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? (yes/no)	Does the activity need to be further investigated? (yes/no)
1. What are the main activities to be conducted?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. What are the main activities to be conducted? (yes/no)	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SECTION 5 - PROJECT LOCATION			
Activities to be conducted	Normal SIA tool description	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? (yes/no)	Does the activity need to be further investigated? (yes/no)
1. What are the main activities to be conducted?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. What are the main activities to be conducted? (yes/no)	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Section	Activity	Normal SIA tool description	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? (yes/no)	Does the activity need to be further investigated? (yes/no)
SECTION 1 - PROJECT DETAILS	1.1 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	1.2 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	1.3 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	1.4 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SECTION 2 - SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT	2.1 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	2.2 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	2.3 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	2.4 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SECTION 3 - SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT	3.1 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	3.2 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	3.3 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	3.4 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SECTION 4 - PROJECT LOCATION	4.1 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	4.2 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	4.3 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	4.4 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	3.3 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	3.4 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SECTION 4 - PROJECT LOCATION	4.1 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	4.2 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	4.3 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	4.4 Is the project in a sensitive area?	Yes	Project SIA tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



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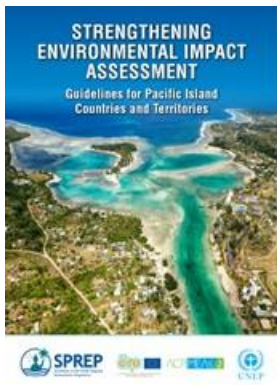
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Scoping phase

TOOL 2 Terms of reference template

(p43 of guidelines)

- Generic terms of reference (ToR) template
- ToR Template can be tailored to suit the type of project under assessment
- Recommends engaging with Stakeholders to assist in setting the ToR to identify key concerns early on
- ToR preparation to be guided by countries' relevant (environmental) laws, acts and other applicable policies, regulations or legislation.





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Review phases

(p47of guidelines)

TOOL 3 EIA report review template

Helps EIA report reviewer determine:

- If the EIA report contains sufficient information and detail, and an acceptable standard;
- Reminds EIA reviewers to check whether suitable Stakeholder Engagement and Public Consultation has been undertaken
- Asks what key issues and impacts the EIA report highlights for the development; and
- what recommendations or recommended conditions should be provided to the development approval authority.

EIA review – top tips

1. Use critical analysis skills
2. Cross check the ToR (for EIS)
3. Use a template or evaluation sheet (SPREP Guidelines)
4. Work as a team (don't work alone)
5. Invite community/stakeholder input
6. Ask questions
7. Call on assistance (technical specialists, other Ministries)
8. Record reflections & recommendations

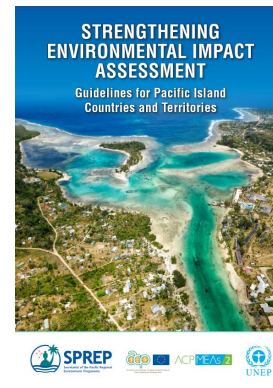




If in doubt refer to

- Local legislation and regulations and consult with the EIA authority

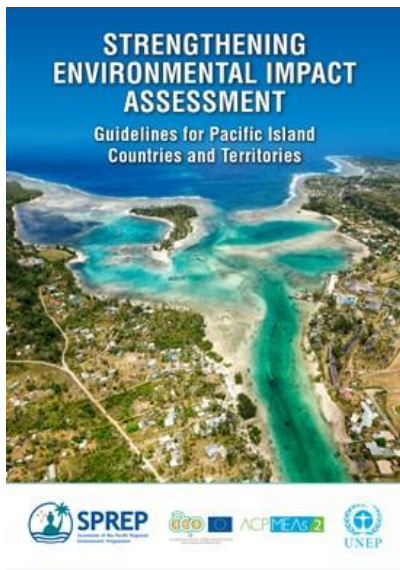
- the SPREP Regional EIA guidelines



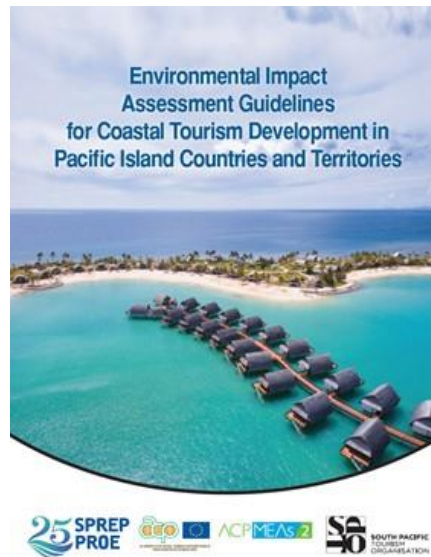
- Your question to the Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment (**PNEA**) website <http://pnea.sprep.org>
- Requests for assistance directly to SPREP sprep@sprep.org
gregoryb@sprep.org or joped@sprep.org

Thank you.

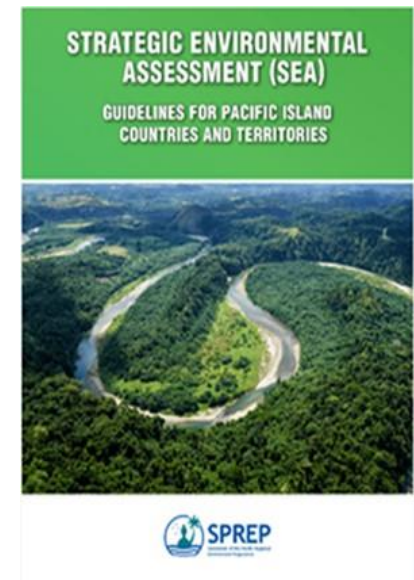
For more information you can download the guidelines from the links below



2016



2018



2020

And we encourage you to join the PNEA

To participate in a community of practice for EIA in the Pacific
with access additional regional relevant content and support



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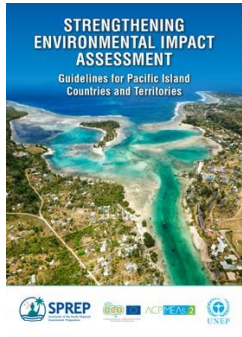
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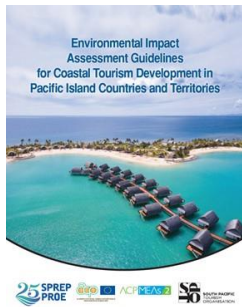
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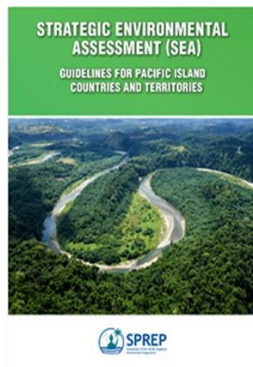
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<https://www.sprep.org/publications/strengthening-environmental-impact-assessment-guidelines-for-pacific-island-countries-and-territories>



<https://www.sprep.org/publications/environmental-impact-assessment-guidelines-for-coastal-tourism-development-in-pacific-island-countries-and-territories>



<https://www.sprep.org/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-sea-guidelines-for-pacific-island-countries-and-territories>



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Preferred mitigation

- **Enhance** examples: provide training courses for local community members to help them take on new job opportunities linked to the development project; remove invasive species from an area of protected habitat on the project site.
- **Avoidance** examples refrain from building in areas that are ecologically or socially sensitive; ensure that the capture, storage and processing of a pollutant is incorporated in project design, rather than allow direct discharge of the pollutant to the environment.



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Less preferred mitigation

- **Minimisation** examples: decrease the seabed area that needs to be dredged for a new shipping channel; reduce the rate and overall amount of non-renewable resource extraction.
- **Rehabilitation** examples: restock a fishery; replant cleared habitat; improve and resurface roads that will face increased traffic from a major development.
- *Offset* examples: implement habitat enhancement and ongoing conservation protection within a forest area that is larger than another forest area cleared for a new housing development; implement a resettlement plan and provide housing for villagers affected by a hydroelectric development.