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# EIA Scoping

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Gregory Barbara, SPREP

*Environmental Assessment and Planning Officer*

[gregoryb@sprep.org](mailto:gregoryb@sprep.org)





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# Critical thinking what is this?







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## Why Scoping? What is it? Why is it important?

- The purpose of scoping is to identify the environmental impact issues of the project proposal that require detail investigation and to prepare the terms of reference for the required EIA.
- The EIA should be developed in line with the scope or Terms of Reference issued by the EIA authority for the project.





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**Development proposal (DP) submitted**  
by approval agency or proponent to EIA  
administrator

**DP screened (preliminary EIA)**  
by EIA administrator, govt agencies &  
stakeholders

**Full EIA required**  
Approval agency & proponent informed

**EIA not required,**  
Approval agency &  
proponent informed

**DP scoped**  
by EIA administrator, govt agencies & stakeholders

**TOR developed & finalised**  
by EIA administrator for EIA report

**EIA report prepared**  
by proponent based on TOR

**EIA report submitted**  
to EIA administrator for review

**EIA report accepted**  
by administrator & DP recommendations developed

**Approval agency & proponent informed**  
of EIA administrator's decision

**DP approved**  
by approval agency & proponent informed of approval  
conditions

**Development (with conditions) actioned**  
by the proponent

**Development monitored and  
conditions enforced** by EIA  
administrator & approval agency

**Review committee  
established**  
to provide input to  
EIA administrator

**Development permit issued**  
by approval authority and  
proponent informed of permit  
conditions

**Development actioned  
(with conditions)**  
by proponent

**EIA report not accepted**  
by EIA administrator

**Proponent informed**  
of decision by EIA administrator

**EIA report revised &  
resubmitted**  
to EIA administrator for review

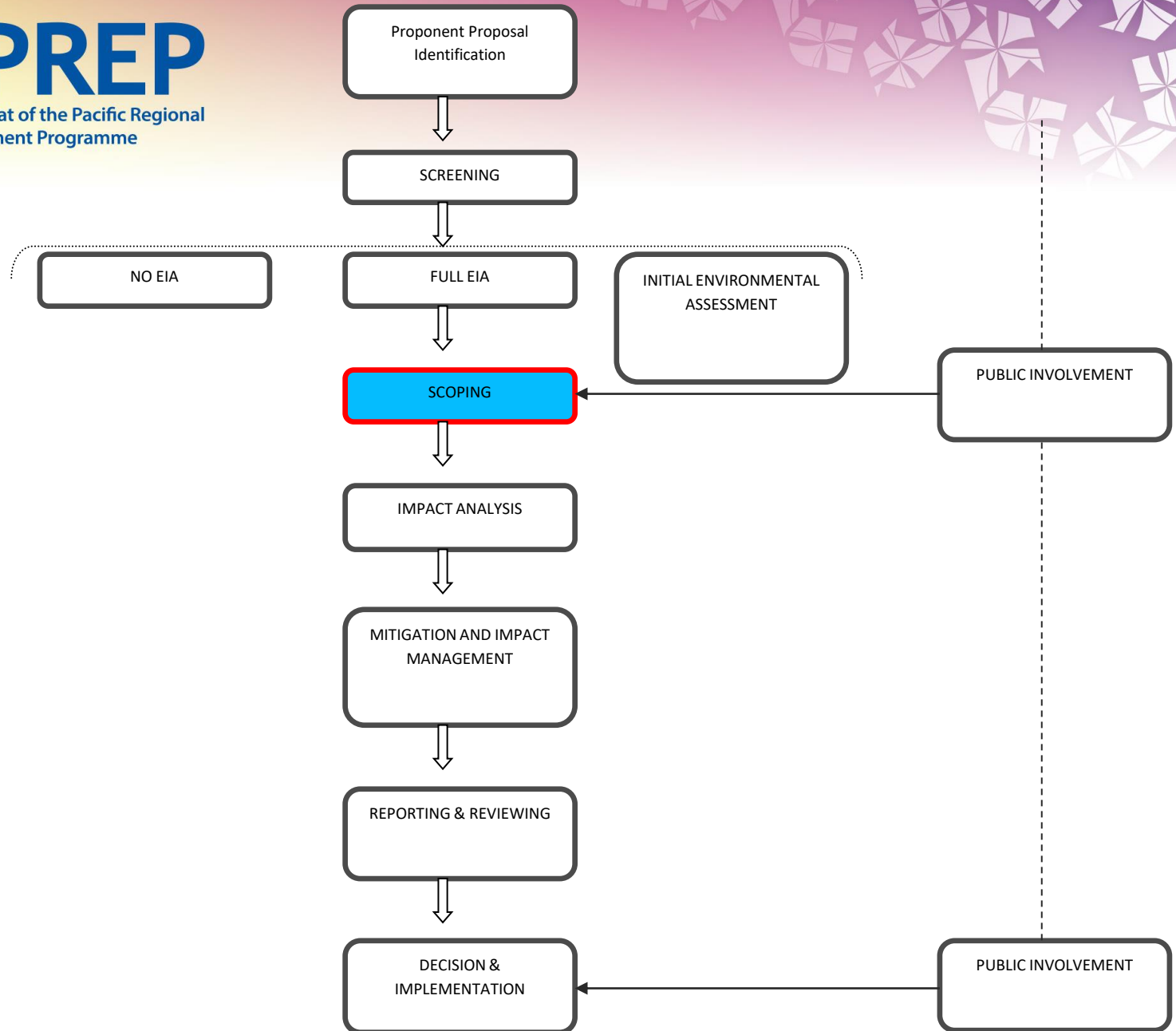
**DP rejected**  
by approval  
agency

Adapted from Regional EIA guidelines



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## The key objectives of scoping are to:

- inform the public about the proposal;
- identify the main stakeholders and their concerns and values;
- define the reasonable and practical alternatives to the proposal;
- focus the important issues and significant impacts to be addressed by an EIA;
- define the boundaries for an EIA in time, space and subject matter;
- set requirements for the collection of baseline and other information; and
- establish the Terms of Reference for the EIA study.



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# Consultation

- Initial consultations among those that are affected by the project and experts is part of preliminary steps to scope the potential impacts of the project in particular those that are highly significance that requires more attention.
- Scoping consultations will also include where possible the use of desk top methods to assist with the identification of key issues for the EIA.

Commonly used scoping methods includes:

- checklists;
- matrices;
- networks;
- overlays and geographical information system (GIS)
- expert system; and
- professional advice.





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## Benefits of early engagement

- When desktop studies during scoping raises issues of concern needing attention this is a good trigger for consultations/discussions with stakeholders.
- If a development is unusual, large, new technology, potentially hazardous it is important to raise these early on with the stakeholders so all are better informed and questions/concerns captured so they can be clarified through more targeted studies, it is then possible to construct a Terms of Reference that will prescribe and manage the EIA required.
- Discussions should be held with the national agencies of the government of Tokelau and the affected atoll communities of Tokelau to finalize the key environmental impact issues and concerns that should be included in the EIA and the EIA Terms of Reference.
- These scoping consultations may include a field visit to the project site.





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## What is EIA scoping?

- Identifying the issues & impacts (+ve, -ve) highlighting the major impacts of the proposed development that need to be addressed in an EIS.
- Identifying potentially interested or affected people/groups – public stakeholders
- Consideration of relevant legislation, policies, strategies & Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) – i.e. you need to link EIA process with broader-scale planning
- Determining what information needs to be collected, the baseline studies that should be carried out and the methodology that should be used to evaluate their significance.



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## What does it involve?

- Development of **terms of reference** (ToR) that outline the required format & content of an EIS
- Like Screening it is Primarily a desk-based exercise BUT important to **be familiar with the development location & local issues**
- So you can take a site visit if you need to, to get a better perspective.







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# What does Scoping involve?

- Evaluating a development's size, features, physical location & land status, social/cultural setting, relevant legal/policy matters
- Considering potential impacts (+ve, -ve):
  - are they likely to be significant?
  - do they need to further investigation?
  - will they require management?







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## Things to check

- Has the site selection **presented alternatives?**
- Are there actions to anticipate and **avoid** impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- and where avoidance is not possible do they, **minimise?;** and where impacts occur, is there a possibility to **restore?;**
- Do significant residual impacts remain?





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## So when scoping

- Always remember to take a precautionary approach
- Ask questions when things are unclear or vague
- Request further information, clarification or verification

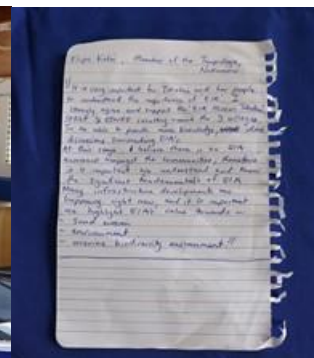




# Who develops the ToR?

The EIA Board/authority (EDNRE) shall arrange a joint meeting to determine the scope

- Assistance can be provided by the proponent/ applicant, or consultants with specialist knowledge
- Consultation should be undertaken with govt agencies & the general public to help identify issues & impacts that need to be addressed
- Important to note **regional organisations such as SPREP** can also help with developing the ToR if requested by EIA authority.





The SPREP Regional EIA guidelines also provide a toolkit for developing a ToR

Environment Programme

- Introduction
- Background information
- Details of proponent/developer
- Details of specialist consultant who prepare EIS/EIA report
- Legal Requirements
- Study Area
- Scope of work to be conducted during study
- Non technical summary
- Flexibility – with negotiation



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## **TOOL 2** Terms of reference template (p43 of guidelines)

- Generic terms of reference (ToR) template to assist EIA officers with drafting ToR for different projects.
- Template covers a range of topics often addressed in an EIA report
- Can be tailored by EIA officers (or the proponent) to suit the type of project under assessment
- ToR preparation should be guided by countries' relevant (environmental) laws, acts and other applicable policies, regulations or legislation.
- ToR are to be project specific not only listing general topics but also include specific information requests related to the project's anticipated impacts.



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## Over to you.







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# Scoping; practical exercise

## Instructions:

1. **Work in small groups** to examine a proposal application & write ToR for an EIA report on butchers paper. Your ToR should include:
  - a) Section headings
  - b) Specific information requests for significant issues/impacts
2. **Use the SPREP template** to assist you with writing the ToR
3. As you **write the ToR think about:**
  - a) The development site & the surrounding environment/community
  - b) The type of development, its size & its likely impacts
  - c) Any relevant govt legislation, policies, plans, or any MEAs that need to be

