



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

EIA Screening

Tokelau EIA Train the Trainer Virtual Workshop
April 2022



Gregory Barbara, SPREP

Environmental Assessment and Planning Officer

gregoryb@sprep.org



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

What is Screening?

- Screening is the initial step in the EIA process.
- When a development proposal is received it is SCREENED to decide whether EIA is required or not.
- It is usually led by the EIA administrator (EDNRE) in consultation with other government agencies, local communities, local land/resource owners and other stakeholders where relevant, and where consultation is permitted under legislation.
- Screening is undertaken using the information provided in the proposal application.





SPRE

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

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

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

EIA not required,
Approval agency &
proponent informed

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

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

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

DP rejected
by approval
agency

EIA report not accepted
by EIA administrator

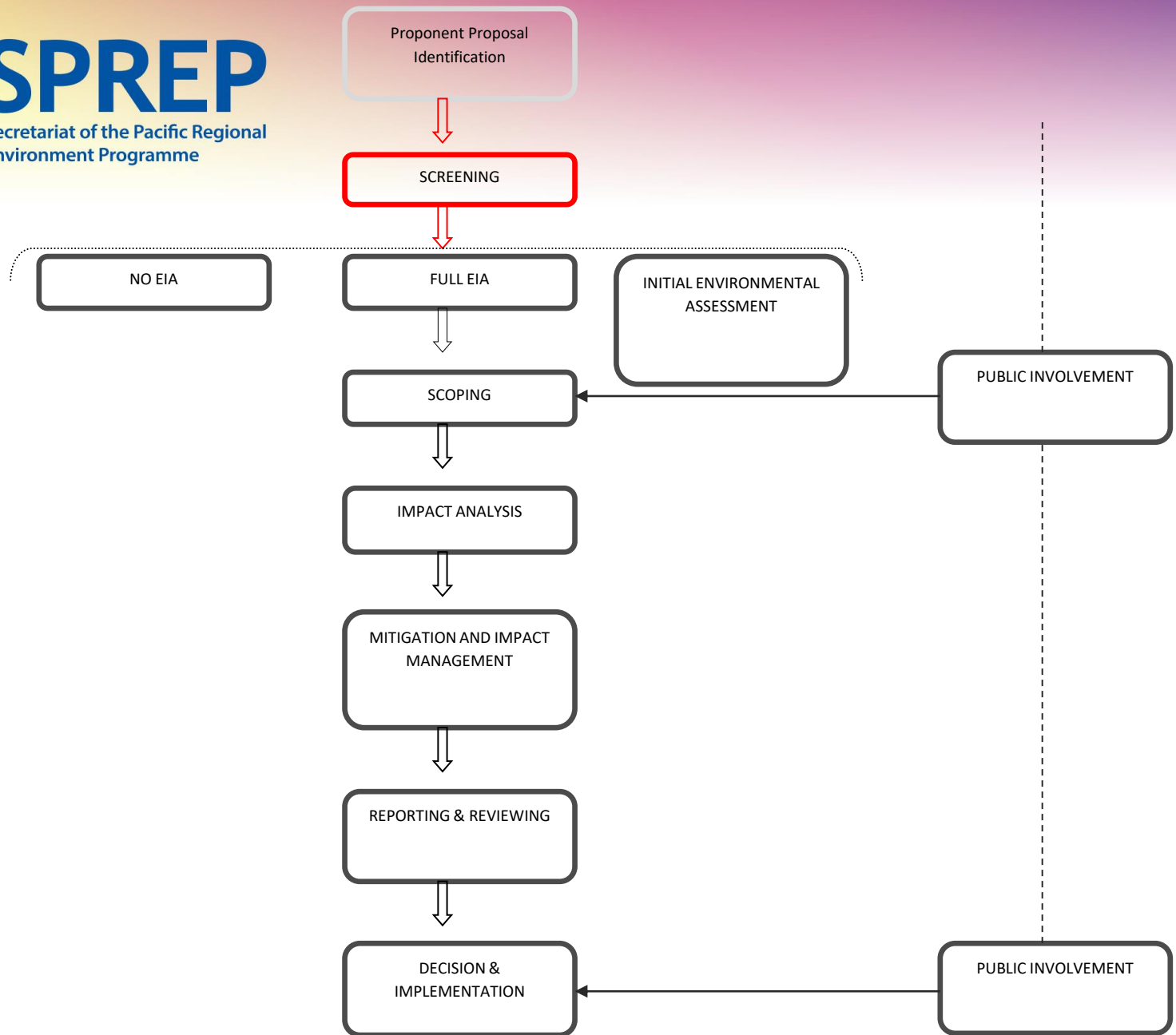
Proponent informed
of decision by EIA administrator

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

Adapted from Regional EIA guidelines



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme





SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

Why Screening?

- The main purpose is to verify if the proposed development has potential environmental impact or not.
- And determine whether an EIA is required or not.
- **Does the Development fall under a category of an exempt development?**
- **No**
- **Then an EIS is required**



What does screening 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?
- Primarily a desk-based exercise BUT important to be familiar with location & local issues



Significant Environmental Impact - matters to consider



- Serious or irreversible impact
- Precautionary principle
- Public health & safety
- Traditional lifestyles, cultural practices, livelihoods
- Cultural, natural, scientific, historic resources
- Cumulative environmental impacts
- Natural functioning of ecosystem
- Protected species & habitat
- Affect of climate change, variability, extreme weather





SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

EIA Screening under some Regulations

- **A Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment shall be required for any and all projects.** Except for Exempt classes of action.
 - Some classes of actions shall be exempted from preparation of a Preliminary EIA because they will probably have minimal or no significant effects on the environment.
 - Actions -exempt from the preparation of air environmental assessment under this section are not exempt from complying with any other applicable statute, rule, or regulation.
- Even if the project falls into any exempt classes the screening team **must be satisfied that the project will not result in significant impact** via cumulative impacts, or impacts to particularly sensitive areas.

Determination of significance examples

Significant impacts are defined as any action that:

- a) Involves an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resource;
- b) Curtails the range of beneficial use of the environment;
- c) Conflicts with the nation's long-term environmental policies or goals, and any revisions thereof and amendments thereto, any regulations promulgated there under or court decisions;
- d) Substantially affects the economic or social welfare of the community;
- e) Substantially affects public health;
- f) Involves substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities or infrastructure;
- g) Involves a substantial degradation of environmental quality;
- h) Has individually limited but cumulatively considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger actions;
- i) Substantially affects a rare, threatened or endangered species, or its habitat;
- j) Detrimentally affects air or water quality or ambient noise levels; or
- k) Affects an environmentally sensitive area such as flood plain, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, lagoon, reef area, mangrove swamp, fresh water, or coastal waters.

Where the screening board finds that impacts under the above are likely to be significant, a draft Environmental Impact Statement is required.



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

Golden Rule of screening

- An EIA should be required if any of the below apply
 - Not an exempt development (EIA Regulations)
 - Significant or many likely impacts, or
 - Particularly sensitive receivers/habitat
 - Unknown/uncertain, or
 - Difficulties or challenges for impact management



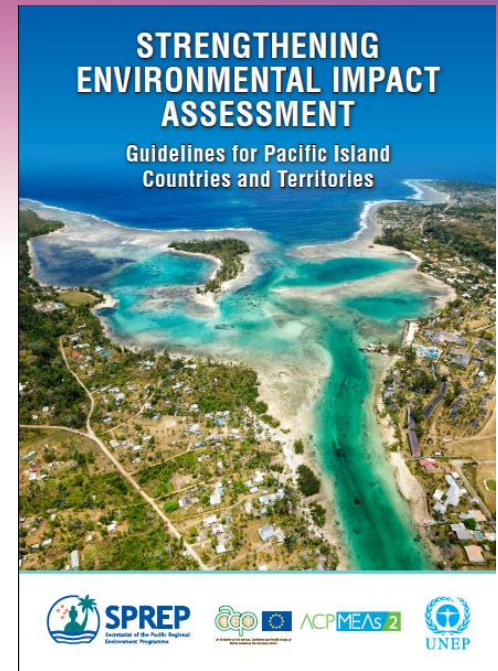


SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

If in doubt refer to

- EDNRE colleagues
- the SPREP Regional EIA guidelines
- If you still need help you can pose your question to the Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment (**PNEA**) website
<http://pnea.sprep.org>
- send environmental assessment questions and assistance requests directly to SPREP
gregoryb@sprep.org or joped@sprep.org or sprep@sprep.org





SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

NOW ITS OVER TO YOU! - A PRACTICAL EXERCISE

Instructions:

1. Work in small groups to review a development proposal
 2. Write down answers to the following questions on butchers paper:
 - a) has the applicant completed the Proposal Application correctly – is any important information missing?
 - b) is it likely to have significant impacts?
- (Pretend you have been able to do a site visit, ask questions)