





A. Introduction - Why EIA Is Important for Tokelau?



EIA stands for Environmental Impact Assessment and is a tool for sustainable development

- It supports proactive planning & decision making process: identifies impacts and proposes actions, methods and design changes to reduce the potential for negative impacts and aims to enhance the positive impacts/outcomes before development commences

The EIA addresses both:

- negative & positive impacts of development **on the environment**
- impacts of the environment **on the development** e.g. flooding due sea level rise, climate change (increased frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events), coastal erosion, tsunami.



What is EIA & what does it do?

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool used to identify, predict, assess and mitigate environmental, social and other relevant effects of proposed developments prior to major decision makings and commitments.
- EIA embodies the steps for the identification of potential impacts from projects or to projects and *alternatives* in order to reduce the severity of impacts and enhance the positive outcomes from a project



Goal

Contribute to the effective achievement of sustainable development for Tokelau.

Objectives

The objectives of the EIA policy are to:

- strengthen the capacity of DoEDNRE on EIA
- provide information, promote awareness and improve understanding of decision makers and key stakeholders on the benefits of undertaking EIA
- define and establish EIA institutional set-up/system, process, and requirements
- set minimum requirements for effective and meaningful public consultation and stakeholder engagement during the EIA process
- define the roles of the Taupulega, government authorities and agencies that contribute to, and make decisions on the EIA process; and
- clarify the roles of assisting external experts and organizations.



Key Guiding Principles



The EIA Policy is guided by nine key principles:

- i. **Participative** – the process should provide appropriate and timely opportunities to inform and involve interested and affected parties
- ii. **Transparency** – the process should have clear, easily understood requirements for EIA content, ensure public access to assessment and decisions
- iii. **Certainty** – process/timing agreed in advance
- iv. **Accountability** – decision makers responsible for their actions and decisions
- v. **Credibility** – the process should be carried out with professionalism, impartiality and objectivity and be subject to independent checks and verification.
- vi. **Cost effectiveness** – environmental protection at the least cost to society
- vii. **Flexibility** – adaptable to deal efficiently with any proposal and decision situation.
- viii. **Practicality** – information/outputs readily usable in decision making and planning
- ix. **Adaptive** – the process should be adjusted to the realities, issues and circumstances of the proposals under review without compromising the integrity of the process



Application and Scope



- All donor funded national infrastructural projects to be taken through the Division of Environment of the DoEDNRE to coordinate and manage the application of the EIA process on behalf the General Fono and the Taupulega.
- All village development/infrastructural projects application (eg: building of sea walls, communal or private) are to be submitted to the Division of Environment of the DoEDNRE to screen on behalf of the Taupulega as part of the EIA process.



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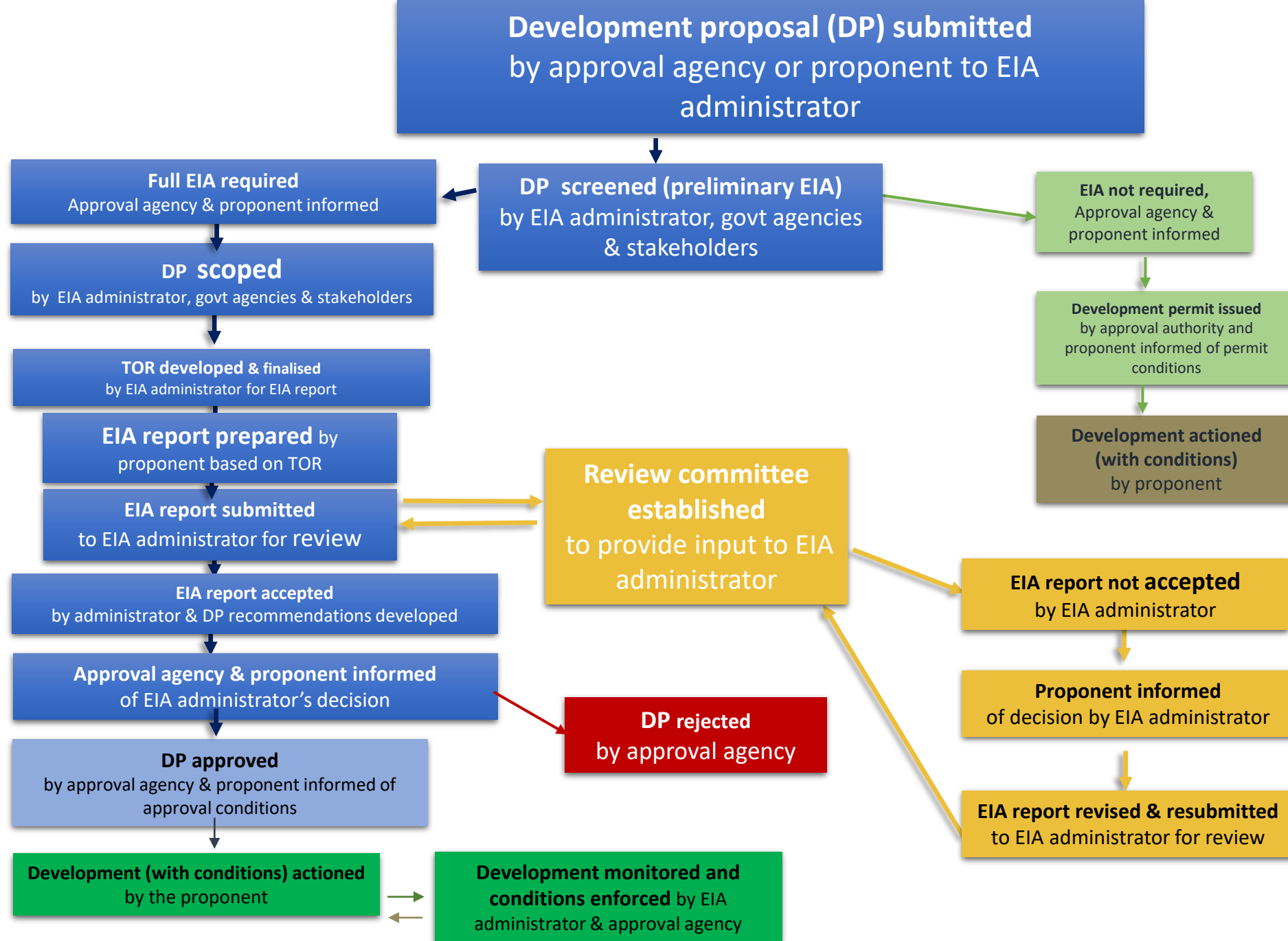


C. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Implementation Procedures

Purpose

The purpose of the Government of Tokelau National EIA implementation procedure is to:

- Implement the National EIA Policy; and
- Provide guidance and assistance with the establishment, administration, and implementation of an EIA process and system





Areas of Responsibility

- **The General Fono:** Ultimate decision making body for national development project approval.
- **The Taupulega:** EIA competent authority responsible for administering the EIA policy at the village and atoll level
- **The National EIA Policy Coordinator** – The management, implementation and coordination of the EIA process will be carried out by the DoEDNRE
- **The Development Proponent:** The Proponent or Developer is responsible with the direct management of the design and implementation of the proposed development.
- **Relevant Government Departments (National EIA Collaborating Bodies):** support and provide valuable information for the effective implementation of the Tokelau EIA Policy