

OVERVIEW OF SOLOMON ISLANDS EIA PROCESS

ECD DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PRESENTATION- SPREP SOLOMON ISLAND
TRAINING WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING DECISION MAKING IN
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

2024

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA)

is a management and planning tool used to identify, predict, assess and mitigate environmental, social and other relevant effects of proposed developments prior to major decision makings and commitments.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

A detailed report presenting the results of an environmental impact assessment.

Public Environmental Report (PER)

A brief report presenting the results of a preliminary environmental assessment of an existing or proposed development.

The aim of EIA can be divided into two categories. The immediate aim of EIA is to inform the process of decision-making by identifying the potentially significant environmental effects and risks of development proposals.

The long term aim of EIA is to promote sustainable development by ensuring that development proposals do not undermine critical resource and ecological functions or the well being, lifestyle and livelihood of the communities and peoples who depend on them.

Purpose of EIA

Promote environmentally sound and sustainable development through the identification of appropriate mitigation measures.

Protect the quality and productivity of the natural environment.

Predict and avoid, minimize or offset the adverse significant environmental, social and other relevant effects of development proposals.

Provide information for decision-making on the environmental consequences of any proposed developments

Why EIA guidelines are needed?(a safeguard to guide sustainable development)

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

Definition of 'environment' under 1998 Environment Act

- includes all natural and social systems and their constituent parts, and the interactions of their constituent parts, including people, communities and economic, aesthetic, culture and social factors

Therefore under the Act –Social is very much a part of the Environment.

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. (2010 EIA Guidelines, Env Act)

What is EIA & what does it do?

- Proactive planning process: identifies impacts before development commences
- Identifies mitigation measures to enhance positive impacts & to avoid, minimise, rehabilitate or compensate for negative impacts
- Participatory process, involving the proponent, government & other relevant stakeholders. customary landowners, civil society organisations, industry groups, local businesses
- Supports informed decision-making, based on understanding environmental consequences
- It promotes sustainable development

The Purpose of an EIA : 4Ps

- Promote environmentally sound and sustainable development through the identification of appropriate mitigation measures.
- Protect the quality and productivity of the natural environment.
- Predict and avoid, minimize or offset the adverse significant environmental, social and other relevant effects of development proposals.
- Provide information for decision-making on the environmental consequences of any proposed developments

(Solomon Islands EIA guidelines 2010)

BUT if not applied properly

•If development impacts are managed poorly and climate change and disaster risks are not factored into planning processes, these same developments can negatively affect lands, seas and lifestyles through:

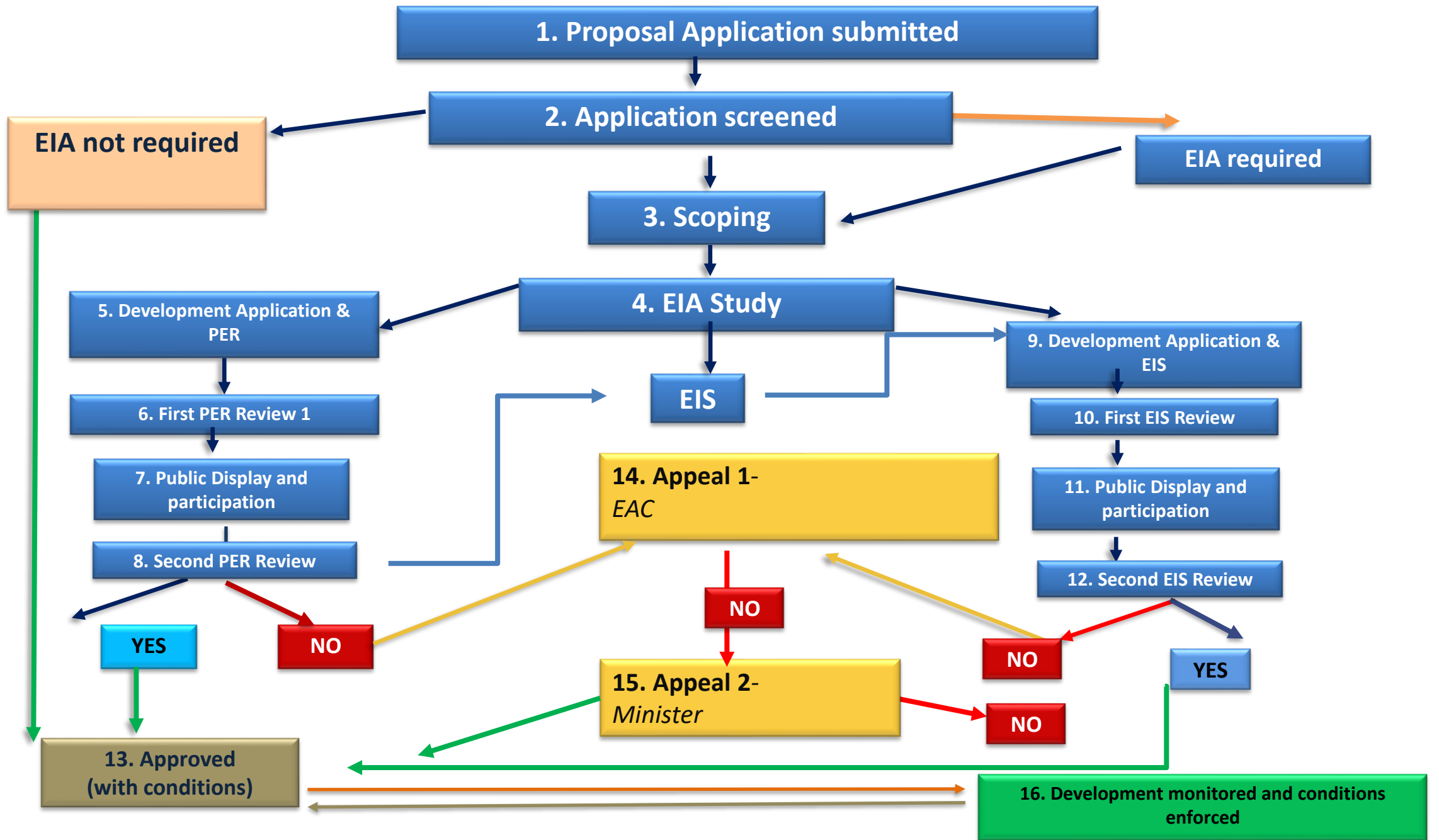
- natural habitat destruction and loss;
- generation of waste and pollution;
- release of GHG emissions; freshwater depletion;
- spread of invasive plants and animals;
- intrusion upon village communities and their lifestyles;
- generation of social tension; loss of livelihoods;
- damage to cultural heritage sites; and
- damage to or loss of physical infrastructure (e.g. buildings, roads).

SI: EIA Guidelines

- The Solomon Islands 2010 EIA guidelines updated in 2014 Annex 4 by MID, MECDM and ADB in line with the Environment Act 1998
- The Environment Act stipulates the general procedures for EIA in Solomon Islands.
- The 2010 guidelines outline the EIA process for the Solomons and are applicable to the full range of projects and economic development sectors
- While the 2014 Annex 4 is focused on transport infrastructure projects, it does provide more details on the various steps within the EIA process.

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

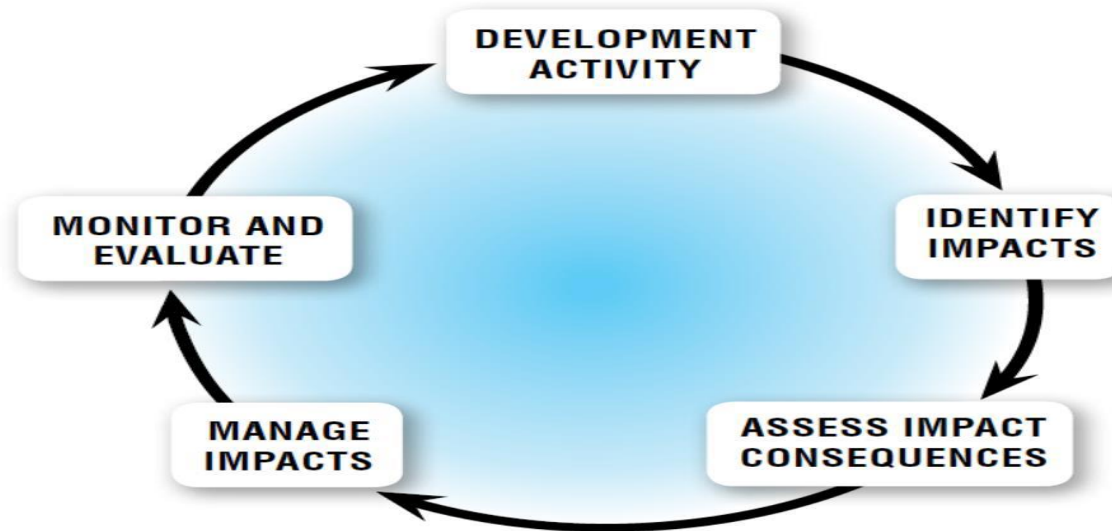




EIA and the project management cycle

EIA is actually part of a larger project management cycle

- This cyclical process should be ongoing for the whole life of a development, from construction through to operation, through to site closure and rehabilitation
- It can also be described as a process of adaptive management or continual improvement.



Key Players



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PRESCRIBED DEVELOPMENTS

1. FOOD INDUSTRIES including

- (a) Fruit processing , bottling and canning
- (b) Brewing, malting and distillery works
- (c) Abattoirs
- (d) Other food processing requiring packaging

2. IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES

3. NON-METALLIC INDUSTRIES including

- (a) Lime production
- (b) Brick and tile manufacture
- (c) Extraction of minerals and mining
- (d) Extraction of aggregates stones or shingles
- (e) Radio-active related industries
- (f) Manufacture of cement

4. LEATHER, PAPER, TEXTILE AND WOOD INDUSTRIES including

- (a) Leather tanning and processing
- (b) Textile industry with dyeing facilities
- (c) Carpet industry with chemical dyeing
- (d) Manufacturing of paper , pulp and other wood products

5. FISHING AND MARINE PRODUCT INDUSTRY

6. FOREST INDUSTRY including

- (a) Logging operation
- (b) Saw milling
- (c) All forms of timber processing and treatment

7. TOURISM INDUSTRY including

- (a) Hotels
- (b) Golf Clubs
- (c) Recreational Parks
- (d) Tourism resorts or estates

8. AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY including

- (a) Livestock development
- (b) Agricultural development schemes
- (c) Irrigation and water supply schemes

9. PUBLIC WORKS SECTOR including

- (a) Landfills
- (b) Infrastructure developments
- (c) Major waste disposal plants
- (d) Soil erosion and siltation control
- (e) Hydropower schemes
- (f) Reservoir development
- (g) Waste management , drainage and disposal system
- (h) Airport development
- (i) Dredging
- (j) Watershed management
- (k) Ports and harbours

10. OTHER

- (a) Industrial estates
- (b) Housing development scheme
- (c) Settlement and resettlement schemes
- (d) Petroleum product storage and processing works

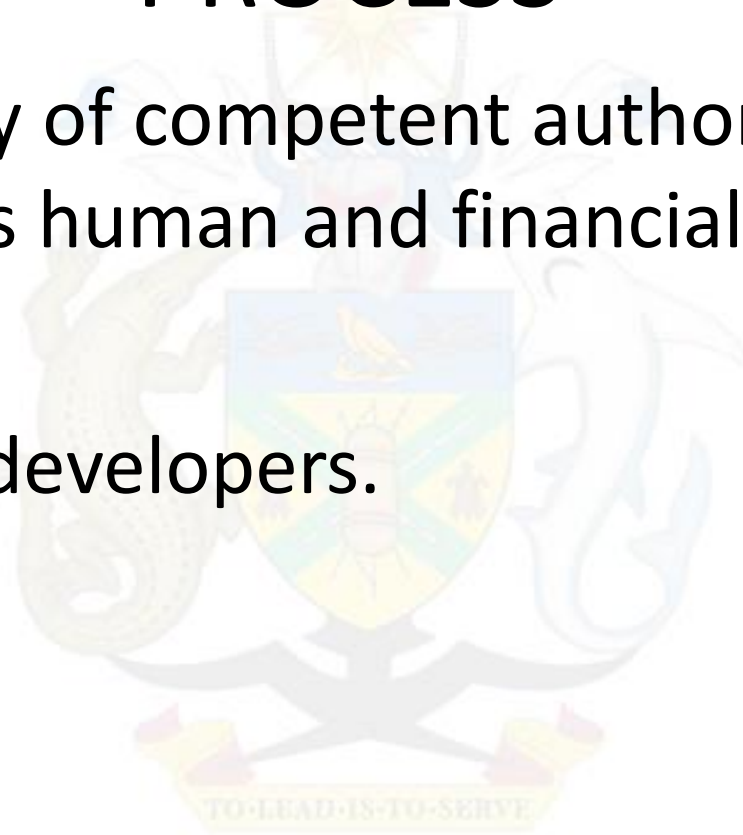
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PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

| OFFENCE | DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE AND LEGISLATION | PENALTY |
|---|---|--|
| Providing false or misleading information in a PER or EIS | A developer knowingly providing false or misleading information to the Director or to any public authority concerning matters to be addressed in a public environment report or in an environmental impact statement. Section 25 EA | Fine up to \$10,000 and or Imprisonment up to one year Section 54 EA |
| Pollution from waste | A person causing or allowing waste to be placed in any position from which the waste could reasonably be expected to gain access to any part of the environment and is likely to result in pollution Section 35 EA | Fine up to 10,000 and/or Imprisonment up to one year Section 37 EA |
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CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING THE EIA PROCESS

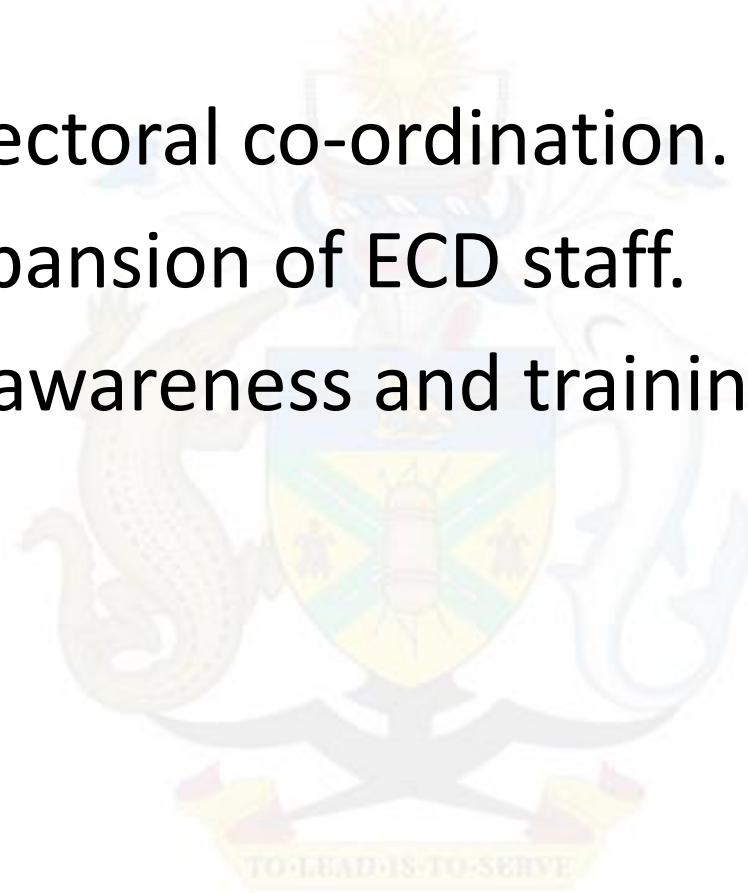
- Institutional Capacity of competent authority to fully enforce the process (includes human and financial resources)
- Awareness.
- Non-compliance by developers.
- Monitoring
- Enforcement



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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen sectoral co-ordination.
- Provincial expansion of ECD staff.
- Conduct EIA awareness and trainings



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Remember

- The EIA is an iterative process
- At anytime more information can be sort/requested if data/explanations from proponents are not clear
- Call upon your network for help, that includes: SPREP (PNEA)

- Tankiu tumas
- Vinaka
- Fa'afetai
- ko rabwa

Any Question/ Comments please