EIA Report Review
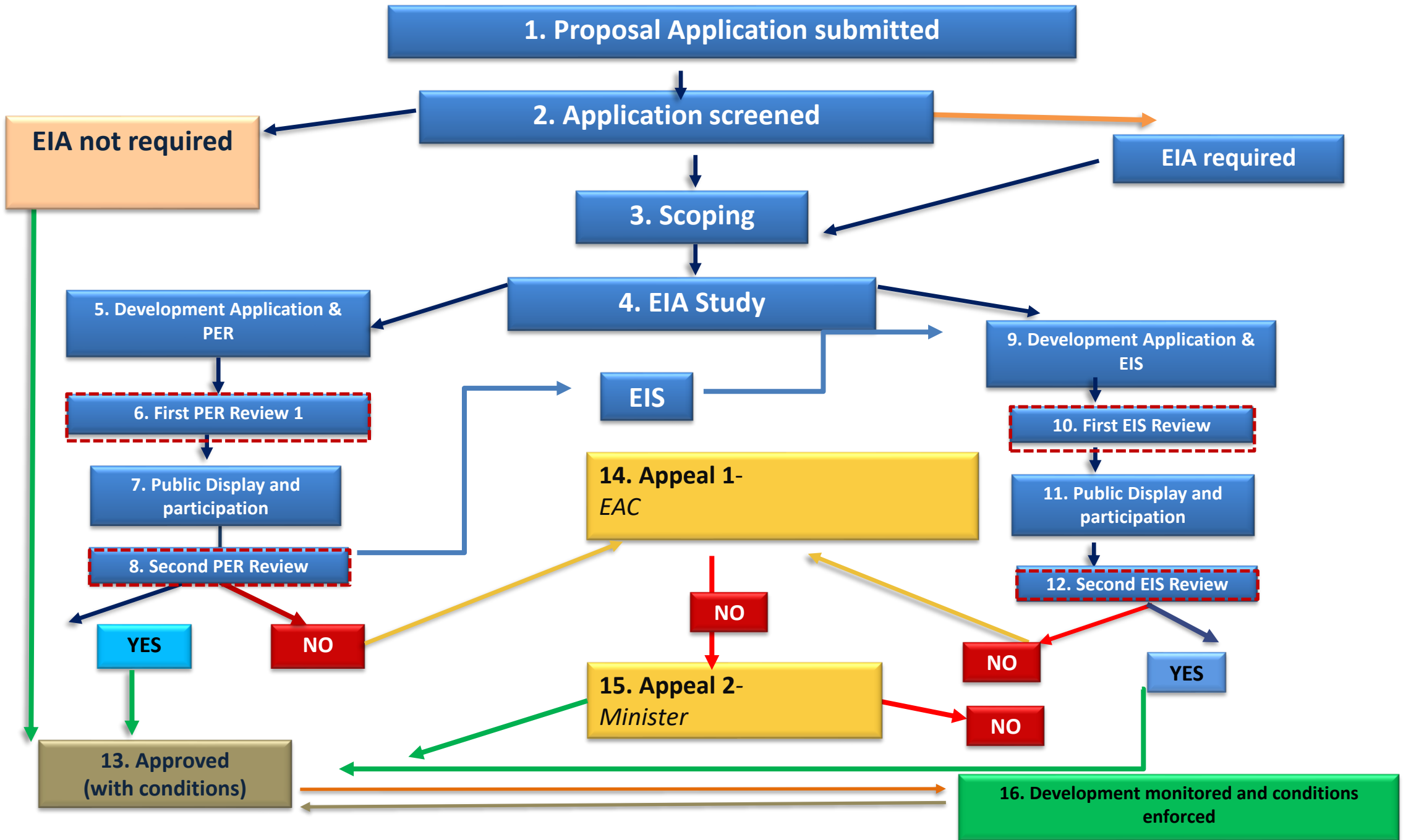
SOLOMON ISLAND TRAINING WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING DECISION MAKING IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

March 2024

1. Proposal Application submitted

2. Application screened

EIA not required

EIA required

3. Scoping

4. EIA Study

5. Development Application & PER

6. First PER Review 1

7. Public Display and participation

8. Second PER Review

EIS

9. Development Application & EIS

10. First EIS Review

11. Public Display and participation

12. Second EIS Review

14. Appeal 1- *EAC*

15. Appeal 2- *Minister*

YES

NO

NO

NO

NO

YES

13. Approved (with conditions)

16. Development monitored and conditions enforced

An EIS review involves:

➢ Evaluating if an EIS report:

-addresses the ToR

-is complete & accurate

-uses appropriate impact assessment or technical methods

-has reached fair conclusions

➢ Examining identified impacts of the project on the environment & identified impacts of the environment on the project (i.e. hazards, natural change processes)

➢ This includes review of the Evironmental Management Plan

➢ Evaluating, for an EIS report, whether it meets Solomon Island Regulations

Who reviews?

A Review Panel is recommended

•The Review Panel comprised of individuals from within and/or outside the government and public sector agencies
•Where technical expertise is required, outside experts can be engaged from; academia, research, international or other relevant resources

What to check
•A key aspect of the EIS study that is often done poorly is the public consultation process. While public consultation should take place early on in the project preparation be sure to check during the review whether it has been adequate.

•Determining what monitoring & reporting will be required (is the EMP adequate?)

•Considering if the proposed development is aligned with broader planning & policy frameworks

1ˢᵗ Review

Reviewers need to be able to determine
➢ If the EIS contains sufficient information and detail, and an acceptable standard;
➢ what key issues and impacts the EIS highlights for the development; and
➢ what recommendations or recommended conditions should be provided to the development approval authority.

The key is to examine the EIS report alongside the ToR

EIS review: outcomes

- The Director and/or Review Panel will carry out an initial verification of the EIS and EMP at the first review and provide a written opinion.
- Where the EIS and or EMP do not meet the legal requirements, the project documents will be returned to the proponent.
- The Director shall inform the proponent in writing of any defects in the project documents and inform the proponent that if those defects are rectified the project documents may be re-submitted and the EIS process re-commenced.

What to check

Reviewing the Environmental Management Plan (EMP or EMMP)

The SIX Ws!

- What mitigation measures will be implemented?
- Who will do the implementing?
- When will the implementing be done?
- Where will the implementing be done?
- Which environmental standards/requirements will be met?
- What residual impacts will remain, & will they be acceptable to affected stakeholders?

Once the 1ˢᵗ review is complete.

- The same EIS and EMP documents are disclosed to the public for public review
- Public feedback to ECD can be made throughout the 30 day public review period.
- Any feedback received is forwarded to the developer for documentation on the public consultation process and for finalising the EIS and EMP.
- Any cost associated with the publication of the notice and EIS is borne by the developer.

2nd Review

Once the proponent has addressed the feedback and finalized the EIS and EMP

➢This review is made by the ECD within a 15 day period.

➢Once the second review is complete, and provided all procedures and documents are in accordance with the legislation the Director can pass a decision on the development, based on:

•the information in the development application and EIS;

•any objections received and any information provided in support of the objections; and

•the objects of the Environment Act.

TANKIU TUMAS EVERYONE