

Promoting Sustainable Resource Management and the Protection of Fiji's Environment Through Law

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WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSEMENT?



EIA Definition

Purpose/Objective

How does the EIA Work?

Who is Involved?



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What is an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA?)

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) defines it as:
- *“a tool used to identify the environmental, social and economic impacts of a project prior to decision-making. It aims to predict environmental impacts at an early stage in project planning and design, find ways to reduce adverse impacts, shape projects to suit the local environment, and present the predictions and options to decision-makers.”*



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What is an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA?) – Breaking it down.

- *A Tool* - EIA helps to inform decision makers about the impacts of a project.
- Although its called an Environmental Impact Assessment, an EIA must examine the economic and social impacts too.
- EIA helps to predict issues that may arise in the future from a project.
- EIA Looks at ways in which measures can be taken to reduce any adverse impacts.
- Predications and options are presented to the decision makers to help them decide to approve the project.

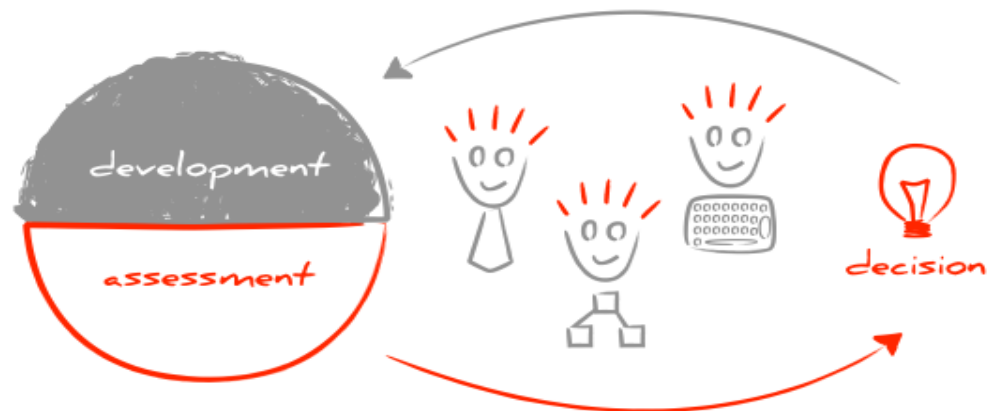


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What requires an EIA?

Q. What type of activity requires an EIA?

A. A development proposal that proposes an activity or undertaking that is determined by an approving authority to likely cause significant environmental or resource management impact.



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Development Activity/Undertaking

Q. What is a development activity or undertaking?

Any activity or undertaking likely to alter the physical nature of the land in anyway and includes the construction of buildings or works, the deposits of wastes or other materials from outfalls, vessels or by other means, the removal of sand, coral, shells, natural vegetation, seagrass or other substances, dredging, filing , and reclamation, mining or drilling for minerals but does not include fishing.



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Key Stages of EIA Process

SCREENING

Screening to determine whether EIA is required



SCOPING

Scoping to determine the TOR of the EIA report



EIA REPORT

Preparation of the EIA report by the proponent



REVIEW

Review of the EIA report by the processing authority; and



DECISION

Decision on the development proposal, including conditions

How do we get to the EIA stage?

- Developer –
Person/Entity/Company that is interested in developing/investing in Fiji.
- The Developer prepares a development proposal to seek approval from the relevant authorities
- The Development Proposal is then submitted to the relevant authority for determination.



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THANK YOU



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