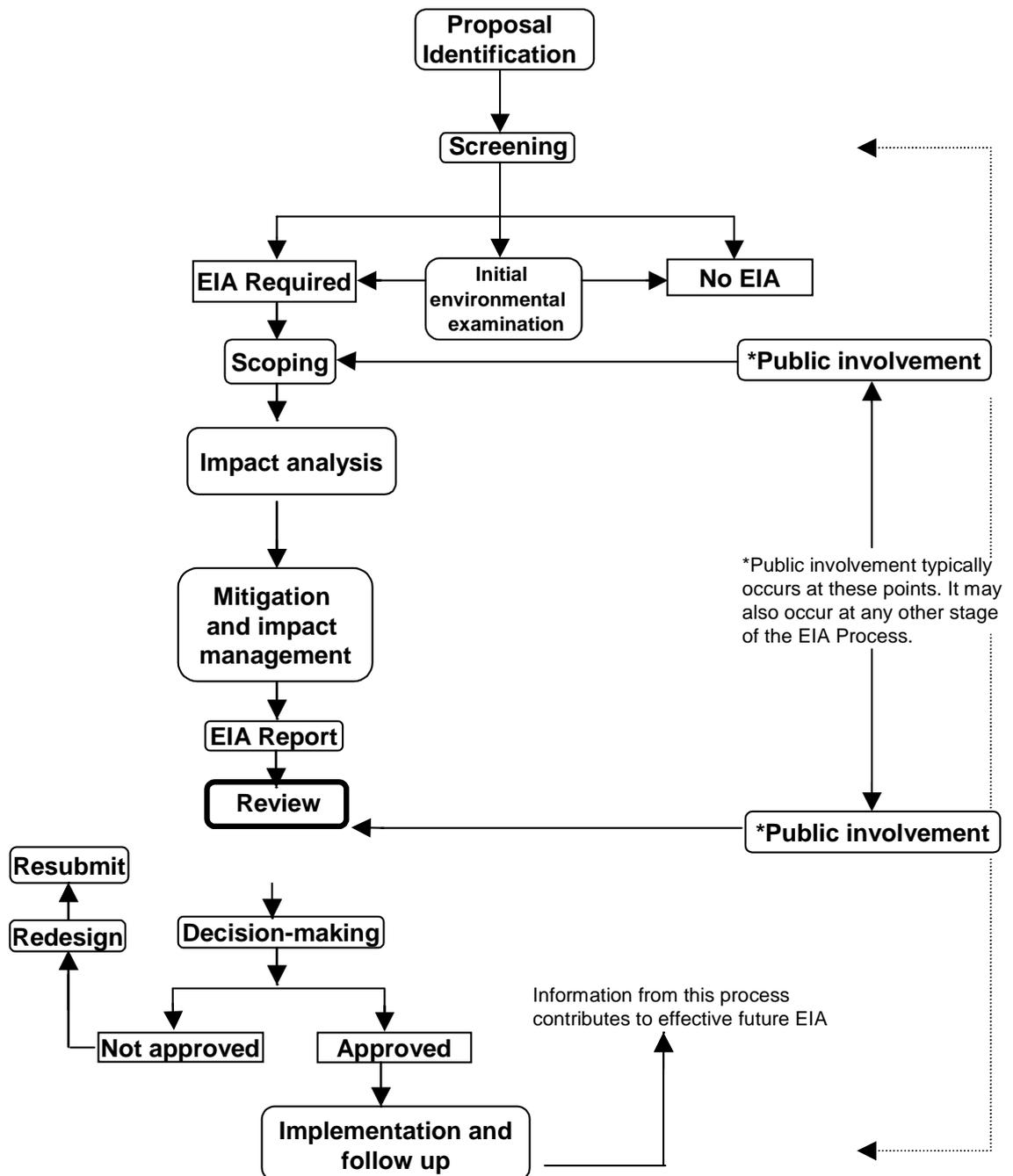

Topic 9

Review of EIA quality

Reviewing in the EIA process



Purpose and objectives of review

The purpose of the review process is to establish if the information in an EIA report is sufficient for decision-making.

Key objectives are to:

- review the quality of the EIA report
- take account of public comment
- determine if the information is sufficient
- identify any deficiencies to be corrected.

EIA review – aspects for consideration:

- compliance with terms of reference
- information is correct and technically sound
- account taken of public comments
- complete and satisfactory statement of key findings
- information is clear and understandable
- information is sufficient for decision-making

EIA review – types of procedure

- **Internal review:**

- low operating costs
- can lack rigour and transparency
- often no documentation of results.

- **External review:**

- independent, expert check on EIA quality
- more rigorous and transparent
- report on sufficiency or deficiency

EIA review procedures

- ♦ environmental agency
- ♦ independent panel (or moderator)
- ♦ standing commission
- ♦ inter-agency committee
- ♦ planning authority

EIA review – steps to good practice

- set the scale of the review
- select reviewer(s)
- use public input
- identify review criteria
- carry out the review
- determine remedial options
- publish the review report

EIA review criteria

The following can be used (in order of priority):

- Terms of Reference
- EIA reports of comparable proposals
- other guidance including:
 - EIA requirements, guidelines and criteria
 - principles of EIA good practice
 - knowledge of the project and typical impacts

Carrying out the EIA review

A four-step approach can be followed:

- Step 1: identify the deficiencies
- Step 2: focus on critical shortcomings
- Step 3: recommend remedial measures
- Step 4: advise on implications for decision-making

(the last step does not apply in all systems)

EIA review methods

- general checklists
- project specific checklists
- review packages
- expert and accredited reviewers
- public hearings
- effectiveness review frameworks

A rating scale for EIA review

Rating	Explanation
A	generally well performed, no important tasks left incomplete
B	generally satisfactory and complete, only minor omissions and inadequacies
C	just satisfactory despite omissions and/or inadequacies
D	parts well attempted but must, on the whole be considered just unsatisfactory because of omissions and/or inadequacies
E	unsatisfactory, significant omissions or inadequacies
F	very unsatisfactory, important task(s) poorly done or not attempted
N/A	not applicable, the review topic is not applicable in the context of the project