Topic 4

Screening

The purpose of screening

The purpose of screening is to determine:

- whether or not a proposal requires an EIA

- what level of EIA is required

Outcomes of screening

- full or comprehensive EIA required

- more limited EIA required

- further study needed to determine EIA requirement

- no further requirement for EIA

Screening and scoping compared

Screening

- determines the requirement for EIA

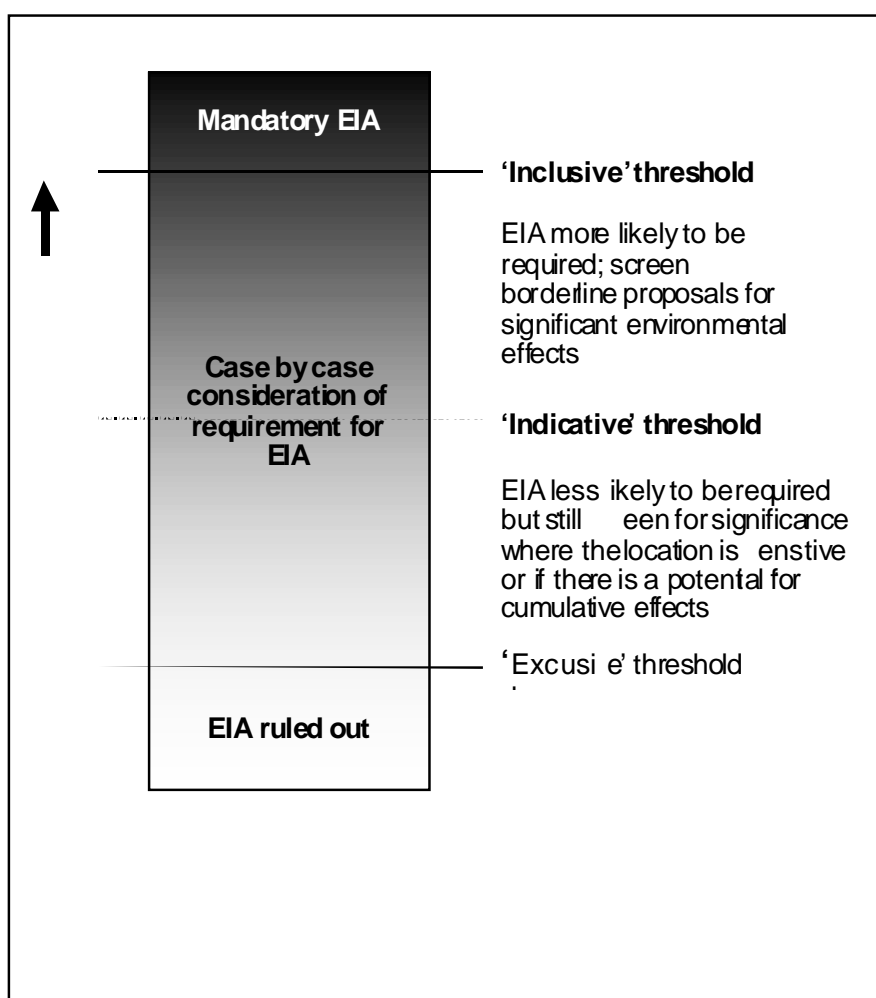- establishes the level of review necessary

Scoping

- identifies the key issues and impacts

- establishes the terms of reference

Screening methods

- legal/policy definition

- inclusion list of projects (with or without thresholds)

- exclusion list of projects

- criteria for case-by-case screening

A framework for screening

Mandatory EIA	
	'Inclusive' threshold
	EIA more likely to be required; screen borderline proposals for significant environmental effects
Case by case consideration of requirement for EIA	**'Indicative' threshold**
	EIA less likely to be required but still screen for significance where the location is sensitive or if there is a potential for cumulative effects
	'Exclusive' threshold
EIA ruled out	

Extended screening methods

- initial environmental evaluation or examination (IEE)

- environmental overview

- class screening

Typical proposals requiring
a full EIA

- dams and reservoirs

- (re)settlement and urban development

- infrastructure (e.g. transport and sanitation)

- industrial facilities (e.g. manufacturing plants)

- energy and minerals extraction (e.g. oil & gas, coal)

- waste management and disposal of hazardous and toxic materials

- energy development (power stations, transmission lines, pipelines)

Location and environmental criteria for case-by-case screening

The following are important in determining significant effects:

- assimilative capacity of the natural environment

- environmental sensitivity, e.g. wetlands, coastal and mountain zones

- environmental standards and objectives

- adjacent to protected or designated areas

- within landscapes of special heritage value

- existing land use(s) and commitments

- abundance and quality of natural resources

Extended screening
– information required by decision-makers

- description of the proposal

- conditions and characteristics of the environment

- applicable policy, planning and regulatory objectives

- identification of potential impacts

- degree of public concern and interest

An Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)

- describes the proposal

- considers alternatives

- addresses the concerns of the community

- identifies potential environmental effects

- establishes mitigation measures

- includes monitoring and follow up (as necessary)

Generalised EIA Process Flowchart

Proposal Identification

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Screening

- **EIA Required**
- **Initial environmental examination**
- **No EIA**

Scoping ← ***Public involvement**

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Impact analysis

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Mitigation and impact management

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EIA Report

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Review ← ***Public involvement**

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Decision-making

- **Not approved** → **Redesign** → **Resubmit**
- **Approved**

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Implementation and follow up

*Public involvement typically occurs at these points. It may also occur at any other stage of the EIA Process.

Information from this process contributes to effective future EIA