



USAID
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5. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: SCOPING STATEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

—

Location · Month Year



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: SCOPING STATEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PREPARATION

Learning Objectives

1. Appreciate the utility and goals of the scoping process
2. Know the contents of a USAID environmental assessment
3. Understand the logic and process of alternatives analysis

WHEN IS A FULL EA NEEDED?

1

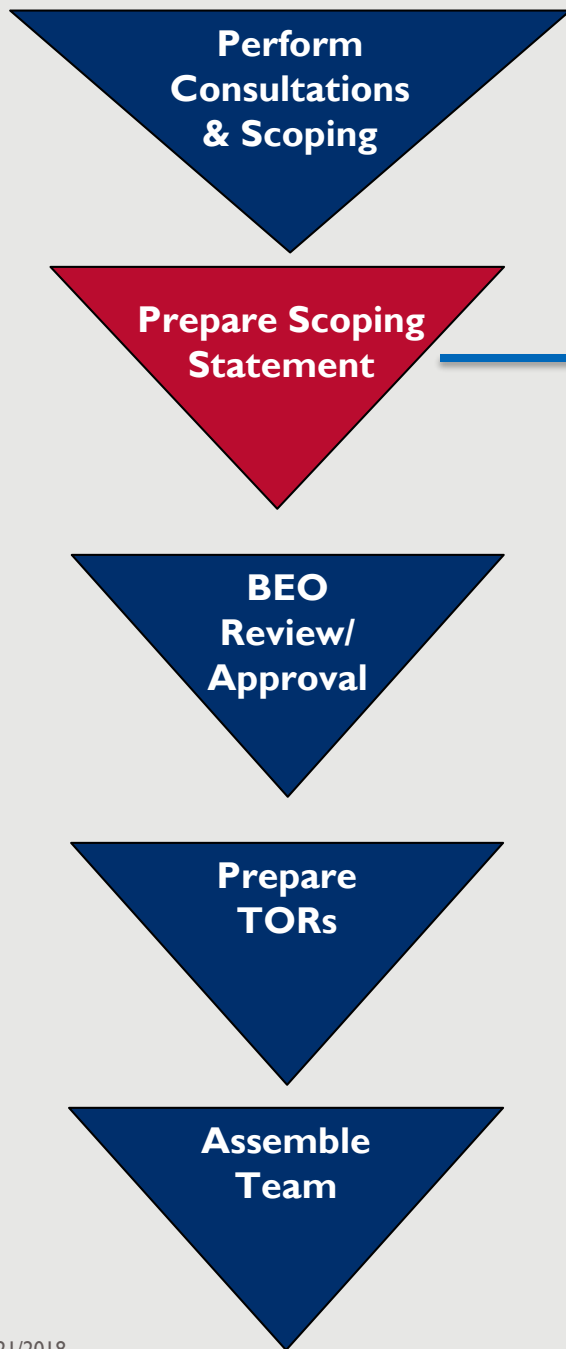
- When the IEE documents likelihood of significant environmental impacts (Positive Threshold Decision)

2

- During program or activity design (e.g., project appraisal document [PAD] development) if/when high-risk activities are proposed (i.e., activity is designated as high-risk per 22CFR216.2(d))



TWO-STAGE PROCESS: EA STARTS WITH SCOPING



Scoping: determine the significant issues, alternatives, and data gaps that will be addressed in the EA

Scoping Statement:

- Scope and significance of issues to be analyzed
- Issues that do not need to be addressed
- Schedule and format of the EA, expertise needed
- Proposed methodology
- Stakeholder engagement strategy

PURPOSE OF SCOPING

- Sets the stage for the EA
 - Ascertain/collect available data
 - Prioritize needs for additional information
 - Understand role of stakeholder consultations
 - Identify possible alternatives
- Helps identify potential issues and concerns related to the project that will need to be considered further in the EA



PURPOSE OF SCOPING (CONTINUED)

- Can help refine the proposed action
- Engage with project stakeholders
 - Solicit input
 - Keep informed on project's progress



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Goal: to communicate and inform in an inclusive manner and gather information from stakeholders



SCOPING DEFINES ISSUES

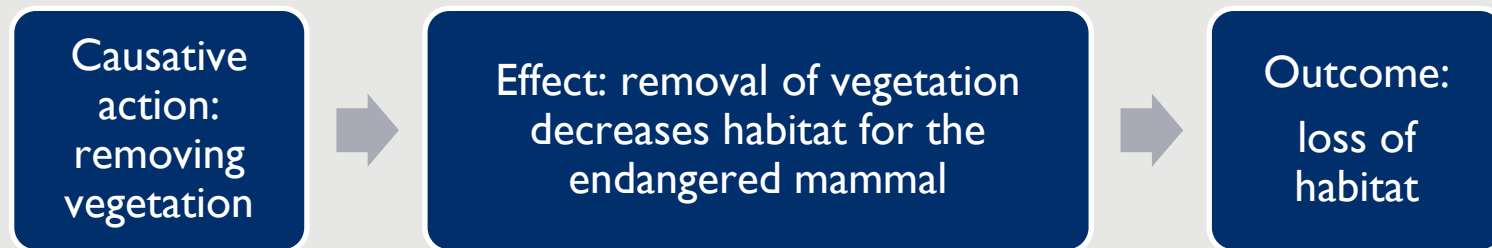
- An issue is derived from specific activities described under the Proposed Action
- Should be phrased as a cause-effect statement relating to actions under consideration
- An issue statement should describe a specific action (cause) and the potential environmental outcome(s) arising from that action (effect)



SCOPING ISSUE: EXAMPLE

A 20 km section of road is going to be repaired and rehabilitated and will require removal of vegetation along the sides of the road

The road passes through a protected area, home to an endangered mammal; vegetation removal will impact its habitat



SCOPING ELIMINATES ISSUES

- Any issues eliminated from further analysis should be documented in the Scoping Statement as “issues considered, but dismissed”



SCOPING STATEMENT CONTENT

- Brief description of the affected environment/baseline, existing conditions, purpose and need, and the specific proposed actions
- Identify significant issues related to the proposed action
- Document issues outside the scope of the proposed actions
- Timing for preparation of the EA
- Planning and decision-making schedule
- Description of how the analysis will be carried out
- Ideal composition of the EA team and/or area(s) of expertise needed to perform the assessment



BEO approves both the Scoping Statement and the EA

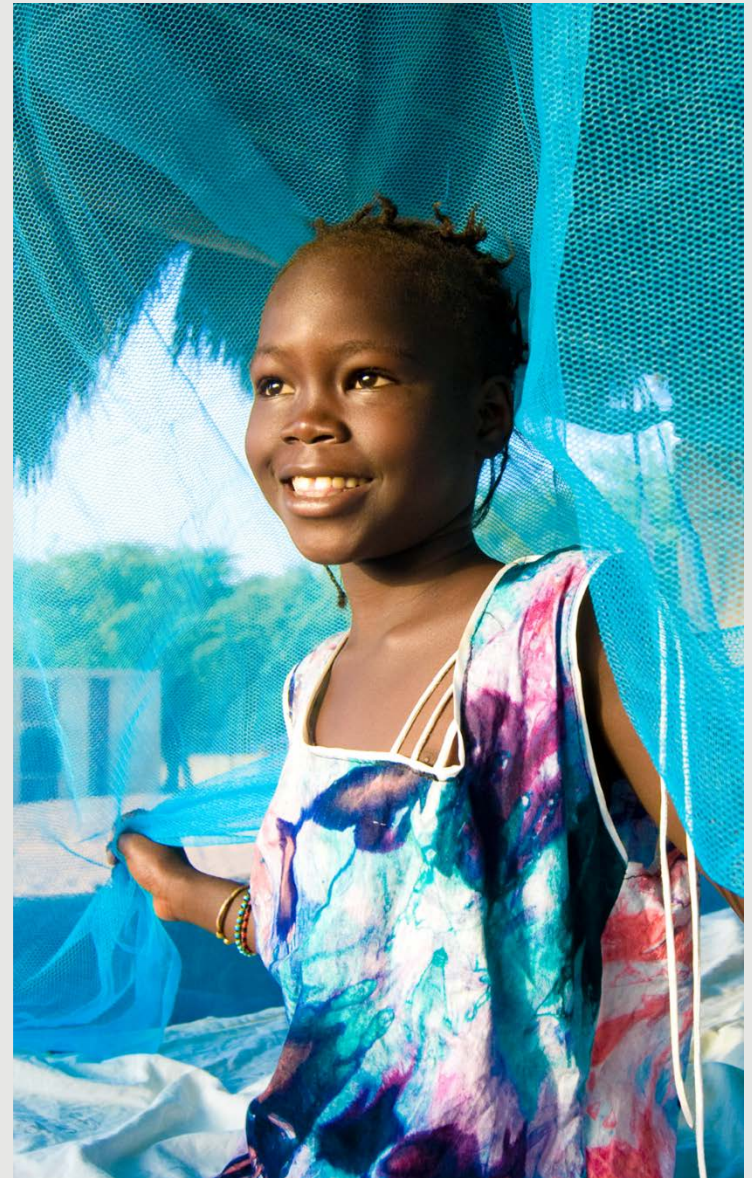
STAGE 2: PREPARATION OF THE EA

- Scoping Statement is completed and approved
- Terms of reference for EA are developed
- Technical expertise requirements are defined
- Budget is prepared



CONTENT OF THE EA

- Scope of the assessment
- Stakeholder engagement process
- Purpose and need of the proposed action
- Describe and evaluate the baseline situation
- Identify and analyze alternatives
- Identify and characterize potential impacts of the proposed activity
- Develop a mitigation and monitoring plan
- Communicate and document the evaluation process



THE EA INCLUDES ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Summary

Purpose

**Comparison of
alternatives**

Affected
Environment

Environmental
Consequences

List of
Preparers

Present the alternatives considered

- Includes the no action alternative
- Explain why certain alternatives were not considered

Compare the environmental impacts of these alternatives

- Summary of the analysis presented in “environmental consequences”
- Include mitigation actions

Identify the preferred alternative

DEFINING ALTERNATIVES

- For any action, there are usually a very large number of alternatives
- Guidance states that a reasonable number of options must be evaluated that represent the full spectrum of the range of alternatives
- Alternatives must be viable



ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Identify the reasonable alternatives to be evaluated, including the “No Action” alternative, that fulfill the Purpose and Need

Present commensurate impacts in comparative form, clearly defining issues

Examine alternatives based on technologies, project location, size, etc.

Explain why some alternatives were eliminated from consideration

Identify the preferred alternative and justify the recommendation

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

- Required per Reg. 216 and Council on Environmental Quality regulations
- Provides the baseline condition to compare effects
- Consider as a viable alternative that is evaluated equally with the other alternatives
- Two interpretations of the No Action Alternative:
 - Proposed action does not occur and existing conditions continue as-is
 - The current management scheme continues as-is



ELIMINATION OF ALTERNATIVES

- The EA should briefly explain if any alternatives were considered, but dismissed



HOST-COUNTRY EA REQUIREMENTS

The large majority of USAID host countries now have in place EIA policies and procedures

Most projects that require an EA under Reg. 216 will also require a full EA under host-country procedures



Collaboration with local Governments can facilitate the environmental analysis process for the Implementing Partners and USAID staff.

TYPES OF USAID ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Used to assess the environmental effects of a specific project or action

EXAMPLE

An EA to evaluate a single irrigation or health clinic project

PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Used to assess the environmental effects of a class of similar actions

EXAMPLE

A PEA to evaluate construction of multiple schools or sustainable forest management plans

RAPID ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Used to assess, define and prioritize the potential environmental impacts in **disaster situations**

EXAMPLE

Earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, landslides