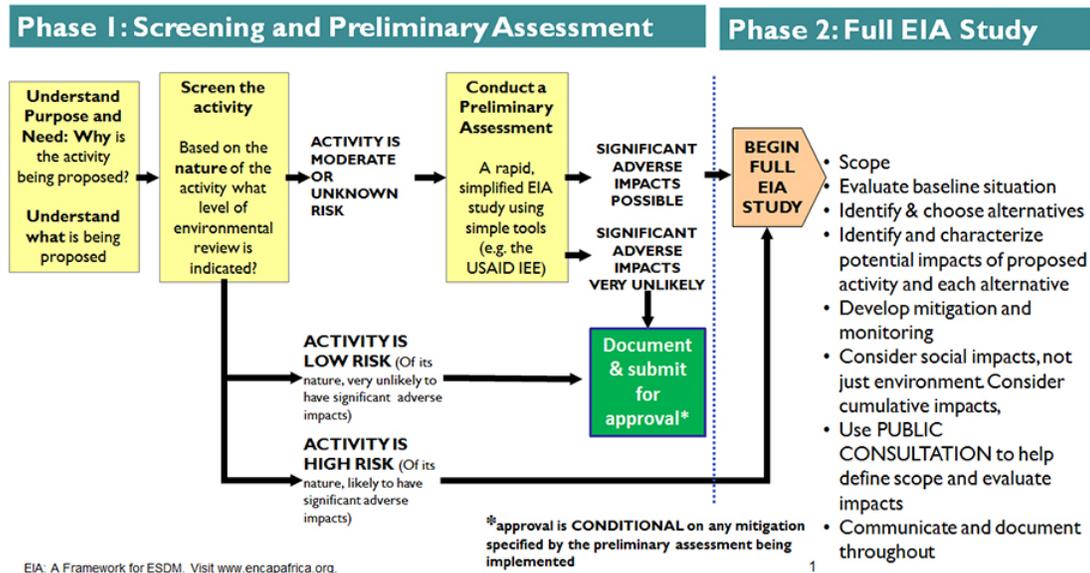


OVERVIEW OF THE GENERAL EIA PROCESS.

Phase 1 of the EIA Process



All EIA processes begin by understanding not just WHAT is being proposed, but WHY it is being proposed.

1. The proposed activities are then SCREENED. That is, a set of simple questions or criteria are applied that are intended to identify activities that are either pose very low or very high risk of significant adverse impacts. These questions do NOT require analysis or **detailed** knowledge of the proposed sites, techniques or methods. Each EIA system has different screening questions/criteria. Common ones are to ask if the activity involves:
 - Penetration road building?
 - Large-scale irrigation?
 - Introduction of non-native crop or agroforestry species?
2. Activities of moderate or unknown risk are subjected to a PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT, of which the USAID IEE is one example.
3. The purpose of the preliminary assessment is to:
 - Allow the **preparer** to determine **whether or not significant adverse impacts are likely**
 - Allows the **reviewer** to agree or disagree with these determinations
 - Sets out mitigation and monitoring for adverse impacts
4. The EIA process moves onto a full EIA Study IF:
 - screening indicates that one or more proposed activities is “high risk,” OR
 - the preliminary assessment indicates that one or more proposed activities is likely to have significant adverse impacts
5. The full EIA study (USAID term: environmental assessment) has very similar structure and objectives to a full preliminary assessment, but it also has some key differences:
 - A formal **scoping process** precedes the study to **identify issues to be addressed**
 - **Analysis** of environmental impacts is much **more detailed**

- **Alternatives to the proposed action*** must be formally defined. The **impacts of each alternative must be identified & evaluated, and the results compared**
- **Public participation** is required
- A **professional EIA team** is usually required