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# Samoan Sustainable Tourism Development Capacity Training Workshop 2022 Session 3

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## **Introduction of the SPTO SPREP**

### **Regional Tourism EIA Guidelines :**

- Introduction of Guidelines
  - Why do tourists come?
  - Importance of EIA
  - Benefits of proper planning
  - Some example mitigation





Tourists are often looking for cultural and environmentally friendly options for their holidays. Appropriate use of low impact attractions can be a drawcard for these types of holidayers. The EIA process can help to identify environmentally sustainable options for your development.



Coral reefs provide coastal protection, improve water quality, attracting both marine life and tourists. Tourism developments and ventures need to protect these areas and not cause unintended impacts through increased demand for fresh fish in restaurants, souvenir trade, waste or poorly guided tours directly damaging corals. © Stéphane Ducandas / NCTPS





Culture and the environment are interwoven and visitors are seeking these authentic experiences, tourism can have a positive impact on preserving culturing knowledge and skills









Tourism brings opportunities but impacts need management



# “Regional Tourism EIA Guidelines”

## Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development in Pacific Island Countries and Territories

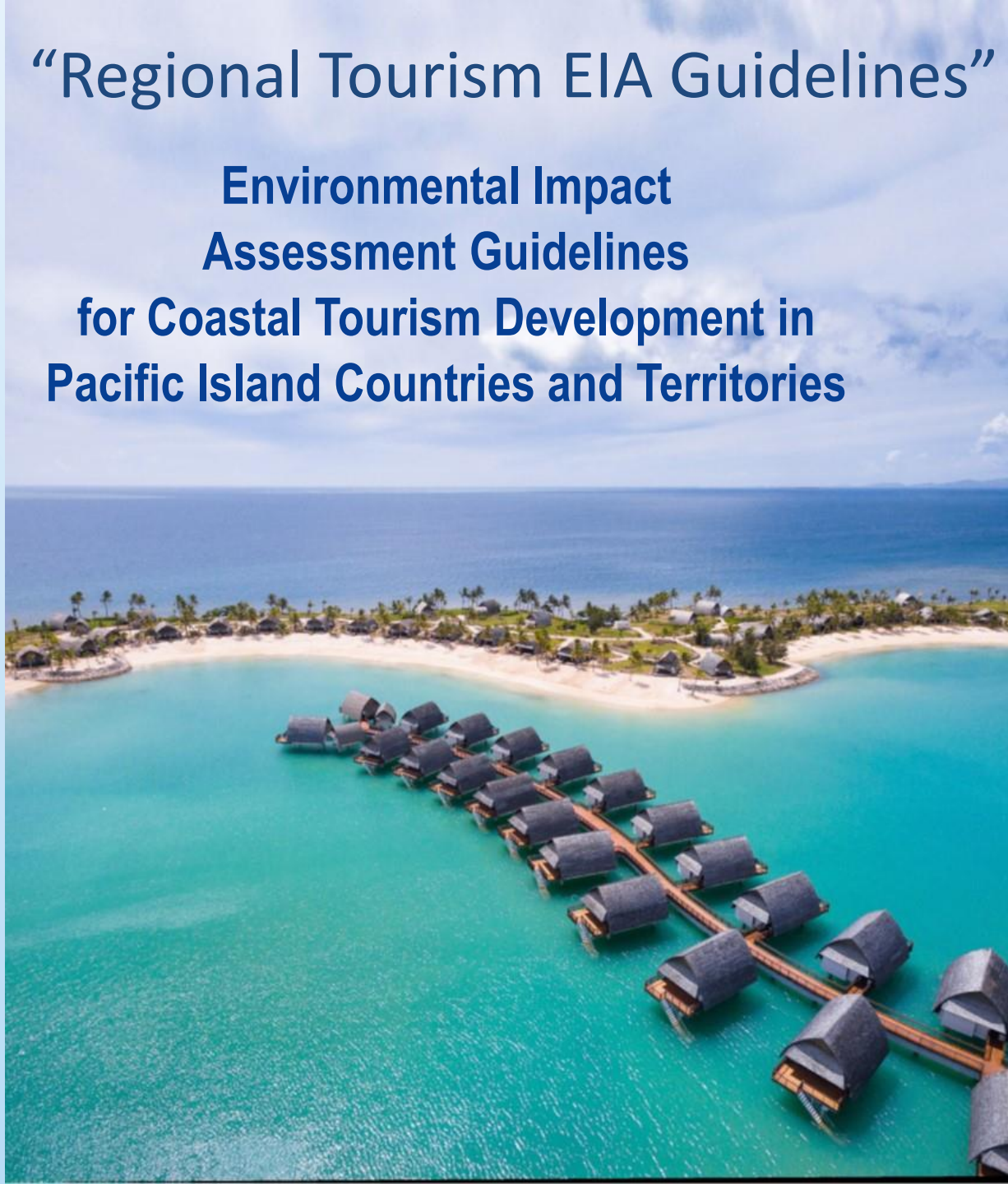


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in initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of  
States (ACP) and the European Union

**ACP MEAs 2**





# Why EIA guidelines are needed?

*(To guide sustainable development)*

Developments in different economic sectors have the potential to provide substantial benefits by:

- increasing the provision of goods and services that can raise standards of living;
- opening up new livelihood opportunities;
- improving national and regional transport services/networks; and
- facilitating access to international markets and foreign exchange



# BUT if not applied properly

- If development impacts are managed poorly and climate change and disaster risks are not factored into planning processes, these same developments can negatively affect Tuvalu's lands, seas and lifestyles through:
  - natural habitat destruction and loss;
  - generation of waste and pollution;
  - release of GHG emissions; freshwater depletion;
  - spread of invasive plants and animals;
  - intrusion upon village communities and their lifestyles;
  - generation of social tension; loss of livelihoods;
  - damage to cultural heritage sites; and
  - damage to or loss of physical infrastructure (e.g. buildings, roads).



## What is EIA & what does it do?

- **Identifies mitigation measures** to enhance positive impacts & to avoid, minimise, rehabilitate or compensate for negative impacts
- **Participatory process**, involving the proponent, government & other relevant stakeholders e.g. customary landowners, civil society organisations, industry groups, local businesses
- **Supports informed decision-making**, based on understanding environmental consequences
- It is not a road block to developments, it **promotes sustainable development**





# Important outcomes of the EIA process

By using the principles of the mitigation hierarchy

1. Selection of an optimal development site & design
2. Preparation & implementation of an environmental management & monitoring plan (EMMP)
3. Reduced vulnerability to environmental hazards & environmental change

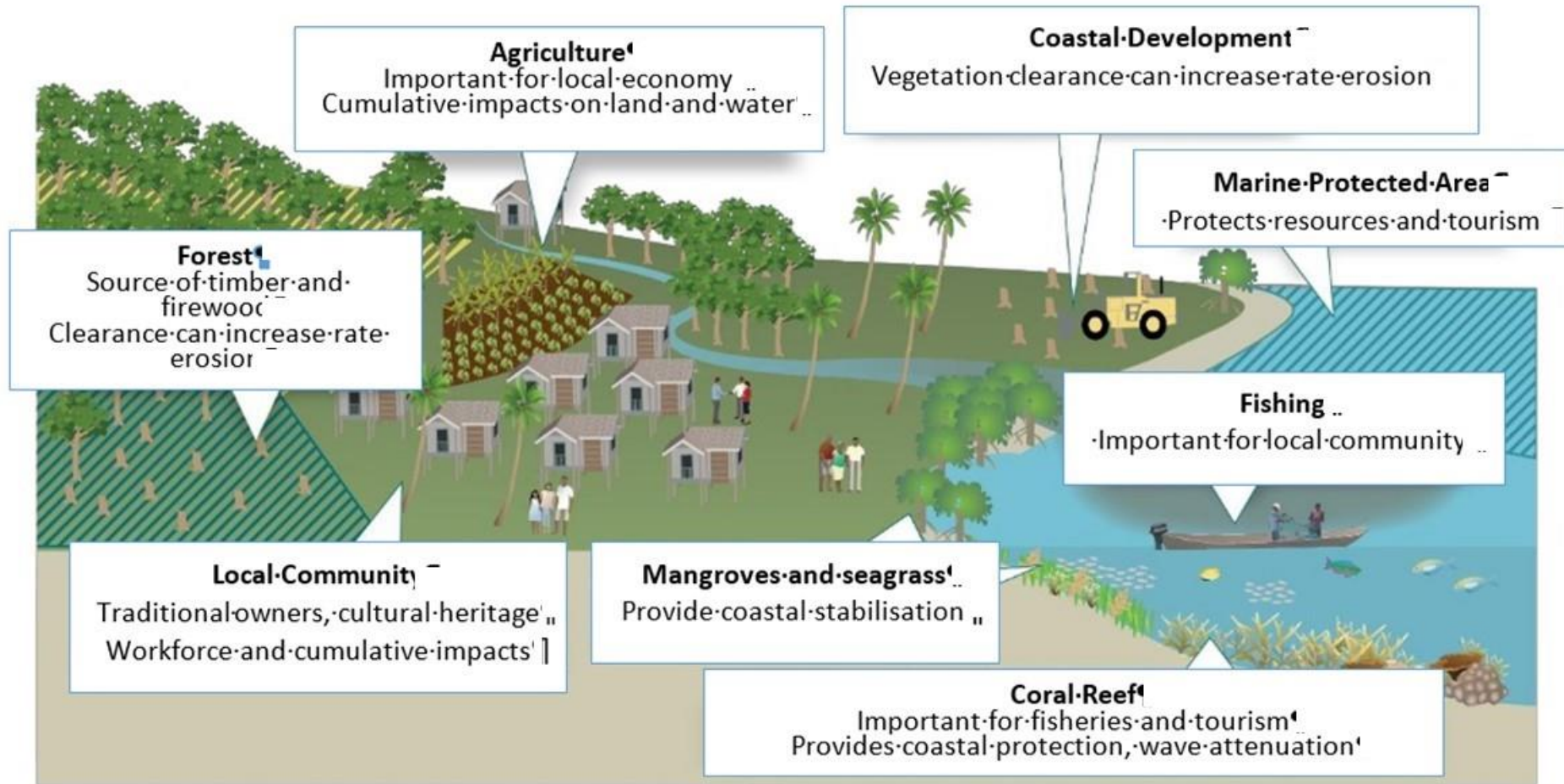


Be it for small or large scale developments

Pacific Islanders are intrinsically  
linked to the coastal zone though  
our relationship with the sea







**Good Coastal Developments take into account the interdependencies of other activities and the environment**

Bleaching caused by – temperature spikes and external stressors  
Recovery can only occur if stressors are minimal,  
ie if there are high levels of pesticides or nutrients from run off then reefs do not recover



A photo composite of before, during and after bleaching at Airport Reef in Tutuila, American Samoa.  
Credit: [R. Vevers of XL Catlin Seaview Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)





An initiative of the African, Caribbean  
and Pacific Group of States funded by  
the European Union



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Seagrass areas are important for water quality, nutrient processing, fishing, turtles, dugongs and fish nurseries as well as coastal stability. If seagrass areas are removed or impacted by the development the ecosystem function of the area will suffer. Photo: Julie Callebaut

The **objective** of the EIA is to **prevent and mitigate undue harm to people** and their natural **environment** in the development process.







Tourism developments may be privately funded or government initiatives but all are subject to the same laws governing each country's EIA process.



With good planning, tourism can bring benefits to all parties

During construction and operation it is important to manage your liquid discharge with appropriate containment and treatment of waste to prevent it negatively impacting on waterways, plants, animals and people





Liquid waste discharge impacts can be chronic or acute. Often it is the acute impacts that catch people's attention but it is important not to forget about less obvious water quality impacts such as eutrophication and pesticides.



Concrete or cement wash should be contained to prevent it impacting the environment







There are appropriate and not so appropriate containment – consider which is best for your situation

- CORRECT DISPOSAL OF EXCESS CONCRETE HELPS PROTECT PLANTS, ANIMALS, PEOPLE AND WATERWAYS



- OVERFLOW POTENTIAL IS HIGH WHEN THE CONCRETE WASHOUT IS AT 75% OR GREATER CAPACITY.

Temporary pits can be cheap and effective if properly maintained, but in heavy rainfall or flood prone areas they cause problems of their own.



Leaking washout pit that has not been well maintained



Management need not be complicated or expensive as long as it is effective



For example a sturdy vinyl bund of appropriate size to contain the cement wash can be collected and taken to a safe location once the waste is ready to be removed. The lining can then be replaced if needed.



Construction and maintenance of developments usually requires aggregate for cement or foundations – where will you be sourcing yours?



Sand and gravel are often important raw materials for developments, however, poorly managed sand and gravel extraction can affect sensitive coastal environments.  
Photo: Pascale Salaun



Removal of sand from the ecosystem can create a void that is not quickly replaced and lead to additional erosion in nearby areas....



That is because sand is a fluid, so it will flow via wind and water or gravity



Waste will be generated – think about your waste streams ahead of time and how you deal with it.



Waste management and pollution control remains one of the most pressing environmental issues in Pacific island countries and territories. Tourism is dependent on a beautiful Pacific so it is vital new developments give consideration to waste management. Photo: Paul Anderson



Even small things like packaging of foods and how you serve drinks can dramatically reduce your solid waste



Supermarkets in Vietnam have adopted an initiative from Thailand that makes use of banana leaves instead of plastic as a packaging alternative.

# Impacts of Microplastics

Microplastics are plastics smaller than 5mm some can be seen by the naked eye, apart from an eye sore they also impact marine filter feeders, animals and even plants adsorb them meaning they get into the food chain and ultimately WE EAT plastic.

The main source of microplastics are primary and secondary microplastics

Primary microplastics include:

- Industrial micro-beads used in plastic manufacture
- Household microplastics in cosmetics, cleaners and fabric release from laundry during washing
- Secondary micro plastics breakdown from larger plastics due to mechanical action sunlight, wind and wave action





Small scale restoration projects can bring benefits to both the environment and as a marketing exercise with tourists



- In resorts around the region including some in Samoa coral transplant projects are already growing coral plugs and rebuilding attractions
- In Fiji and French Polynesia the opportunity to participate on coral transplant initiatives is marketed to eco-divers and others.



It is not uncommon for entire islands to be in the coastal zone.



Pacific island communities are vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. The EIA process should give consideration to climate change and disaster risk management, to promote resilient development.

Photo: Melanie Bradley



Unfortunately mother nature is not always kind and EIAs need to consider the potential for impacts from the environment on a development and not just the impacts of the development on the environment



Remember EIAs are not just an approval requirement they help you plan a better development and should always be accompanied by an environmental monitoring and management plan which will document your actions to and commitments

- d) The environmental impacts of the mitigative measures should also be evaluated.
- e) Any additional mitigative/rehabilitative measures, which have been considered, should be stated.

## **7. Monitoring**

A monitoring plan should be submitted clearly stating: -

The parameters to be monitored

- ii) Frequency of monitoring
- iii) Who will do the monitoring?
- iv) Who will the monitoring report be submitted to?

## **8. Summary and Conclusion**

- a) Appropriate conclusions should be drawn for each section of the EIA report. Summarize the environmental impacts of the



There are a wealth of resources to assist in sustainable planning.  
So remember to ask for help and reach out to this network

[Samoa Environment Data portal samoa-data.sprep.org/](http://samoa-data.sprep.org/)

[PNEA website pnea.sprep.org//](http://pnea.sprep.org/)

[SPTO sustainable tourism tools](#)

