



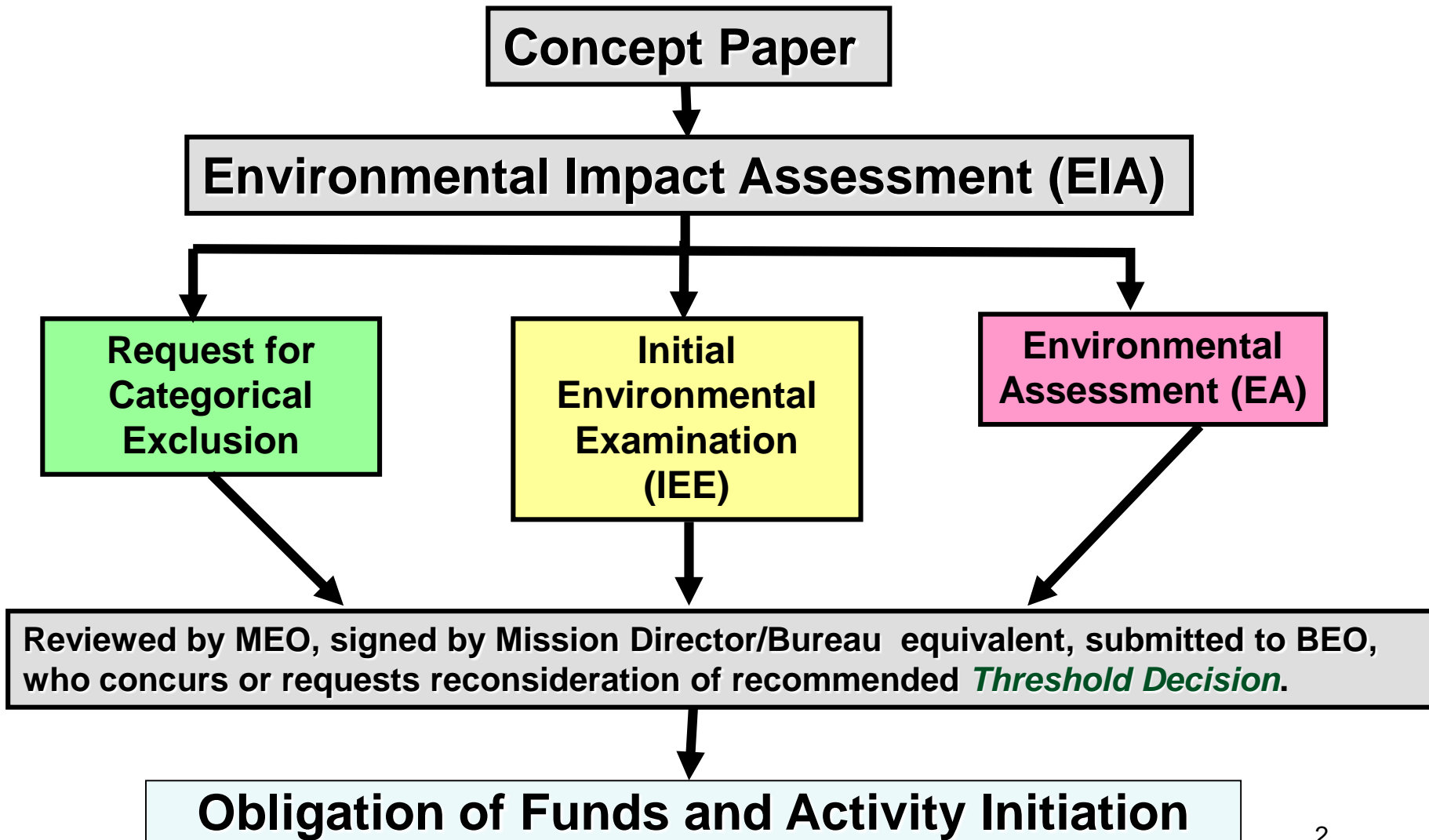
USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Session 10: Effective Initial Environmental Examinations (IEEs)

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Asia Regional Environmental Compliance—ESDM Workshop
Bangkok, Thailand
July 2015

Reg. 216 Process Flow Diagram



EIA Is More Than Just a Good Idea

- It is the standard international process to achieve environmentally sound design and management
- It is a process that is:
 - Systematic
 - Prevention oriented
 - Applies best practices

AND

EIAs are:

- **Required by law in most countries**
- **Required by almost all donors**
- *Required by USAID*

The Take-Away Message Is:

- **EIAs are not an exercise in paperwork. They should result in environmentally sound design**

THEREFORE:

- Use the EIA process to **GO BEYOND THE MINIMUM!**
proactively address
environmental issues and *build
capacity for environmentally
sound design*

**EIA is not just a legal requirement but an essential
tool for designing sustainable activities**



Initial Environmental Examinations (IEE):

- Document a systematic, prevention-oriented process that applies best practices and contributes to environmentally sound design and management
- Are drafted by the COR/AOR, reviewed by MEO, signed by Mission Director, submitted to BEO, who concurs or requests reconsideration of recommended Threshold Decision.
- Contain legally binding requirements, e.g., Conditions, Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plans (EMMPs), Limitations, etc. .-implementers should have a copy, which can be found at: <http://gemini.info.usaid.gov/egat/envcomp/>
- Are required prior to obligation of funds and activity initiation

Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)

Basic IEE Outline

1. Background & Activity Description
 - *Proposed Action*
 - *Detailed Program Description*
2. Country & Environmental Information
 - *Country Information (Locations Affected)*
 - *Environmental Context*
 - *Applicable (Host Country) Environmental Requirements*
3. Evaluation of Potential Environmental Impacts
4. Proposed Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting
5. Recommended Threshold Decision(s)

Note:

The IEE is a type of EIA and similar to preliminary assessments required by other donors and governments



Reg. 216 Determinations

- Categorical Exclusion (classes of actions normally without impact on the environment)
- Negative Determination (no significant impact)
- Negative Determination with conditions (no significant impact, but minor impacts addressed with appropriate mitigating measures)
- Positive Determination (potentially significant environmental impacts—EA and formal scoping required)
- Deferrals (too early to make a determination)
- Exemptions (disasters funded with International Disaster Assistance money thru OFDA)

These are all of the possible recommended *“threshold decisions”*

What Makes a Good IEE?

Individually, read the draft IEE (in simplified bullet-point form) on the following pages. As a group, and based on your knowledge of the activities from our virtual field visit, critique the IEE against the criteria for effective IEEs (see next slide).

We will briefly report-out on these critiques in plenary.

Preparation of a good IEE is a fundamental step toward *sustainable development*

Effective IEEs must:

1. Address the full scope of proposed activities described in the activity briefing;
2. Characterize the aspects of the baseline conditions critical to evaluating the significance of impacts;
3. Identify and adequately evaluate key potential impacts;
4. Set out mitigation measures that are (1) adequate and (2) within the scope of USAID's reasonable authority;
5. Make recommended determinations that are reasonable, defensible and in accordance with Reg. 216;
6. Use clear, uncluttered language and organization in the presentation of activities, analysis of impacts, and recommended determinations.