



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – ABU DHABI

Environmental Permitting Procedures

Unlocking Biodiversity Data from Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) Workshop

Muscat - Sep. 15th 2015

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WHO IS EAD

Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi (EAD) is a Government Entity Responsible for Protecting and Enhancing the Environment by Reducing Pollution and Protecting and Enhancing our Biodiversity. This goal is achieved through scientific research and application, policy regulation, Environmental education and awareness.



UAE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

- **Key Environmental Laws and Regulations in Abu Dhabi and the UAE:**

- Federal Law No. 24 of 1999: Protection and Development of the Environment
- *Law No. (16) of 2005 pertaining to the Reorganization of the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency*
- Local Law 21 of Waste Management

- **Executive Orders of Law No. 24/1999 :**

- Regulation for Assessment of Environmental Effects of Installations
- Regulation for Handling Hazardous Materials, Hazardous Wastes and Medical Wastes
- Regulation For The Protection of Maritime Environment
- Regulation for Protection of Air from Pollution (12 of 2006)



UAE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

Environmental Impact Assessment Law for Establishments:

Some of the projects, listed in Law 24/1999 that require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study before starting construction:

No.	Projects of land, marine & air transportation:
1	Highway projects including bridges & roads.
2	Tunnels projects.
3	Anchorage & sea ports projects regardless of their size.
4	Projects of deepen marine lanes, anchorages and sea ports.
5	Marine bridges projects.
6	Projects of building dry docks for the repair, painting, maintenance of ships & attachments thereto.
7	Projects of building boats, ships & attachments thereto.
8	Projects of building airports and attachments thereto regardless of their size and type.

No.	Projects related to housing & industry:
1	New horizontal housing projects regardless of location thereof.
2	New vertical housing projects regardless of location thereof.
3	New city projects regardless of location thereof.
4	Projects of building new industrial zones.

UAE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

Environmental Impact Assessment Law for Establishments:

List of projects that require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study before starting construction:

No.	Projects of particular nature:
1	Projects located near or within the protected natural areas or the environmentally or ecologically sensitive areas.
2	Projects of establishing any kind of activities, establishments and businesses on the islands and shores of the UAE.
3	Projects of coasts & island skirts debris.
4	Projects that are expected to affect the heritage, historical, recreational, scientific, cultural and service impression existing around.
5	Hospitals & health facilities including medical pyres & laboratories.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS

What is an Environmental Permit?

- Environmental Permits are designed to ensure that the necessary measures to minimize and mitigate potential environmental impacts are implemented during construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project or facility.
- Federal Law No. 24 of 1999 for the Protection and Development of the Environment requires that all projects or establishments obtain an environmental permit prior to starting an activity.
- According to Law No. 16 of 2005, EAD is the competent authority for the implementation of Federal Law No. 24 of 1999 within the Abu Dhabi Emirate.



ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS

EAD is Responsible for the Environmental Permitting of:

- Development and infrastructure projects.
- Industrial Facilities.
- Hazardous Materials stores.

Construction Permits Must be Obtained Prior to:

- Construction of a new project
- Additions or modifications to an existing project
- Decommissioning of an existing project



ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS

- An Environmental Permit application should be completed by the proponent or a consultant who is engaged by the proponent
- The application should be submitted through EAD e-Services during the preliminary design phase of the project to ensure alternatives can be considered and all required environmental studies can be completed and approved

<https://eservices.ead.ae/>

- EAD will review the application, then notify the proponent if an environmental assessment is required
- EAD uses an Internal Criteria to decide on permit applications and determine whether Environmental Studies are required for the project. Depending on the type, location, nature, scale, and potential impact of the project, different environmental studies may be requested.



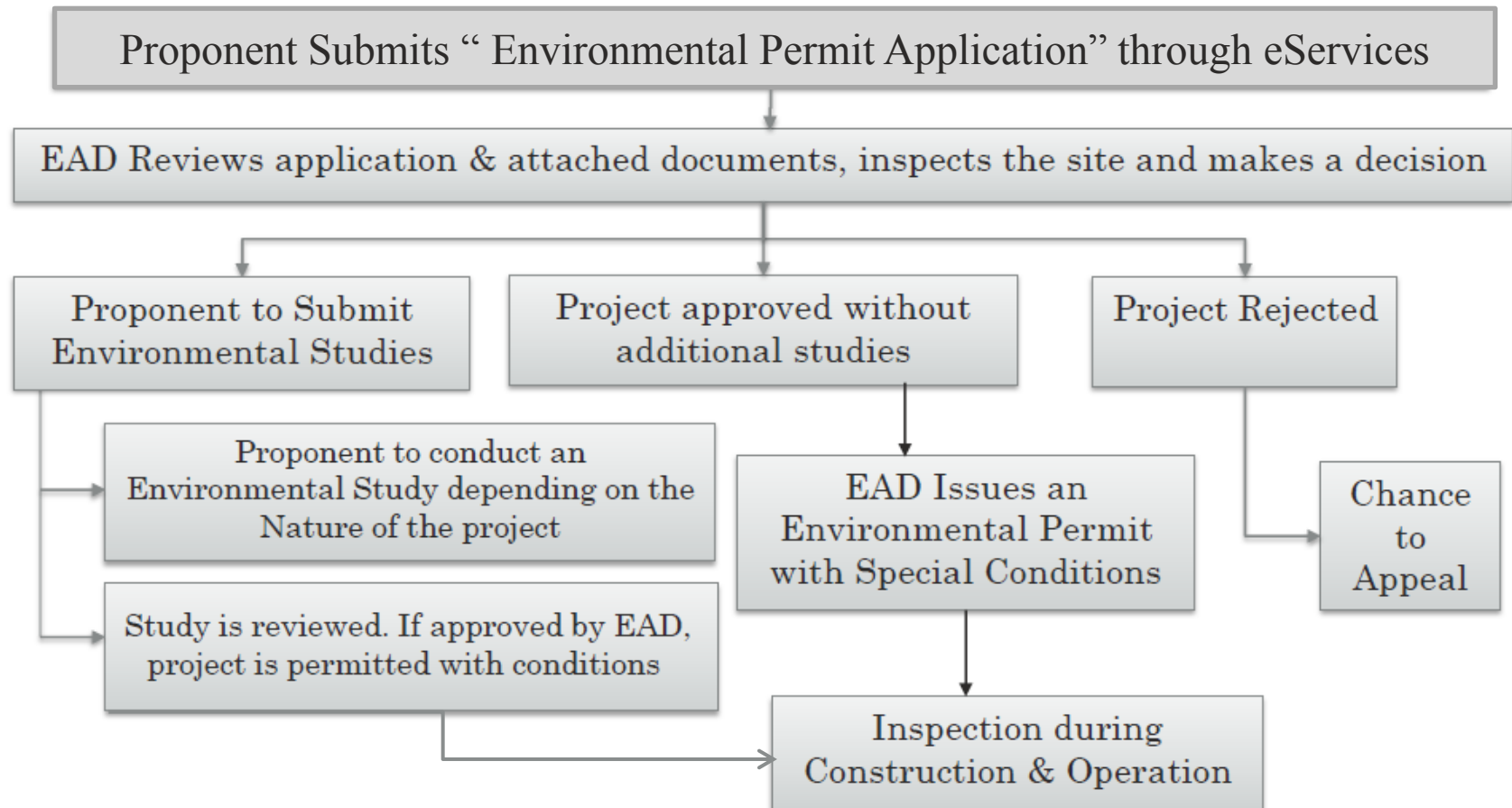
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- If an Env. study is required, then it should be conducted by an EAD approved consultant, (Environmental Consultant List is updated annually) .
- Once the study is approved, a permit for the appropriate phase of the project will be issued.
- The project's permit may request submission of periodical 3rd party Audit and Monitoring Reports during construction/ operation phase, to show compliance with the environmental conditions.



ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING PROCEDURES

SCREENING AND PERMITTING



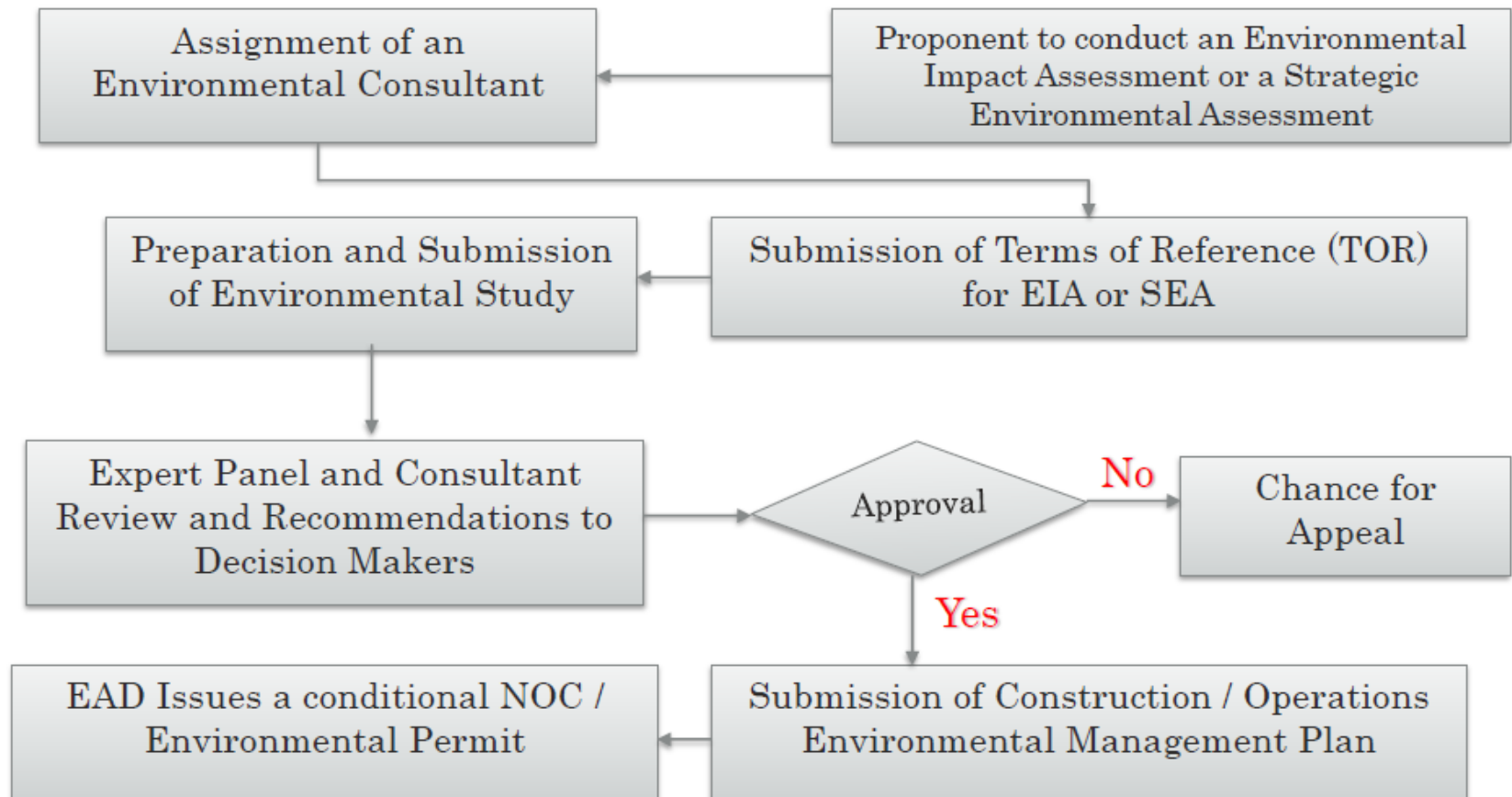
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES: OVERVIEW

Technical Guidance Documents have been developed for the following environmental studies:

- Terms of Reference (TOR)
- Preliminary Environmental Review (PER)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Environmental Action Plan (EAP)
- Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
- Operation Environmental Management Plant (OEMP)
- Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP)
- Environmental Audit Report (EAR)

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING PROCEDURES

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (EIA & SEA)



BIODIVERSITY DATA IN REPORTS (EIA)

- Reports contains biodiversity baseline data – depends on the nature of project
- Project proponents submit reports (and data) to EAD as a regulator
 - Role of Client & Consultant
- Data used in assessment for issuing permits – together with EAD's data
 - EAD's data considered authoritative
- Currently all documents (including related data) stored in a dedicated repository
- No known restrictions exist in sharing baseline data – only perceived ones
 - No definitive law preventing data sharing exists
 - EAD wishes to inform clients/consultants before publishing data
- No standards for data collection & publishing exists
 - Initiated process of standarding data collection & EDDs under review
 - EDDs to have standards incorporated
- Almost all reports are in digital format
 - All data have geospatial reference

DATA CHALLENGES

- Data Format
 - Excel, Word Tables, PDFs, Scanned Image, etc...
 - Interpreted, Analyzed, Synthesized data
 - Secondary data or referenced data in certain cases
- Data Collection Methods & Data representation
 - Different Methods (considerations for detectability in sampling) & Accuracy levels
 - Varying types of data observation (species vs evidence (footprints, droppings, etc.))
 - Point (sighting), transects (line), extent of cover(area)
 - Scale of data collection
 - Time frame for data collection varies (short, medium & long term monitoring)
- Lacks Metadata
- Data Integration Issues (Mixing data from multiple sources)
- Data Publishing
 - Who can publish data from reports (regulator, client or consultant)
 - Who takes responsibility of the validity of data
 - Improves the data quality & science

Thank you for your time

