

Inclusive, Sustainable, Prosperous and Resilient
Health Systems in Asia and the Pacific
INSPIRE Health Forum

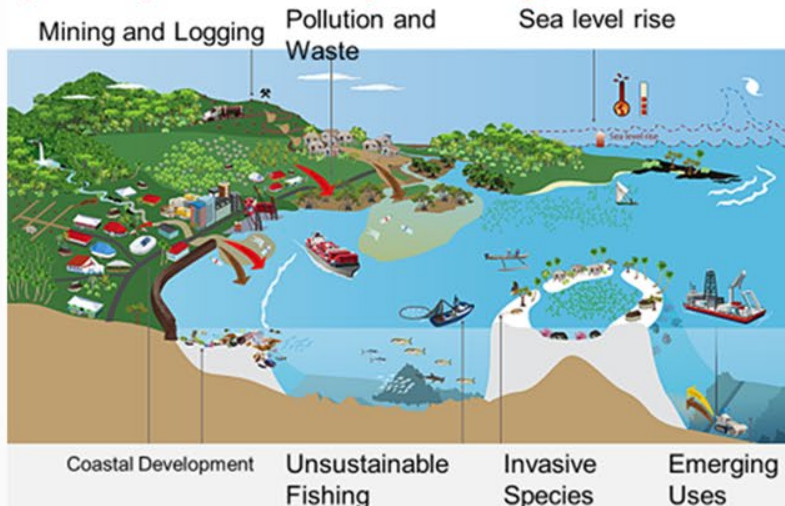
7-11 July 2025 • A Hybrid Event





SPREP Mandate

'To promote cooperation in the Pacific islands region and to provide assistance to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations'



- To promote cooperation in the Pacific region and provide assistance to protect and improve the environment, while ensuring sustainable development for present and future generations.
- Biodiversity, Waste and Pollution, Climate Change, Climate Science, and Environmental Governance.
- 26 Member Countries and Territories.

Our work on Mainstreaming




Building Health into Development: Health Impact Assessment

- **Integrating health considerations into the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is crucial for comprehensive and sustainable development.**
- **It involves assessing the potential impacts of a project on human health, both positive and negative, alongside environmental impacts.**
- **This holistic approach ensures that projects are not only environmentally sound but also promote and protect public health.**



Defining EIA and HIA

- **An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** is a process used to evaluate the potential **environmental consequences of a proposed project** or development before it's approved. This assessment helps decision-makers **understand the likely impacts on the environment, including social, economic, and human health aspects**, and allows for measures to avoid, reduce, or offset negative effects.
 - **Health impact assessment (HIA)** is a practical approach used to, **systematically judge the potential health effects of a policy, strategy, plan programme or project** on a population, particularly on vulnerable or disadvantaged groups (*WHO*).
- 

- Many Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have adopted **EIA** as a tool for sustainable development with a clear process but has its challenges.
- Legislation
- Human Resources
- Quality Control
- Compliance & Enforcement
- Public Participation
- Capacity Building
- Integration with planning.
- SPREP - Training

- Health Impact Assessments (**HIAs**) are increasingly recognized as valuable tools for evaluating the potential health consequences of policies, plans, and projects, particularly in the context of climate change and development BUT needs to be strengthened.
- Limited Capacity
- Integrate with other assessments
- Climate Change, Waste and Pollution, Biodiversity and conservation
- Policy and Law

Integrating health considerations into the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

- Crucial for comprehensive and sustainable development.
- It involves assessing the potential impacts of a project on human health, both positive and negative.
- Screening and Scoping
- Clear Terms of Reference
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
- Review of Assessment Reports and Management Plans
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Policy and Law
- Enforcement.



Why Integrate?:

- Prevent Negative Health Outcomes
- Identifying Potential Health Risks
- Sustainable Development
- Complying to International and Regional Obligations
- Creating Health Indicators for evaluation purposes
- Establishing environment standards
- Mitigation and Monitoring
- Support budgeting and planning



Conclusion

- Health considerations should be recognized and added from the initial stages of the EIA process, including screening and scoping.
-
- It requires effective and close collaboration between environmental and health professionals, as well as with stakeholders, including local communities. *Eg One Health Platform etc*
- HIA is a valuable tool for assessing health impacts and can be integrated with the EIA process.

