



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# Scoping the Environmental Assessment

GEMS Environmental Compliance-ESDM Training Series  
Senegal, February, 2014

# Objectives

- **What is Scoping?**
- **When is scoping appropriate?**
- **Who should be involved?**
- **Who pays?**
- **Setting the stage**
- **Products of Scoping**





AHHH,  
NOT AN  
EA!?!?!?



# Scoping Assessment

Determine the content and extent of matter which should be covered in the information submitted to the authority for projects subjected to the EIA.

Critical because the Scoping:

- ❖ Allows for an assessment of data
- ❖ Focuses on the most pertinent issues
- ❖ Proposes alternatives for the developer
- ❖ Can be used for the scope of work (SOW)
- ❖ Identifies early obstacles
- ❖ Justifies the allocation of resources
- ❖ Opens a dialogue with host country EIA officials

# Content in Relation to the EA

## Scoping

- ID type of impacts to be investigated
- Alternatives
- Baseline surveys
- Methods and criteria
- Consultations
- Structure, length, and content



## Full EA

- Scope
- Public involvement
- Describe/Evaluate baseline situation
- Purpose & Need
- Description of the Proposed Action
- Identify & analyze alternatives
- Identify and characterize potential impacts of proposed activity and each alternative
- Develop mitigation and monitoring plan
- Communicate and document

# When is a full Environmental Assessment needed?

1 When an **IEE**'s preliminary assessment indicates that significant adverse impacts are possible (positive determination)

2 When **ERF**'s screening indicates an activity is high risk\*

\*But we still recommend doing a preliminary assessment!

3 During **PAD** development, the team proposes activities which fall within the high risk category.



# Types of USAID EAs

## The Environmental Assessment (EA)

Used to assess the environmental effects of a specific project or action, e.g.

- An EA to assess a single dam or irrigation project
- An EA to assess impacts of a gas or oil pipeline

## Programmatic/ Umbrella Environmental Assessment (PEA)\*

Used to assess the environmental effects of a **class of similar actions**, e.g.,

- Dams, irrigation projects and related water resource development,
- Sustainable forest management plans

## Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA)\*

Used to assess, define and prioritize potential environmental impacts **in disaster situations**, e.g.,

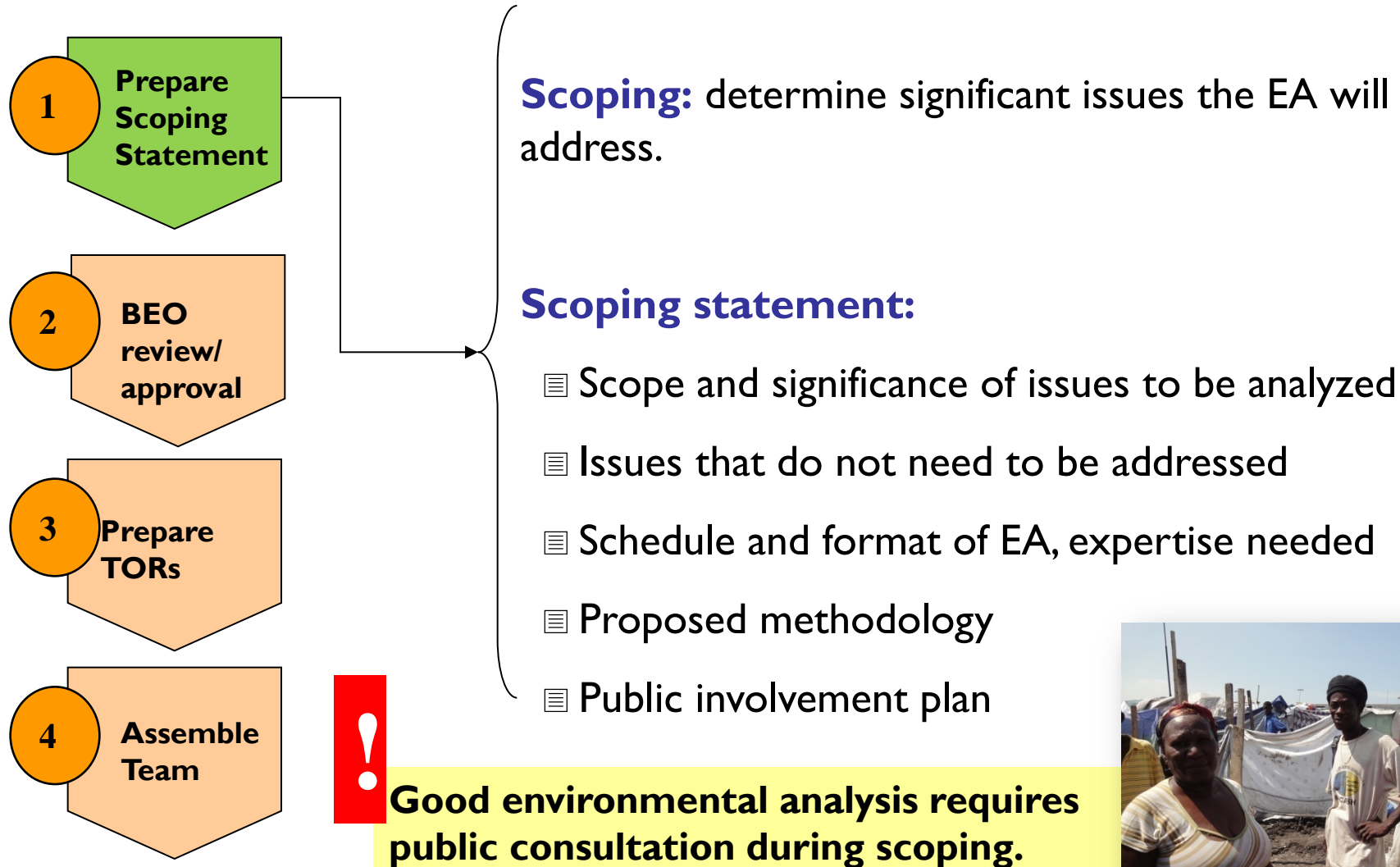
- Earthquake
- Flood
- Tsunami
- Landslide

# Process of Initiate a Scoping

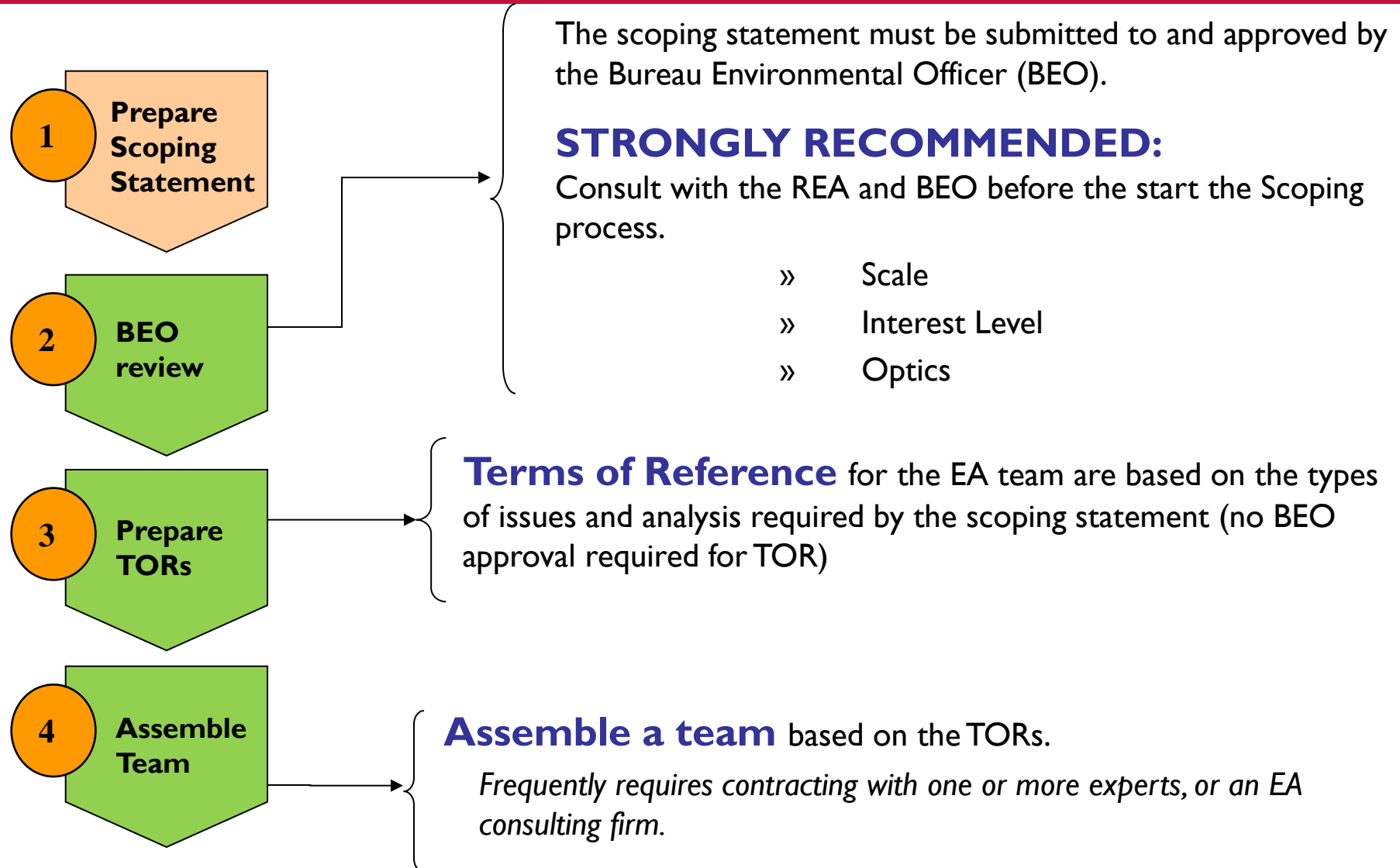
- 1) AOR/COR/Program Team should consult with the MEO
- 2) Mission works with partner to identify:
  - a) *Team*
  - b) *Consultations*
  - c) *Timing*
  - d) *Funding*
- 3) Collect reference information
- 4) Conduct consultations
- 5) Produce report
- 6) Send for clearances
- 7) Contract/Conduct EA



# First steps in preparing an EA



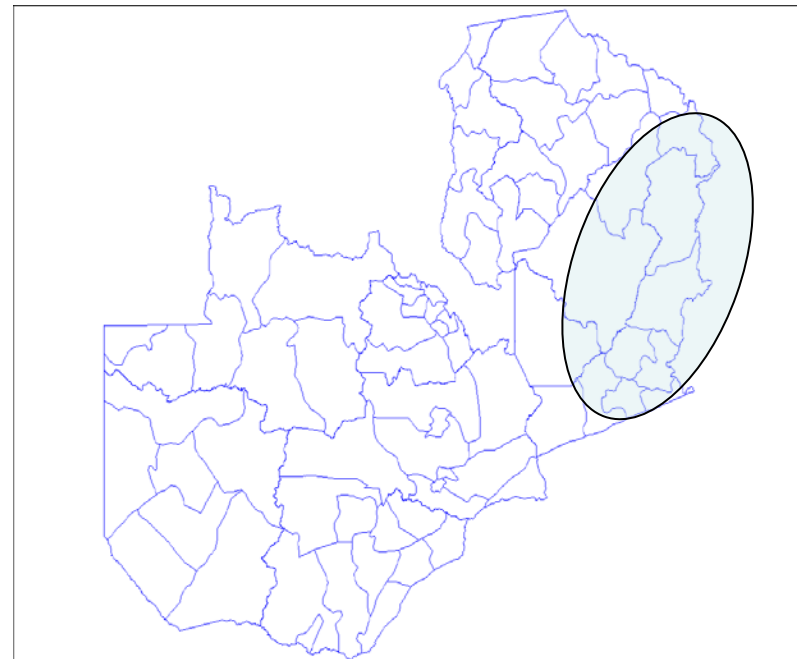
# EA Preparation



# Scoping EA: Zambia Case Study

## REDD+ Project:

- GCC PAD 2012
- Two provinces – Eastern and Muchinga
- Pilot project under another award with EMMP
- Interested in expanded activities to prevent deforestation and promote alternative livelihoods through sustainable forest management
  - Charcoaling
  - NTFP
  - Early burning
  - Game ranching
- IEE is unclear



# GCC PAD IEE

## IR 2.4.I

### Institutional and Collective/Community Capacity Building in Support of Sustainable Forestry Livelihoods

- Trainings for local, provincial, and national government to build capacity in researching and promoting sustainable forestry livelihoods
- Demonstrations on sustainable charcoal production practices, small-animal husbandry, eco -tourism, forest harvests.

For example, for the demo plot where you will train the community on how to conduct the coppicing your activity would be:

- Demonstration plot on sustainable charcoal production practices.
- Teaching community members about coppicing techniques and fire management of ecocharcoal plots. (this detail can be add to make it more specific to your program but it isn't necessarily needed).

Activity	Recommended Determination
Sustainable Harvesting of Timber and Extraction of Non-Timber Forest Products	Negative Determination with Conditions for sub-project environmental screening and reporting (above).  Potentially a Positive Determination

# Planning and Design



## Background

- Partner has an exceptional amount of baseline data
- Pilot level studies
- Award made Feb. 1, 2014

## Stakeholders

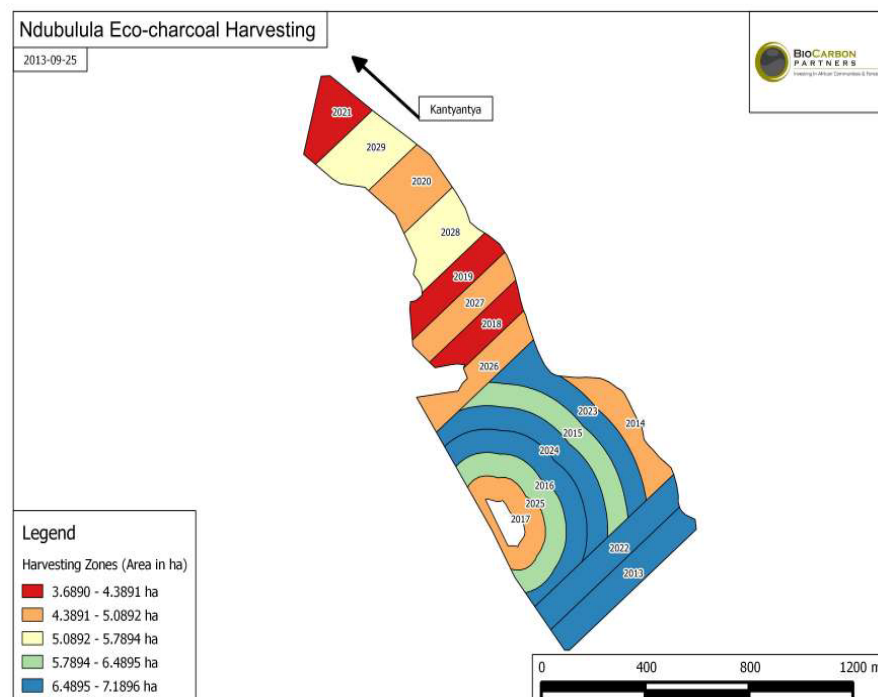
- University/forestry expert
- REDD+ project expert
- Community consultations



# Gathering References/Baseline Data

## Available Data

- Community work on similar projects in other parts of Zambia
- Allometric equation for biomass on specific forests
- Fauna and flora biodiversity surveys
- Interviews and success of community management structures
- Peer-reviewed literature on forest response to coppicing
- Small-holder ranching texts
- Ministry work plans
- CRB agreements
- Contour maps
- Baseline status – No Action



# Challenges

## Challenges in Developing Baseline

- Very early in award and don't understand the local environment
- Activities not well defined as they are partner driven
- Not enough staff/ transition of staff
- Surveying illegal activities
- Local vs. international contractor
- Timing
- Host government “preferences”



Ref: BCPT Monitoring Plan



# Coordination with host country government

*The large majority of host countries now have EA policies and procedures*

*Most projects that require an EA under Reg. 216 will also require a full EA under host country procedures*



**Collaboration with local Governments can facilitate the environmental analysis process for the Implementing Partners and USAID staff.**



# Role Playing: Consultations

The young mother



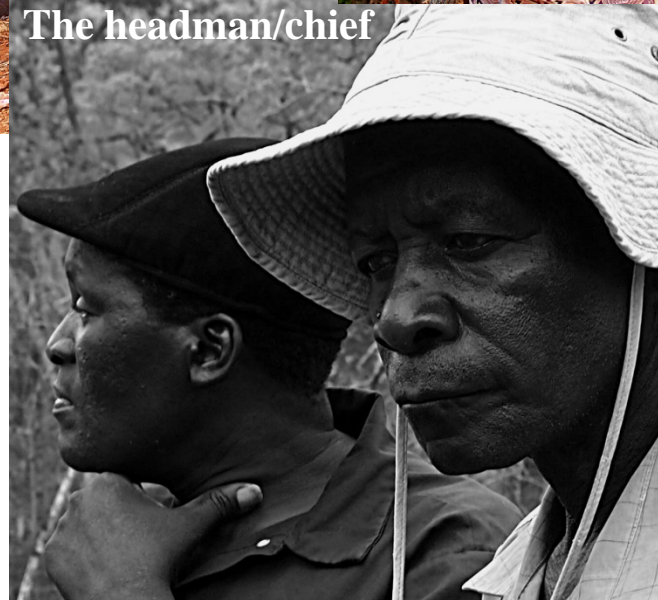
The livestock owner



The CRB leader



The headman/chief



The farmer





# Contact

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