

# Suggested Steps in the Process of Respecting FPIC



## INVESTIGATION STAGE

**Find out who is planning a project that may impact on your community**

- This could be the government or a company, or a community member.
- You may need an NGO or lawyer to help you find out this information.

**Request and receive all information on the project from the project planners**

- You have a right to know how the development will impact on your community and any information that will help your community decide if you want to begin discussions with the project planners.
- You have a right to receive information in a language you understand, and in a form that you understand.

**Get independent legal and technical advice from lawyers and NGOs early on**

- You have a right to know your rights, and to get independent advice on the project and what this means for your community's future, your community's lands and resources.

**Hold discussions in your community**

- To do this you will need to decide WHO your community is – is it a single town, a group of towns, or a clan, or a District? Deciding WHO the community is early on is very important so that you know who the members of your community are.
- Make sure that you involve all members of your community in discussions. Some projects can involve many communities and it is important to know the outcome of their discussions too.

**Decide on how you will make decisions in your community about the project**

- Communities have the freedom to define the process that they wish to use to make collective decisions as a community.

**Do you want to consider the project? FPIC means that at each and every stage, your community has the right both to continue considering the project, or to withdraw from the project.**

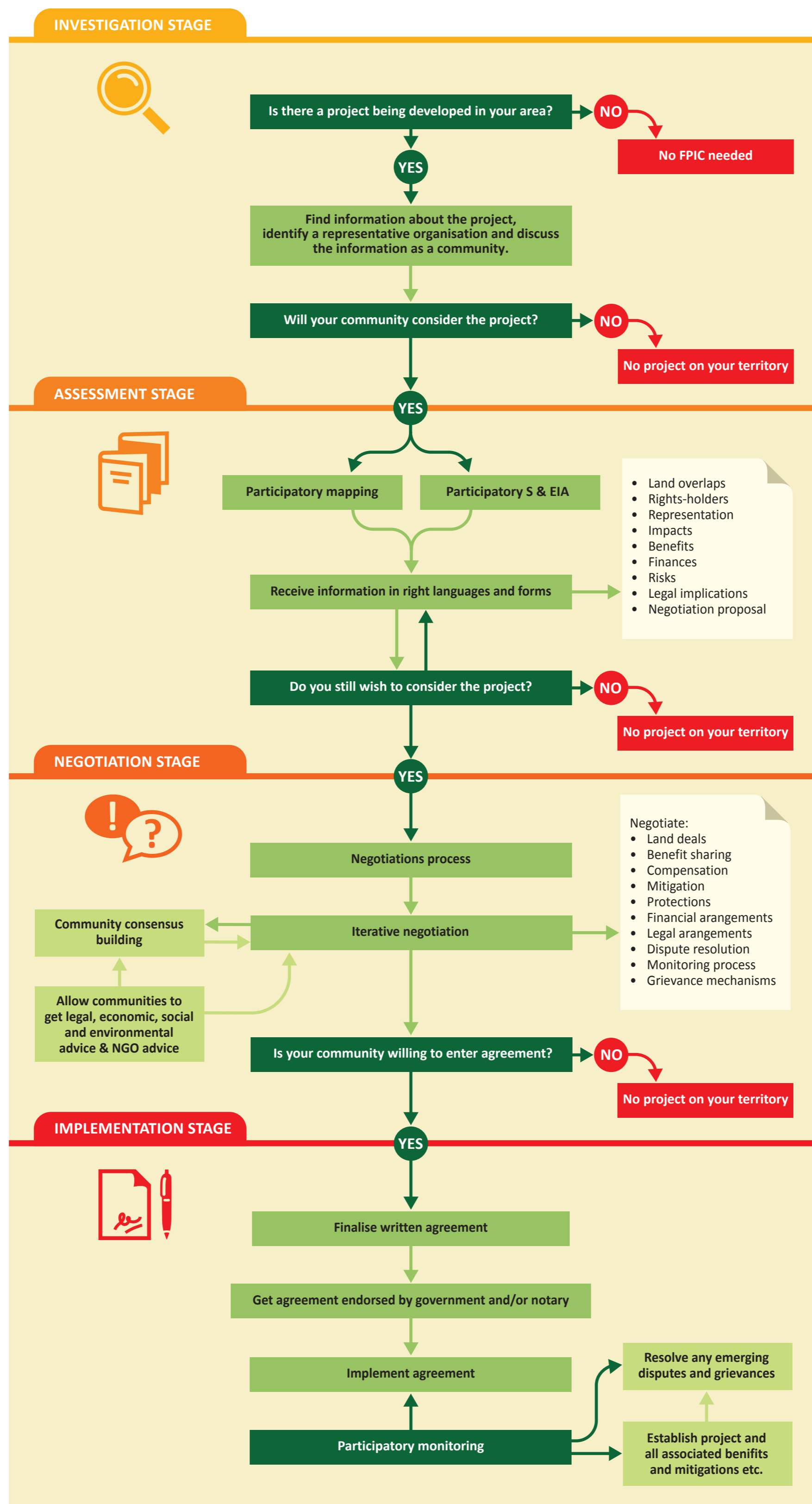


## ASSESSMENT STAGE

**Participatory environmental and social impact assessments and mapping**

- Your community has the right to be involved in the mapping and environmental and social impact assessments which the project proponent will undertake.
- This means you have the right to help design and implement the mapping and environmental and social impact assessment processes, as well as review and correct or reject the final maps and environmental and social impact assessments until your community is happy with the assessments and maps.

**Then ask yourself as a community 'Do we still want to consider the project?'**



## NEGOTIATION STAGE

**You are now free to enter into negotiations with the project planners**

- You will need to tell the project planner WHO your community is, and HOW your community will make decisions and HOW your community will communicate and negotiate with the project planner.
- You are free to get external advice from lawyers, experts or NGOs.
- Project planners must seek your free, prior and informed consent before they take any steps in the project development.
- You have the right at any stage to seek further information or clarification.

**Community decision making**

- You have the right to take as much time as you need to make a decision as a community.
- FPIC is a collective right so you must make sure to get the views and opinions of all sections of your community.
- At any point in the negotiations you have the right to say NO.

**Then ask yourself as a community: 'Do we want to enter into an agreement with the project planners?' If so, it is important that you get legal advice, as an agreement will need to be a written legally binding contract with the project planners.**

**If you want to enter an agreement your community needs to decide what you want from the agreement. This means deciding many issues to make them clear. For example: 'What will you expect from others? What can others expect from the community? When will the project begin and end? How will the agreement be monitored and how will problems be resolved?'**

**Remember to agree and establish a grievance mechanism**



## IMPLEMENTATION STAGE

**Project monitoring and evaluation**

- FPIC is an ongoing process and involves ongoing communications with the project planners.
- The project should be monitored at all stage to ensure

all parties comply with the details of the agreement including the provision of any benefits agreed to the community.

- You have the right to be involved in the project monitoring and evaluation. This includes making sure that the project planners comply with all the terms and conditions of the agreed contract, and that the community receives the rent and any other benefits included in the contract.

For more information contact:



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