

Sustainable Tourism Lesson 5

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UNDERSTANDING OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

The local community is an essential stakeholder, but it is not the only one. We will briefly consider here several other major stakeholders. You may think of more types of stakeholders that apply to your own area.

The Role of Government in Sustainable Tourism

Although tourism may be driven by the private sector, government policy instruments, such as requirements for **environmental impact assessments (EIAs)** and management plans, can be extraordinarily effective in ensuring that development takes place in an appropriate manner.





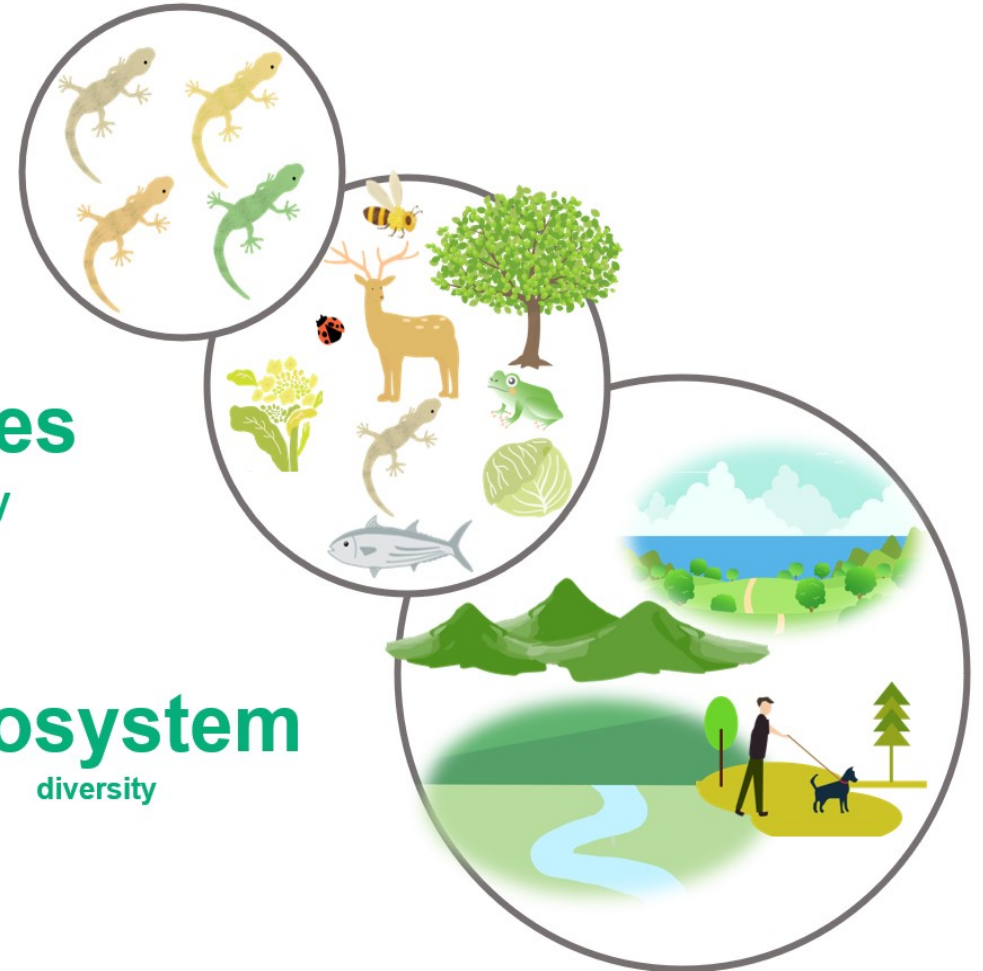
Biodiversity

Smooth coordination among these departments and coherence between tourism policy and other government policies, including biodiversity conservation, are not always the rule, and therefore different policies may undermine rather than support each other.

Genetic
diversity

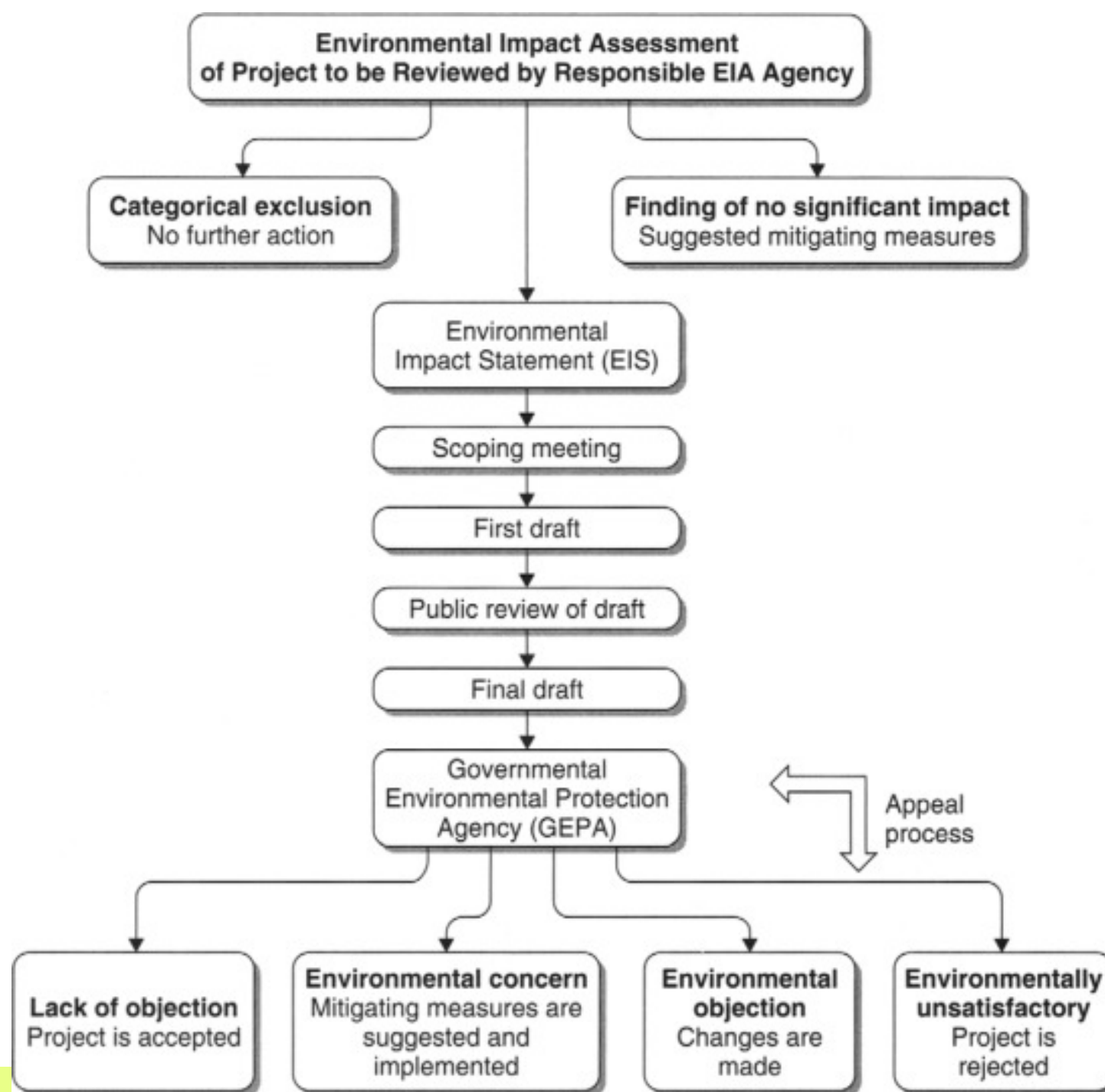
Species
diversity

Ecosystem
diversity

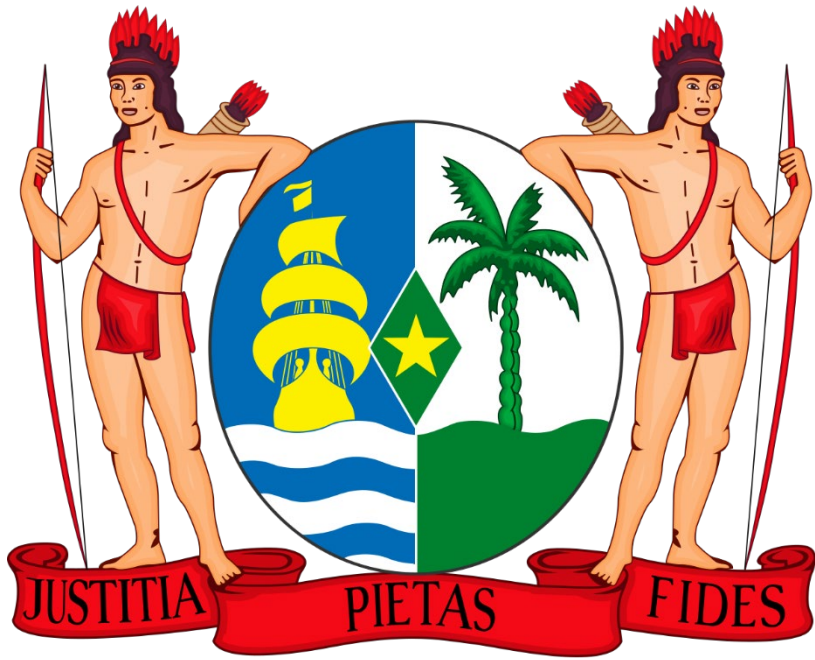


National governments usually set the framework for tourism development and biodiversity conservation through policy and legislation. Some examples of these include

- Laws and regulations defining standards for tourism facilities, access to biodiversity resources, and land-use regulation and zoning. This may include requirements for environmental impact statements (EIS's) before development.
- Infrastructure design, development, and regulation (water, energy, roads, airports, etc.).
- Economic instruments defined in policy, such as incentives for sustainable tourism investment and the creation of private reserves.

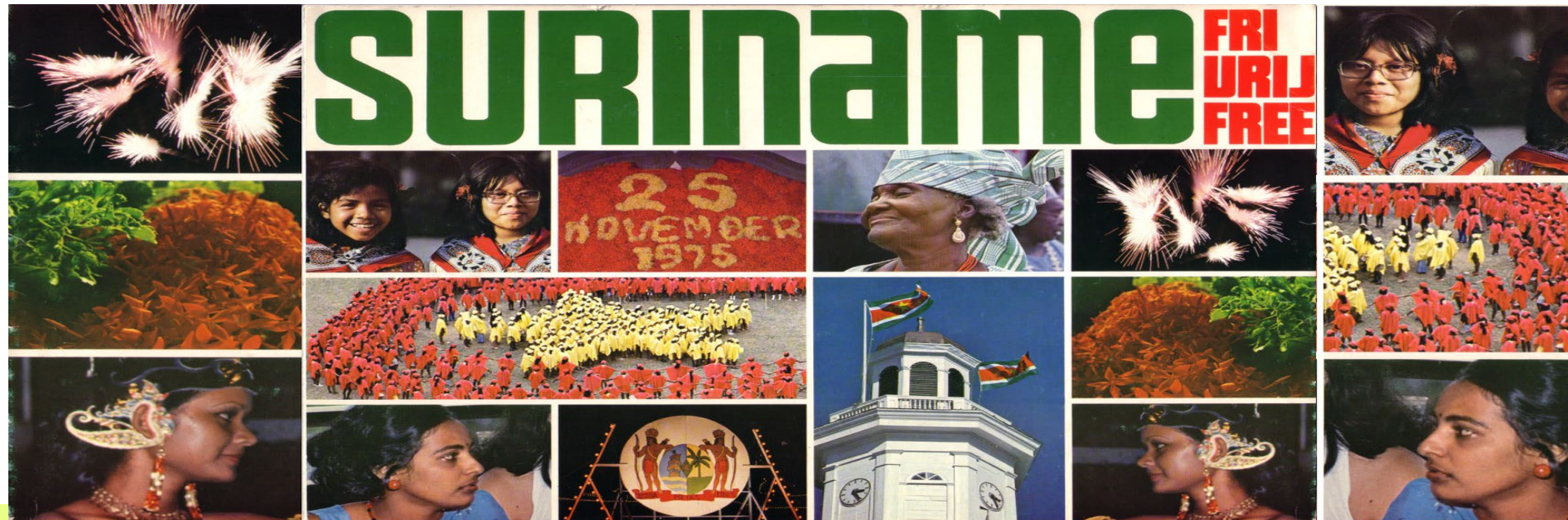


- Standards for health and safety, including quality controls and regulation of business activities; these are aimed at protecting consumers and at meeting the needs of residents—including traditional communities and indigenous people—and protecting their lifestyles.
- Establishment and maintenance of protected areas and conservation corridors of interest to tourism. Managers of public protected areas often are the most effective players for conservation benefits from tourism development.
- Allocation of tax revenues for the protection of biodiversity-based tourism attractions, such as national parks and reserves.



In many transitional and developing countries, governments may also play a direct role of tour operators and hotel managers. either to try to jump-start quality standards or to generate revenue.

For example, Suriname has a government-run tour operator (METS) and there are similar state-run tour operators in China and Vietnam.



Case Study: A Vision of Sustainable Tourism for Komodo National Park

Komodo National Park encompasses several large and small islands in the Lesser Sunda Islands of Indonesia. The park was originally established a reserve for Komodo dragons (the world's largest reptile) in the 1980's. In the first years of its establishment, it attracted only about 150 visitors per year. The park has become increasingly popular with tourists in search of wildlife viewing, diving and snorkeling experiences.





Visitors exceeded 30,000 per year in the late 1990's, and now are approximately 11,000 per year. 80% of tourists come with the expectation of seeing wild komodo dragons, but increasingly are interested in the park's exceptional diving and snorkelling sites. The park also attracts film and movie teams per year who are in search of tropical settings to film in, and a handful of scientific researchers who stay for many months. The increasing diversity of tourists, and of the tourists' interests, prompted the management of komodo National Park to develop a comprehensive and detailed vision for sustainable tourism at the park.

