

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SIA) IN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS IN SARAWAK



SAIFUL BAHARI BIN AMRA RAMLY

*Senior Manager, Land Custody and Development Authority (LCDA), Sarawak
Malaysia*

saifubar73@gmail.com



INTRODUCTION

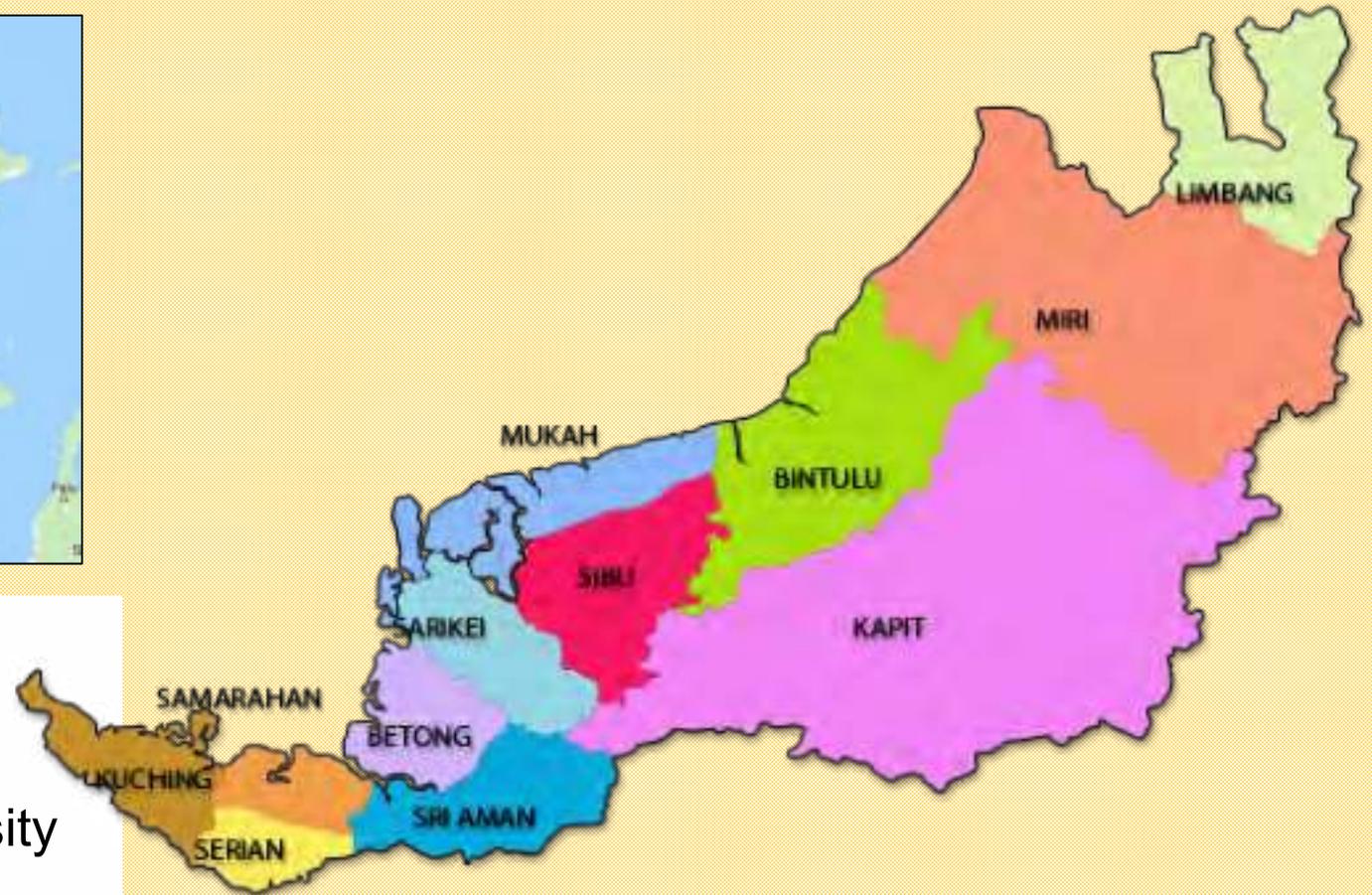


- The rapid growth of urban population in Sarawak has brought about **significant changes** in our landscape, resulting in the phenomenon of **urban sprawl**.
- This has driven the **occupation of land by squatters and rural migrants**, leading to the emergence of new settlements in major cities in Sarawak such as Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu and Miri
- While this urbanization process presents new opportunities for economic growth and development, it also brings about **significant challenges** such as inadequate housing and infrastructure, environmental degradation, and social inequality.

SARAWAK



- Population: 2.9 million (2020)
- Population Growth: 0.2% (2011-2020)
- Area: 124,450 km²
- Sarawak has the lowest population density with 20 people per square kilometer
- The **urbanization rate in Sarawak increased from 45.1% in 2010 to 49.5% in 2020**, indicating a significant increase in rural-urban migration.



URBAN RENEWAL

- A process that involves **transforming underutilized and neglected parts** of cities, urban settlements, and villages into modern and functional built-environments that meet the contemporary needs of residents.
- This process aims to bring about **lasting improvements across economic, physical, social, and environmental** conditions in disadvantaged communities, contributing to a conducive and favorable living environment that supports a healthy, safe, and comfortable lifestyle.
- As a result, we can create vibrant and sustainable communities that are **culturally sensitive, economically viable, and environmentally responsible.**



URBAN RENEWAL IN SARAWAK

- Aiming to **create vibrant and sustainable communities** by enhancing the physical and social well-being of residents.
- These projects are designed to ensure that **no one is marginalized**, but rather **everyone benefits** from the improvements made.
- By 2030, we aim to become a developed state that's not only **economic prosperity** but also **socially inclusive** and **environmentally sustainable**.



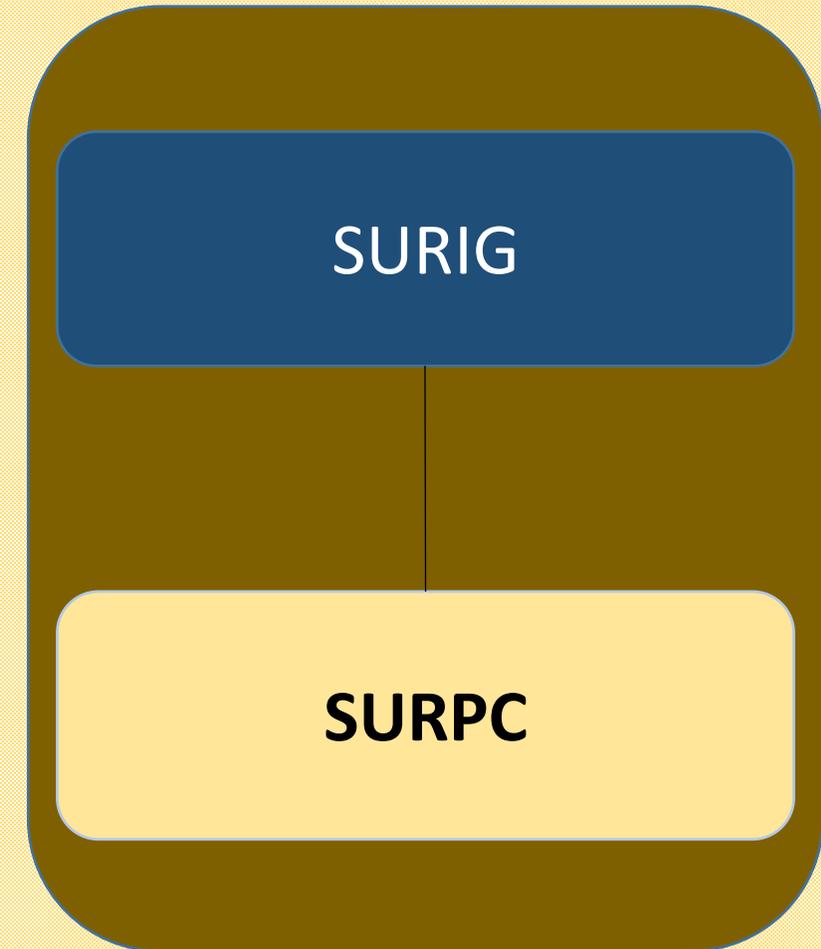
Sibu City



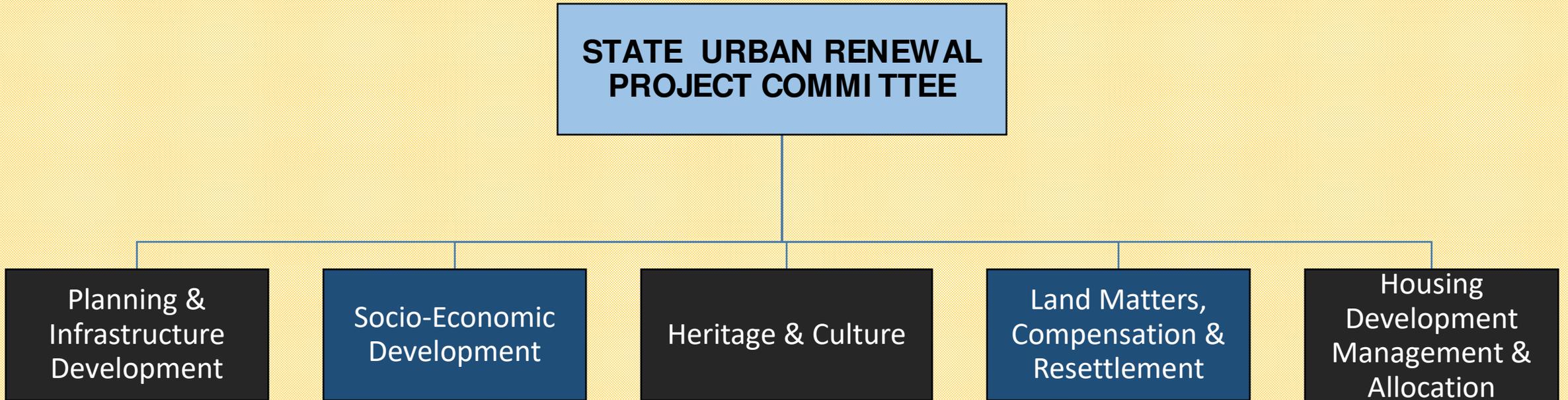
Miri City

STATE URBAN RENEWAL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES (SURIG)

- SURIG were introduced in the **year 2018**.
- The State Urban Renewal Projects Committee (**SURPC**) has been formed **to provide a framework and oversees the implementation of SURIG**, provides guidance and support to stakeholders and reviews the guidelines regularly.
- SURIG **requires community engagement, social impact assessment (SIA), and equitable distribution of project benefits** to avoid the displacement of low-income residents and marginalized communities.



STATE URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT COMMITTEE



URBAN RENEWAL'S OBJECTIVES

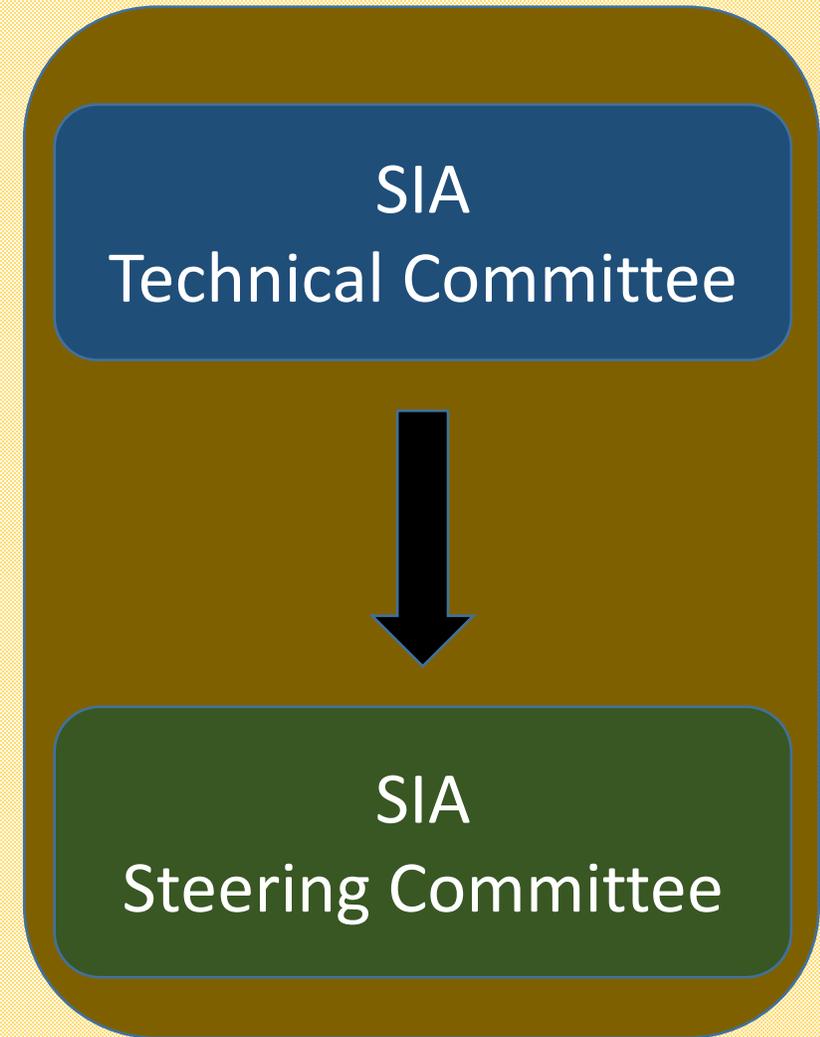


- **Uplift** the physical and social well-being of the communities;
- **Provide** conducive, safe, healthy and orderly development;
- **Increase** the income of the communities through creation of new job and business opportunities;
- **Generate** wealth for the property owners and future generation; and
- **Provide** affordable and quality housing for both the property owners and their extended families.

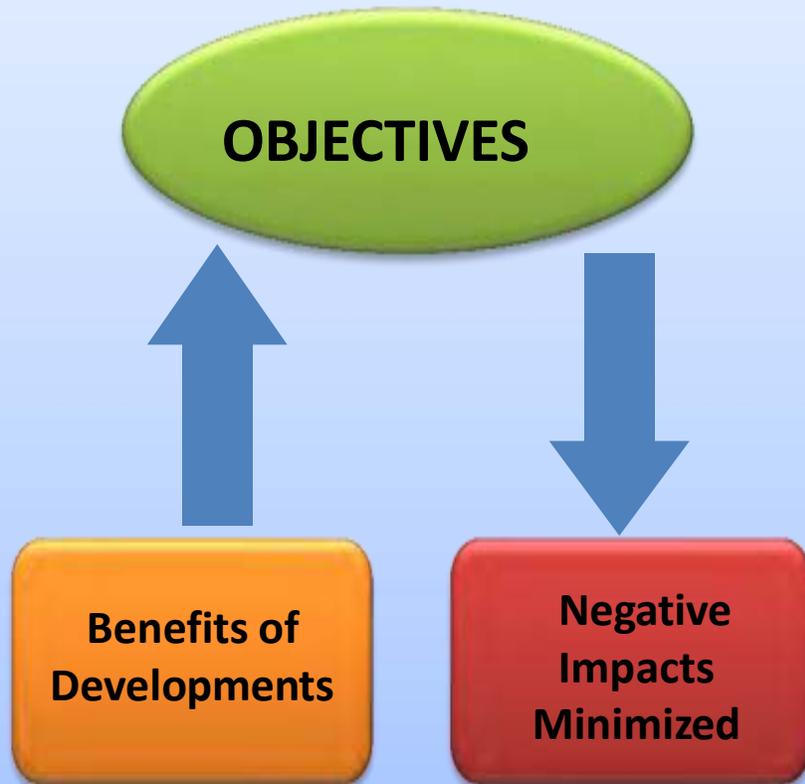
Source: SURIG, 2018

SIA IN URBAN RENEWAL

- Since 2018, SIA is mandatory for Sarawak's urban renewal, with reports submitted before redevelopment begins.
- The formation of **SIA Technical and Steering Committees** to oversee and enhance the quality of SIA studies.
- "**People First, Public Participatory**" approach prioritizes urban renewal for social, livelihood, and economic benefits.

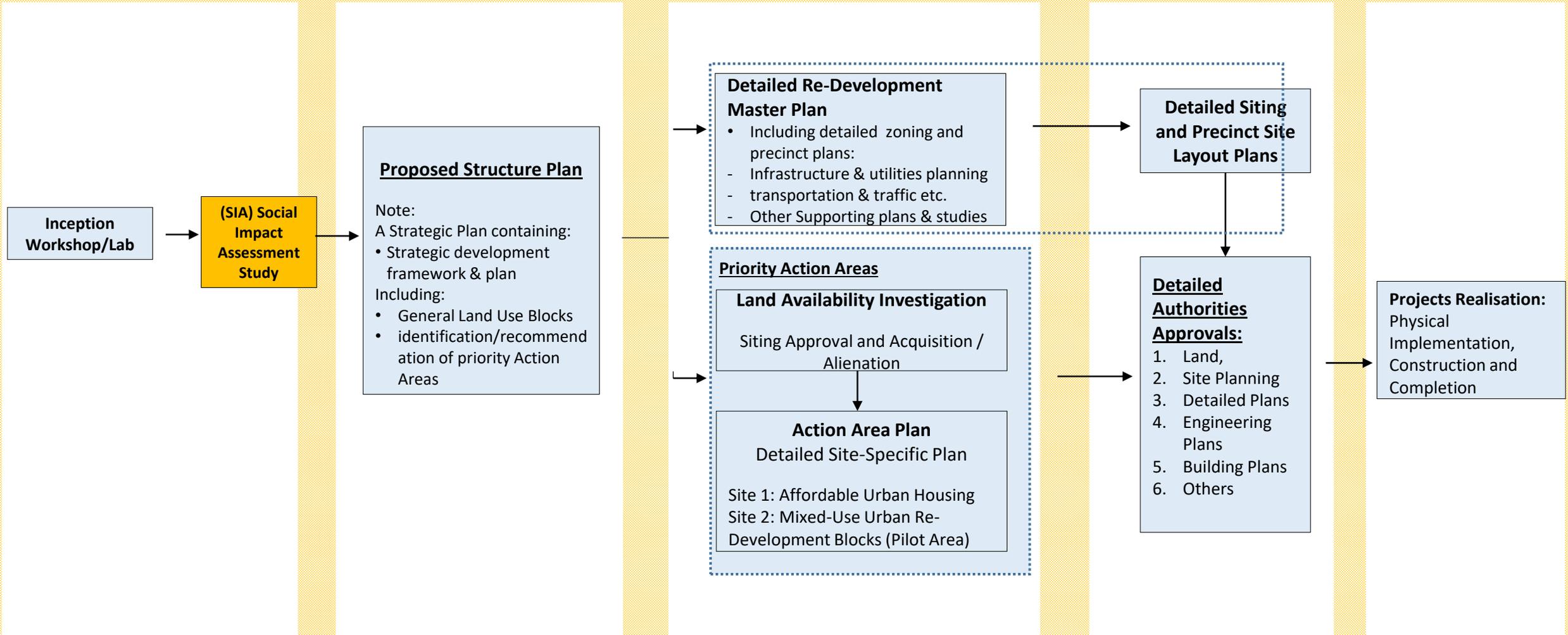


OBJECTIVES OF SIA



- To **identify, predict, evaluate and communicate** social impacts of development projects.
- To **anticipate** potential social impacts and **recommend** modifications to reduce or mitigate negative impacts.
- To propose **mitigation measures** to ensure sustainability and social acceptability of proposed projects.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SIA IN PLANNING PROCESS



Proposed Overall Development Planning and Implementation Approach

SI A FOCUS IN URBAN RENEWAL



Source: SURIG, 2018

EXPERIENCE OF DARUL HANA REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

- The idea of Darul Hana project was **introduced and initiated in April 2011**, involving an area of **722 acres**.
- To develop the area into a **modern neighbourhood while retaining the Malay traditional architecture**.



- Will involve **4,469 families** from **14 settlements/villages** along the Sarawak River, namely Kampung Seberang Hilir area with a combined population of about **17,135 people**.
- The project is **spearheaded by the Land Custody and Development Authority (LCDA)** under Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources (MUDeNR) Sarawak.

DARUL HANA REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT



Darul Hana, Kuching

OBJECTIVES OF DARUL HANA DEVELOPMENT



1. To elevate the quality of life, security and health of the residents of 14 villages in Kampung Seberang Hilir, Kuching North;
2. To raise the image and quality of 4.1 km river edge spaces from Kampung Boyan to Kampung Bintawa Hilir;
3. **To redevelop the existing residential areas into a well-structured community development while maintaining the “village ambience” that builds the community and act as a pull factor that creates employment and business opportunities;**
4. To provide better and integrated public amenities to the local community; and
5. To provide better and continuous learning facilities.

KEY FINDINGS IN SIA REPORT

ISSUES AND CONCERN

- Willingness to move
- They will lose their village identity and sense of neighborhood
- Cost incurred



NEEDS AND ASPIRATION

- Uplifting the standards of living and quality of life of the community
- Clear information
- Retain their village identity
- Availability of recreational facilities
- Community participation in the business opportunity
- Hoping that extended families will be given a unit of house too

MITIGATING MEASURES

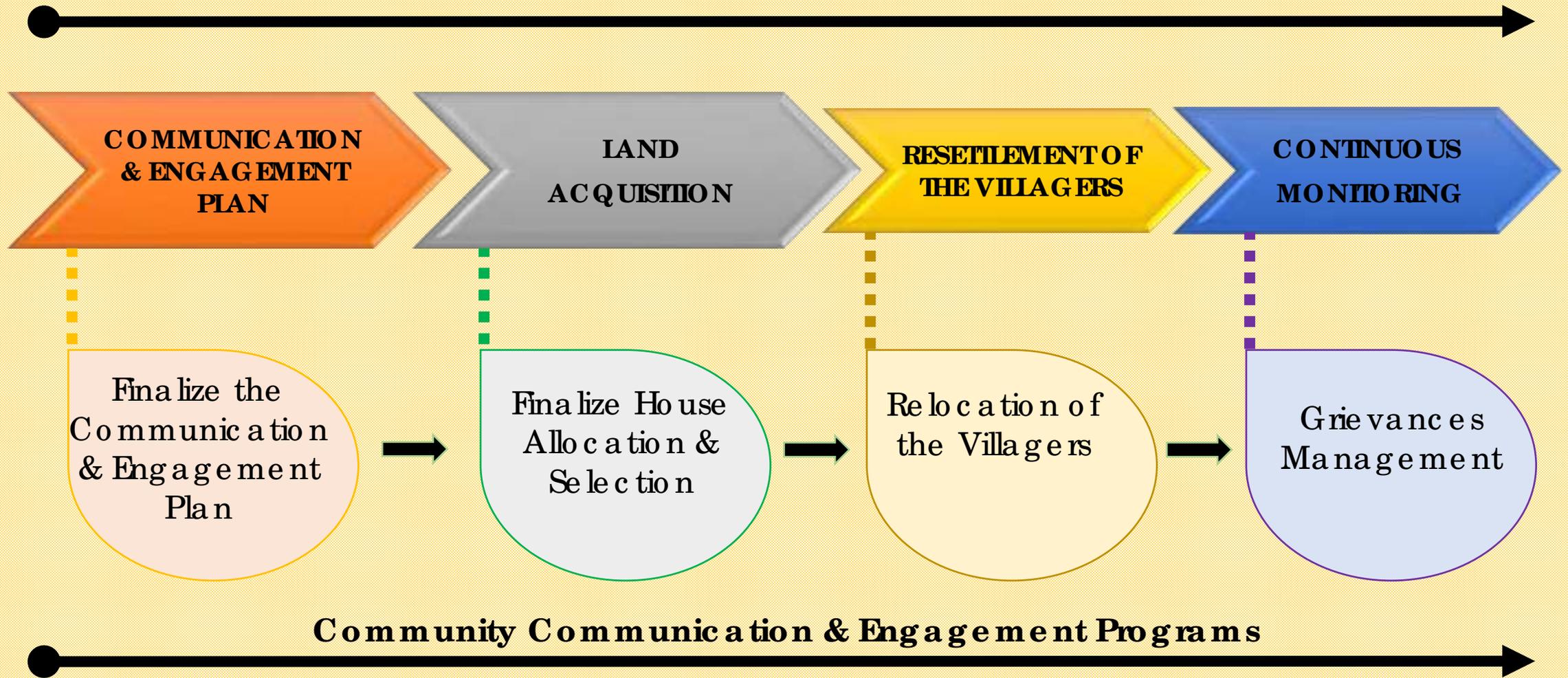
- **Community engagement**
- Participation in business opportunity
- Setting up of data base on availability of workforce and inherent skills of the community - linking talent pool to the respective employer at various industries or workplace.
- Youth engagement programme
- Community risk
- Sustaining the traditional values and cultural performances

RECOMMENDATIONS

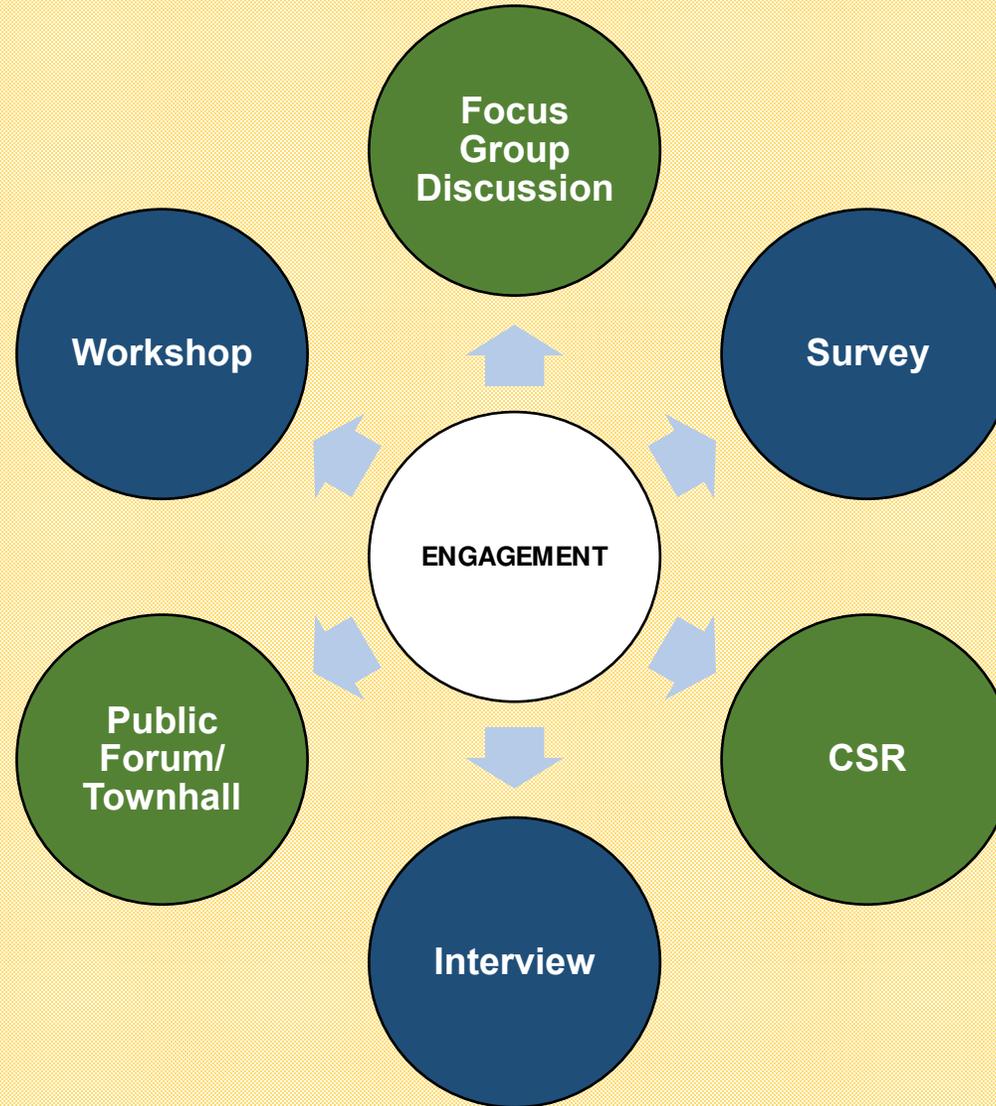
Community engagement was a crucial finding in SIA report for the Darul Hana Redevelopment Project (2018).

- Involve community from planning stage to build trust.
- Engagement helps resolve conflicts and clarify roles.
- Community must be involved in decisions.
- Working together sustains community participation.
- Proper consultation and motivation can resolve conflicts.
- Community knows their context and geography best.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



CHALLENGES

- Resistance
- Land issues



A WAY FORWARD

“To modernise a village, we will need the villagers to play their role by accepting changes, having a mindset shift and giving cooperation. We are sure that the Darul Hana project has big potential, especially as one of the tourism spots in the state.”

YAB Premier Sarawak, 17 May 2011



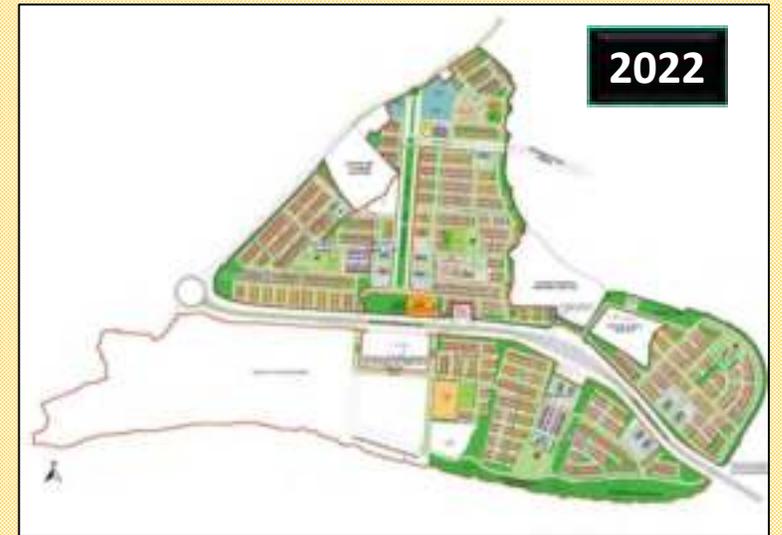
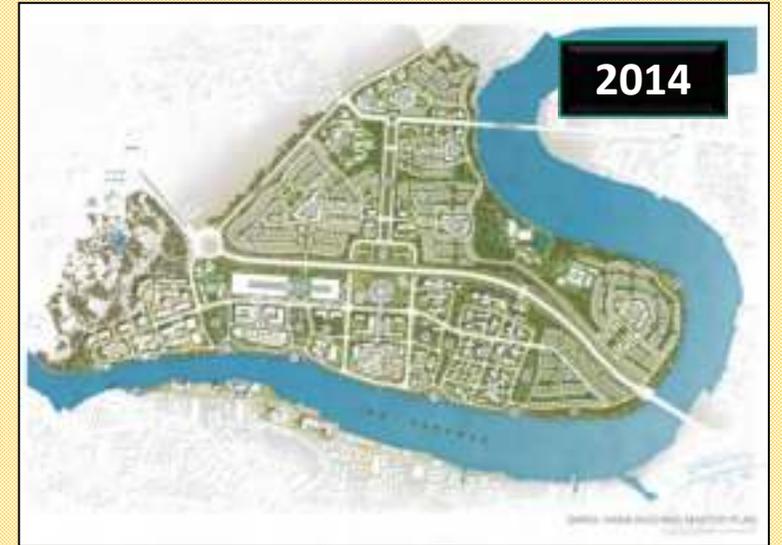
CHALLENGES FOR EFFECTIVE SIA IN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS

- Limited public participation due to awareness, language and information
- Complexity of Sarawak's diverse cultures and ethnic groups
- Limited social impact data
- Limited SIA capacity and expertise

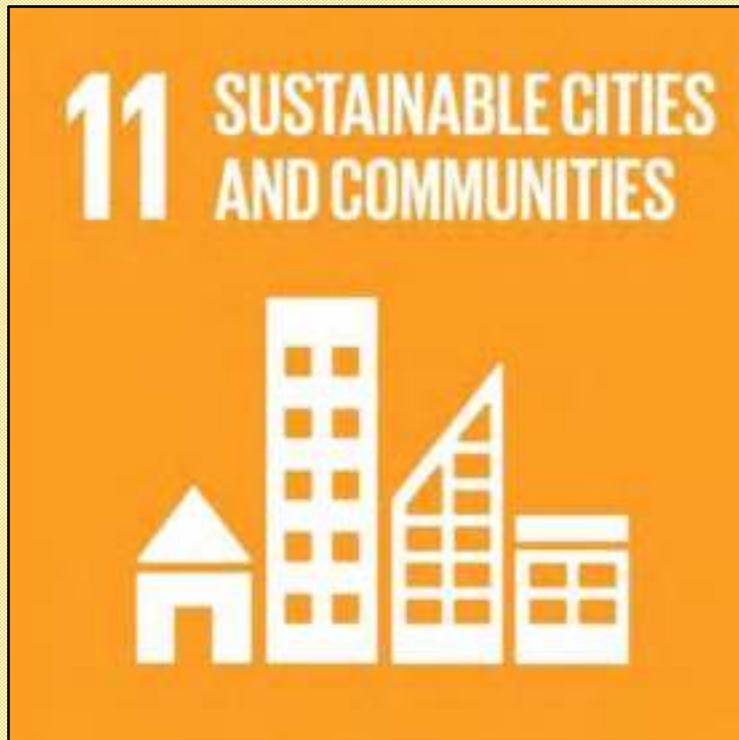


ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SIA IN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS

- Engage with community, groups and stakeholders
- Consult affected parties early and regularly
- Use a participatory approach for data
- Monitor and evaluate SIA process



CONCLUSION



SDG



**SOCIAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT
(SIA)**



SURI G

- SIA is an important tool for ensuring that urban renewal projects in Sarawak promote social sustainability and meet the needs of affected communities.

Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA23 app.



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