KSA Permits: Your 2025 Guide

Fully Updated for April 2025 – Based on official Saudi regulations

STATERRA©

✓ <u>Bonus: checklist inside!</u>

KSA Permits slowing you down?

Your FAST-TRACK 2025 Guide is here.

Let's get you compliant, today.

Saudi Arabia's reformed environmental framework is driving faster, smarter project delivery. This guide gives you the latest steps for compliance, digital permitting, and alignment with Vision 2030.

Key Players Overseeing Environmental Compliance

1

NCEC

National Center for Environmental Compliance oversees environmental permits and compliance for most projects nationwide.
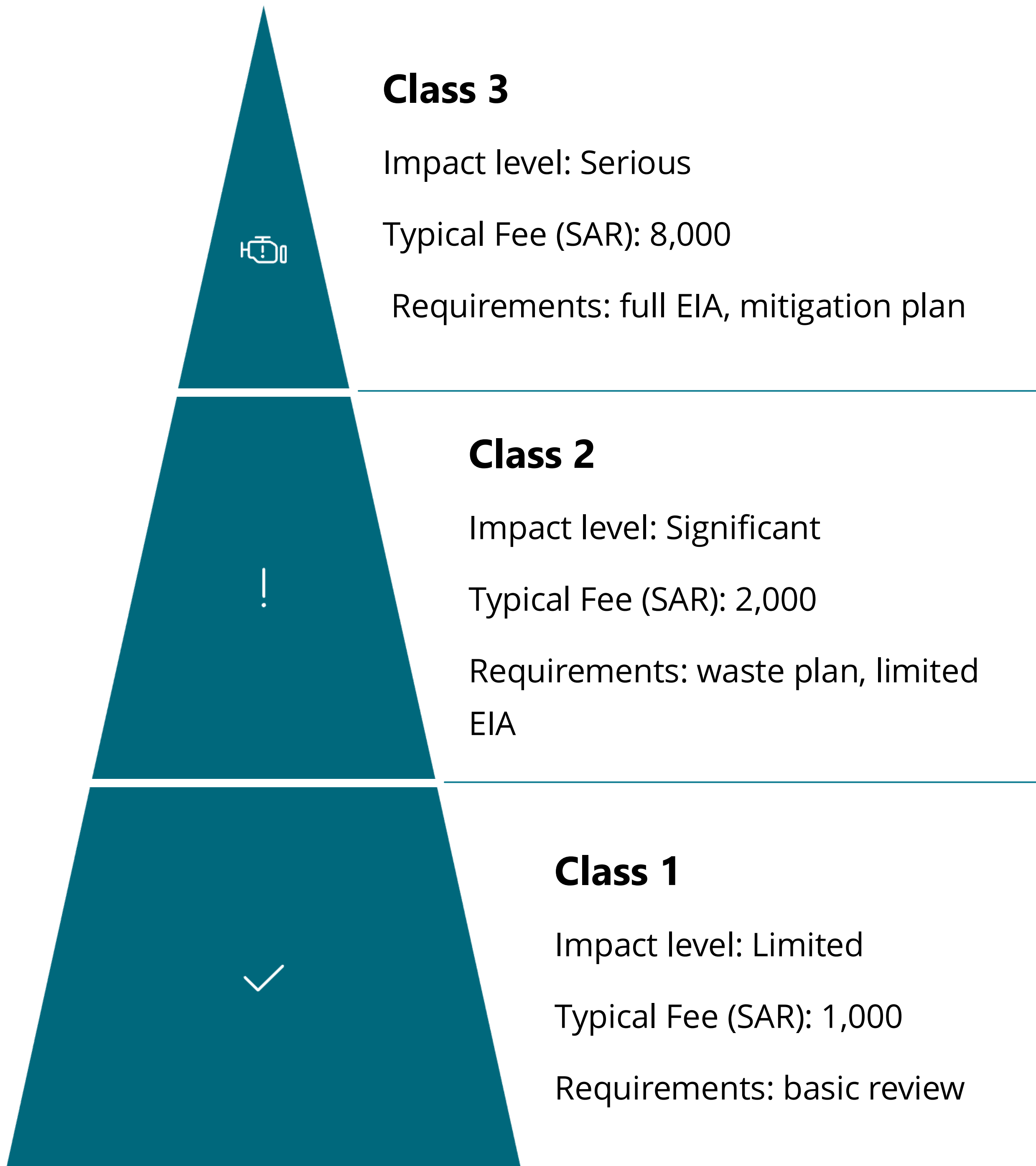
2

RCJY

Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu Regulates industrial cities (Jubail, Yanbu, Ras Al Khair, and Jizan).

3

Specialised Centres

Wildlife, Meteorology, Vegetation cover required for sector-specific projects.

Project Classification System

Class 3

Impact level: Serious

Typical Fee (SAR): 8,000

Requirements: full EIA, mitigation plan

Class 2

Impact level: Significant

Typical Fee (SAR): 2,000

Requirements: waste plan, limited EIA

Class 1

Impact level: Limited

Typical Fee (SAR): 1,000

Requirements: basic review

NCEC's FAST Path

Classify

Use the NCEC portal for precise project classification.

Apply

Submit all documents digitally for rapid review.

3 Get APPROVED

Track status online; approvals now average 30% faster (2025 update).

Tip: *incomplete applications are the top reason for rejection.*

Efficiency Hack:

Use the NCEC portal for all submissions, processing is 30% faster.

Checklist Highlights:

- Commercial Registration
- Authorisation Letter
- Waste Management Plan (Class 2/3)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Class 2/3)

Step-by-Step Checklist:

1 ── **Project Classification**

- Use the NCEC (or RCJY for industrial cities) online portal to classify your project as Class 1 (limited), Class 2 (significant), or Class 3 (serious impact).

2 ── **Document Preparation**

- Gather required documents:
  - Commercial Registration
  - Authorisation Letter
  - Waste Management Plan (Class 2/3)
  - Environmental Impact Assessment (Class 2/3)
  - Any sector-specific studies (e.g., biodiversity, water use)

3 ── **Online Application Submission**

- Submit all documents digitally via the NCEC or RCJY portal.
- Pay the relevant permit fee (SAR 1,000 / 2,000 / 8,000).

4 ── **Technical Review & EIA**

- NCEC/RCJY reviews your application.
- For Class 2/3: Full EIA review, including public consultation (mandatory for Class 3, recommended for Class 2).

Step-by-Step Checklist:

5 — **Feedback & Revisions**

- Respond promptly to any requests for clarification or additional information.
- Revise and resubmit documents if required.

5 — **Permit Approval**

- Receive your environmental permit digitally.
- Review all permit conditions and compliance requirements.

6 — **Implementation & Monitoring**

- Begin project activities in compliance with permit conditions.
- Install real-time monitoring systems if required (especially for Class 2/3).
- Submit regular compliance and monitoring reports via the portal.

7 — **Renewal & Updates**

- Track permit expiry dates.
- Submit renewal applications and updated documentation as needed.

Environmental Impact Assessment

- Air Quality & Emissions
- Water Use & Discharge
- Biodiversity & Protected Species
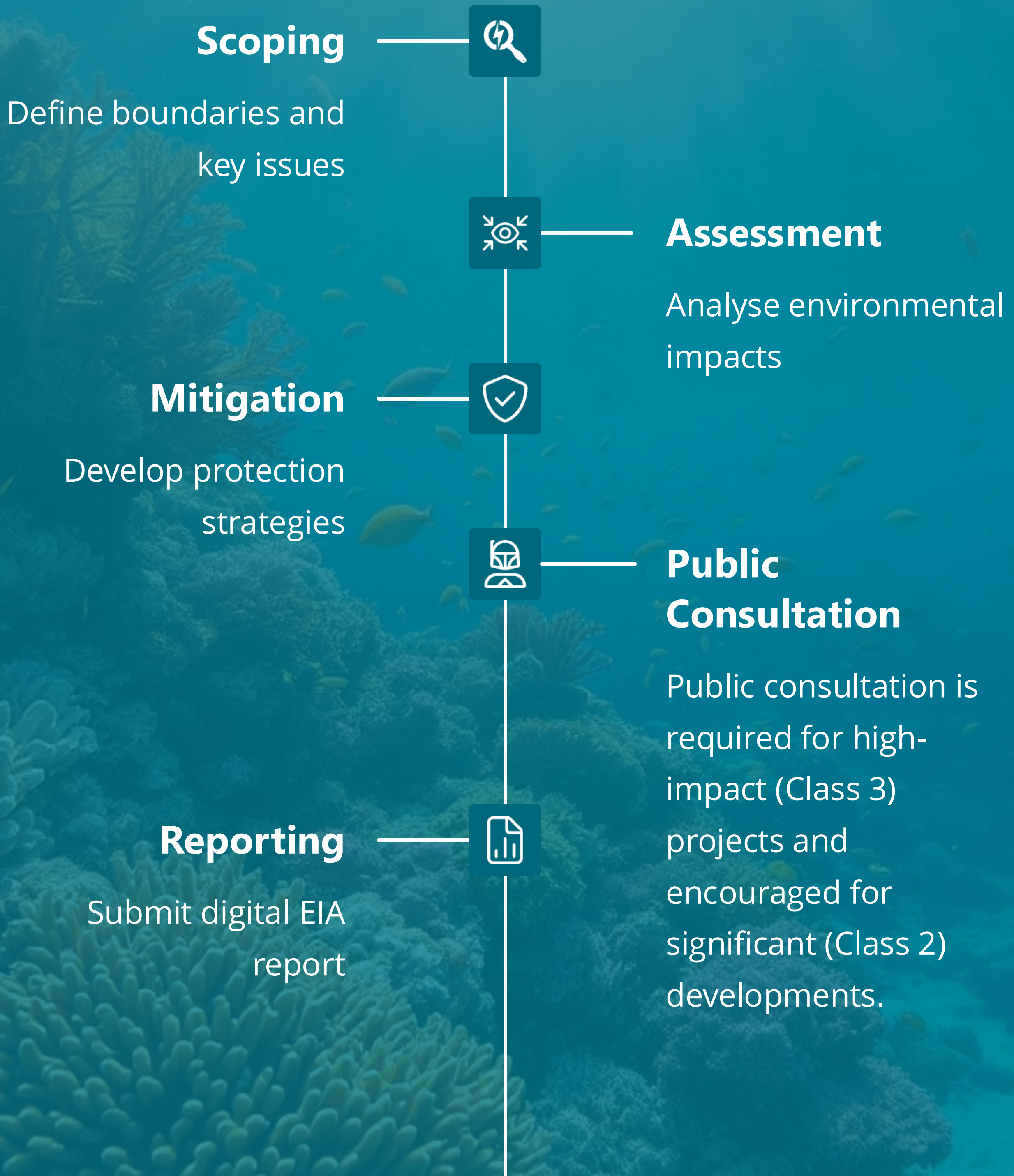- Soil & Waste Management
- Community & Health Impact
- 2025: Real-time monitoring required for high-impact projects.

EIA Steps

Scoping
Define boundaries and key issues

Assessment
Analyse environmental impacts

Mitigation
Develop protection strategies

Public Consultation
Public consultation is required for high-impact (Class 3) projects and encouraged for significant (Class 2) developments.

Reporting
Submit digital EIA report

Key Environmental Regulations

General Environmental Law Law (2001)

Foundational legislation for environmental protection

Environment Regulation (Royal Decree M/165, 2021)

Sector-Specific Regulations

(e.g., RCER-2015 for industrial cities)

Resource Management Guidelines

Specific protocols for air, water, and waste management

All aligned with Vision 2030 sustainability targets.

Alignment with Saudi Vision 2030

Saudi Green Initiative (SGI):

Net zero by 2060, 10 billion trees, and 30% land/sea protection by 2030

Renewable Energy Expansion

44 GW of projects underway, accelerating clean energy transition

Conservation & Biodiversity:

75 new protected areas established to safeguard habitats and species

Sustainable Development

All permitting frameworks now support Vision 2030's economic, environmental, and digital priorities

Enforcement and Compliance Measures

Monitoring

- Regular inspections and environmental audits

Penalties

- Fines up to SAR 5M (NCEC), SAR 20M (protected areas)
- Repeat violations: doubled fines, license suspension

Incentives

- SR1B Environmental Fund, recognition for green projects

Fast KSA Permit Solutions

Our expertise in action:

Rapid Permits

Streamlining timelines, reducing costs.

Proactive Compliance

Minimising risks, ensuring adherence.

Sustainable Development

Aligning with Vision 2030, maximising viability.

Consult Staterra, NCEC-licensed experts, for complex or high-impact projects

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