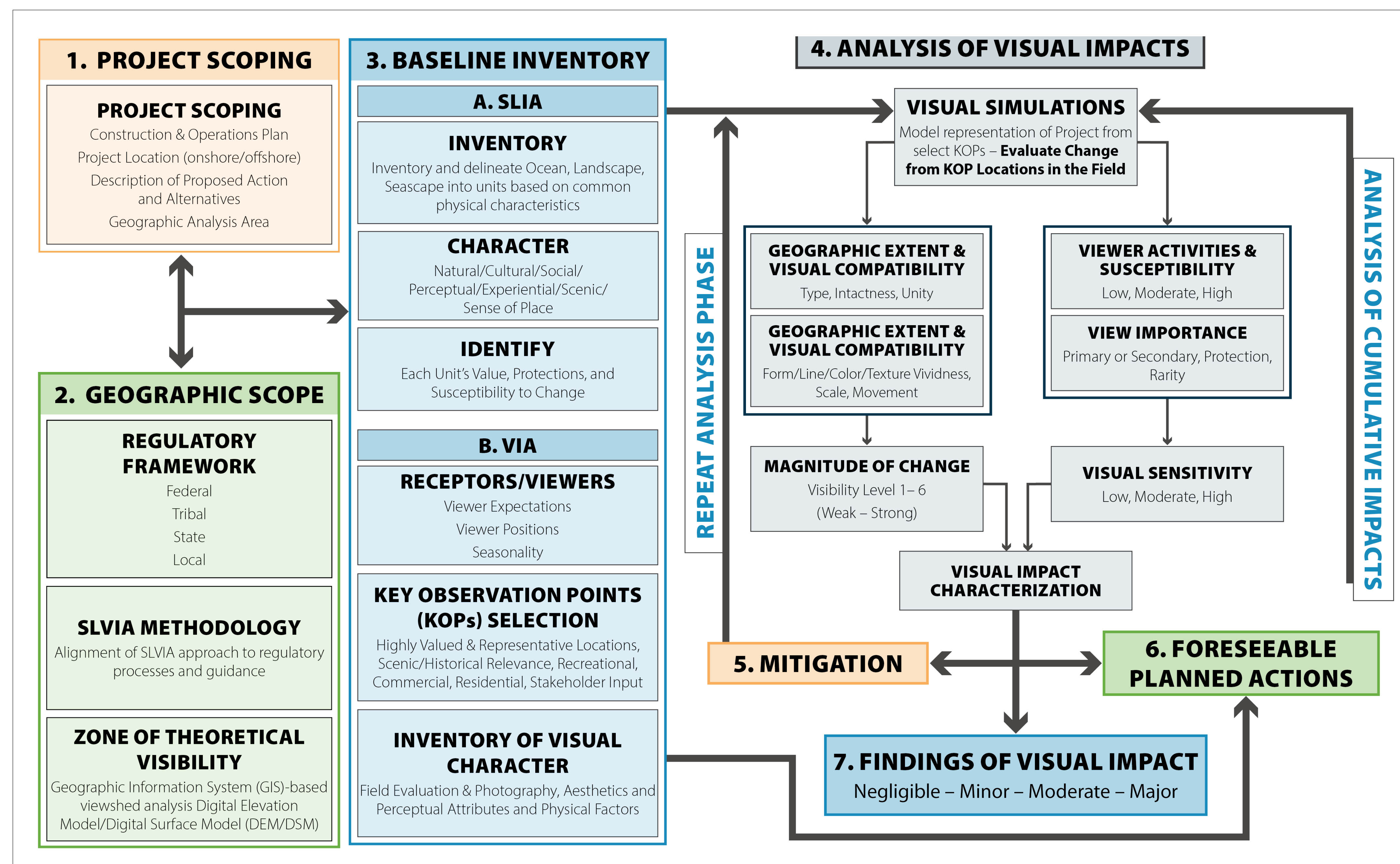


Seascape, Landscape, and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) Methodology



The SLVIA has two parts: seascape and landscape impact assessment (SLIA) and visual impact assessment (VIA). SLIA analyzes and evaluates impacts on both the physical elements and features that make up a landscape or seascape and the aesthetic, perceptual, and experiential aspects of the landscape or seascape that make it distinctive. VIA analyzes and evaluates the impacts on people of adding the proposed development to views from selected viewpoints.



What We Measure to Determine Impact

- A conservative radius around the turbine layout defines the theoretical limit of Project visibility.
- Scenic resources and key observation points (KOPs) within the study area are identified.
- A GIS-based viewshed analysis is used to assess potential visibility using surface models that account for topography, vegetation, buildings, and earth curvature.
- Wind turbines are determined to be visible if the model indicates that the line of sight is unobstructed.
- Model results are verified through field investigation and photographic documentation of existing conditions at KOPs.
- Visual simulations are developed to illustrate the appearance of the proposed turbine array from KOPs.
- Wind farm distance, earth curvature visibility, field of view, contrast, scale, and prominence of the proposed turbine array are assessed from each KOP.
- Impacts on scenic resources' seascape, open ocean, and landscape character units are assessed.
- Impacts on viewer experience from each KOP are assessed.
- Visual impacts are assessed for the action alternatives in the environmental impact statement alone and in combination with other planned offshore wind projects that would be visible from KOPs.