



Applying Strategic Environmental Assessment in Development Cooperation

The conceptual framework behind the **Guidance and SEA** implementation

Linda Ghanime,
Co-chair
OECD DAC SEA task team



Why is the international development community looking at SEA?

- SEA directly supports Millennium Development Goal 7, ensuring environmental sustainability.
- Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness highlights importance of SEA in harmonising approaches to environmental assessment.
- SEA meets World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 call for “more holistic, integrated and balanced strategic decision making”.

Enhanced Need for SEA

- Donors and countries are introducing legal and other requirements for SEA.
- Emphasis of aid is changing from projects to strategic support (policies, plans and programmes).
- Traditional assessment tools for project planning are less effective at strategic levels—need an upstream, holistic approach.
- SEA offers a systematic approach to make the principles of sustainable development an integral part of policies, plans and programmes.

Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

Donors and partner countries jointly commit to:

- develop and apply common approaches for “strategic environmental assessment” at the sector and national levels.
- strengthen progress in harmonisation, including on addressing implications of global environmental issues such as climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity.
- develop specialised technical and policy capacity necessary for environmental analysis and for enforcement of legislation.

OECD DAC Task Team on SEA

Task Team co-chaired by UNDP and Department for International Development (DfID), with over 25 partners



Aims and program of the Task Team:

- Improve understanding and applications of SEA
- Provide a common understanding of SEA concepts and principles
- Review and exchange experiences and examples of best practices
- Provide practical guidance on the application of SEA in development cooperation (OECD Guidance on SEA (2006))



OECD DAC Guidance on SEA: objectives

- Demonstrate the added value of SEA in development co-operation.
- Support accelerated application of SEA in development cooperation.
- Encourage greater harmonisation of SEA approaches.
- Outline lessons learned based on emerging practical experiences.

OECD DAC Guidance on SEA: Contents

1. Executive summary
2. Introduction
3. Understanding SEA
4. Benefits of using SEA in development cooperation
5. Towards SEA good practice: principles and processes
6. Applications of SEA in development cooperation
 - ❖ Guidance notes for 12 key entry points, eg
 - Direct budget support
 - Poverty reduction strategies
 - Country sector programmes
 - Country assistance strategies
7. How to evaluate an SEA
8. Capacity development for SEA in development cooperation

Implementation of the guidance

The Guidance is a practical policy reference tool which will be refined over time, based on:

- ❖ Testing in pilot countries
- ❖ Analyzing and documenting SEA Case studies

Implementation process:

- ❖ Apply SEA in institutional corporate approaches
- ❖ Develop specific guidance notes to reflect current needs and latest developments (e.g. climate change and adaptation)
- ❖ Promote and advocate SEA applications in countries
- ❖ Develop, harmonize and apply SEA training (e.g. GTZ/InWEnt; UNU e-learning course);

Elements of SEA practice – Alfred Eberhardt (GTZ)

- What is SEA? Key Entry Points of SEA and SEA approaches; Benefits and costs; basic Stages; Overview of full training course with demonstrations and examples
 - *More on SEA at CSD*
- SEA - tool for better governance and sustainable decisions
- Maria Rosario Partidario & Brendan Barrett –UNU
- Monday May 7 : Conference room B 3:00-6:00