

Meeting Report
Informal Discussion Group on Environment (IDGE)
Special Meeting on Scoping mission for Strategic Environmental Assessment in Tanzania
28 October 2009 * IUCN Conference Room * 14:00 – 16:30

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Meeting Details

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda review and IDGE briefing

- Chairperson (Jessica Campese - IUCN Conservation for Poverty Reduction Initiative)
- Participant introductions (see Annex I for participant list)
- Reviewed agenda: Presentation and discussion with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Task Team regarding a proposed SEA “Road Show” in Tanzania.
- Reviewed IDGE background / mission and distributed copies of draft IDGE Profile

2. Presentation: Strategic Environmental Assessment – Basic Concept and Proposed “Road Show” (Barry Dalal-Clayton – SEA Task Team member)

Introduction to the Task Team and Background on SEA Road Show Scoping Mission

(adapted from presentation and related background documents)

The **Task Team on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** met with organizations engaged in environment in Tanzania, including IDGE, as part of a scoping mission to:

1. Seek interest and promote stakeholder buy-in to the aims of organising an SEA Road Show;
2. Discuss options and modalities for the proposed awareness-raising workshop(s);

The Task Team operates under a mandate from the Network on Environment and Development Cooperation (Environet), which is a subsidiary of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Task Team is working to **build awareness and to promote uptake and application of SEA** in development cooperation. There was a suggestion for a “Roadshow” – a country to country awareness raising and showcasing event for SEA – as one way to further this objective.

A **pilot SEA ‘Road Show’ was held in Zambia in 2008** on behalf of the Task Team and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This was carried out as a one day event in Lusaka, with half a day of presentations and half a day of working groups. The event raised a great deal of interest on SEA.

The Task Team is seeking opportunities to build on this work and undertake Road Shows in other interested partner countries. Tanzania was recommended as a possible next site for several reasons including:

- Legal mandate (the 2004 Environment Management Act requires SEAs for plans, policies and legislation),
- Development partner interest, and
- Some examples of SEA implementation (planned and ongoing).

Barry Dalal-Clayton visited Dar es Salaam on Thursday 2-3 July 2009 to introduce the idea of an SEA Roadshow process in Tanzania. There was general consensus that this was a good time for such an event in Tanzania.

The current scoping mission is a follow up to the meeting in July. The Task Team is holding individual meetings and roundtables (including with IDGE) to gauge interest. Issues for discussion include:

- Is awareness raising needed?

- If so, who should be involved and who should the target audiences be? (Key planning agencies and sector ministries in the government? Donor agency representatives? Civil Society? Private Sector? Others?)
- Should a Road Show in Tanzania be one event, or discrete events for target groups?
- What examples are there to showcase/ use as case studies?
- What other issues should be on the agenda?

As one component in developing a Road Show, there were suggestions to commission a consultant to undertake a strategic analysis of whether or not/ how/ when/ with what success SEA has been carried out in Tanzania.

The task team is not a donor and does not have funding for SEA. A Road Show event in Tanzania would have to be prioritized by VPO, other Ministries, and other parties, using existing funds.

See details in background document entitled “Tanzania SEA Roadshow Concept Note”.

Work of the SEA Task Team and partners

The Task Team has, among other things:

- Developed **OECD DAC Guidance** on SEA. Guidance is aimed primarily at professionals working in development agencies and developing country governments directly involved in policy, plan and programme development, assessment and implementation but it will also be of value to other policy analysts and planners. It explains the benefits of using SEA in development co-operation and sets out key steps for its application, based on recent experiences.
- Supported implementation of the Guidance
- Prepared **Advisory Notes** to supplement the Guidance, on how SEA can be applied to key issues such as:
 - climate change adaptation,
 - disaster risk reduction,
 - post-conflict situations,
 - ecosystem services maintenance, and
 - biofuels development (forthcoming).

GTZ offers a **SEA training course** developed together with Capacity Building International (InWEnt) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

See <http://www.seataskteam.net/> for Task Team outputs and resources

SEA in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) and Accra Agenda on Action (2008)

- The SEA Task Team was formed under OECD/ DAC partly in response to mandates on environmental assessment capacity building and environmental mainstreaming under the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action
- The Paris Declaration is an international agreement by Ministers, Heads of Agencies and other Senior Officials who committed their countries and organisations to continue to increase efforts in harmonisation, alignment and managing aid for results. The declaration was aimed at changing practices and behavior on development policies, plans and projects. It is binding on OECD in their approach to funding. One of the commitments under the Declaration was to “...continue to develop the specialized technical and policy capacity necessary for environmental analysis and for enforcement of legislation”
- The 2008 Accra Agenda for Action is a statement endorsed by “Ministers of developing and donor countries responsible for promoting development and Heads of multilateral and bilateral development institutions”. It commits them to “accelerate and deepen implementation of the Paris Declaration” (including a reference to environmental assessment).

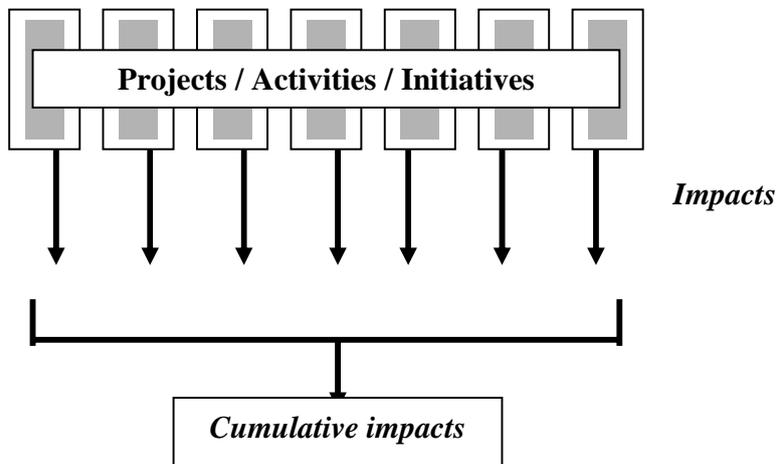
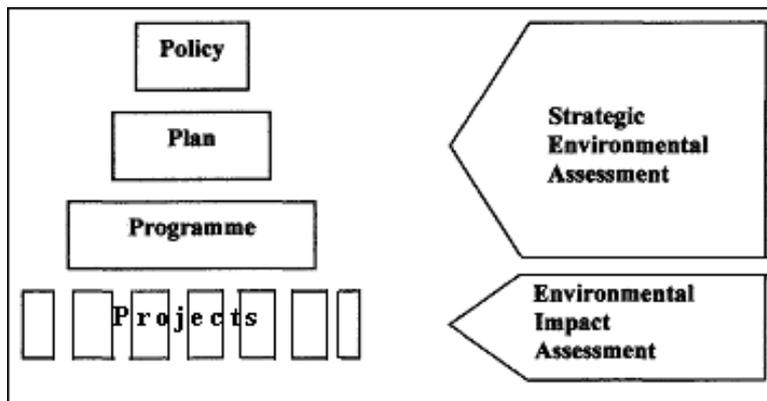
What is SEA?

Definition: *Analytical and participatory approaches to strategic decision-making that aim to integrate environmental considerations into policies, plans and programmes and evaluate the inter-linkages with economic and social considerations*

SEA is an environmental mainstreaming and planning tool - a process to improve strategic decision-making [best undertaken at the start of planning to help/improve it, and look at the big picture]

How does SEA relate to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)?

- EIA focuses on project level. SEA can address policy/ programming level
- “E” in both focuses on “Environment”, but good practice would include social and economic issues
- EIA generally looks at potential impacts of an action that has already been decided. SEA looks at the big picture and examines all the options available, including for policy / programming level
- EIA tends to focus on discrete activity. SEA looks together at all the individual projects or programmes within a strategy/ policy, including upstream and downstream effects and cumulative impacts and interactions between components. It is about making the big links between parts of the whole.
- SEA is needed to address the bigger picture, interactions with other sectors, trans-boundary issues, cumulative effects, to provide a focus for EIAs
- SEA should consider cumulative effects
- SEA and EIA are not mutually exclusive, and can be complementary



Benefits of SEA

SEA helps to:

- Identify better opportunities
- Prevent costly mistakes
- Build cooperation & stakeholder commitment
- Reduce poverty more effectively
- Prevent conflicts
- Do cheaper and more effective EIA

SEA complements planning with:

- Knowledge of environment and poverty
 - Solid analysis and assessment of environmental issues and their linkage with socio-economic issues
- Dialogue on these issues
 - Well structured government and public debate
- Influence on institutions and governance
 - A mechanism to take the results of assessment and debate into account

How is SEA done?

- Many forms and ways of doing SEA (no one approach for all situations/purposes)
- SEA must be tailored to the context: eg
 - Abstract policy or concrete plan?
 - Time available?
 - Data available?
 - Environment only? Integrated? or sustainability assessment?
- SEA should be done up front as much as possible, as part of developing a policy or plan, rather than a retroactive analysis. This is meant to save long term costs by providing for better planning up front.
- Should look not just at problems to mitigate, but also how to maximize benefits
- Meant to be participative in practice and definition, and can reduce conflicts, including conflict over resources
- SEA is a complement to planning that provides knowledge on the environment. It's a process (not tool) that can work in tandem with tools (cost benefit analysis, etc) and uses the outcomes to inform decisions
- Questions for how to do SEA:
 - How can SEA be applied, practically, to forest, wetlands, wildlife policies? MKUKUTA?
 - How can SEA integrate social and environmental concerns?

Basic steps in SEA for plans

- 
- Establish context
 - Screen the need for the SEA
 - Set objectives
 - Identify stakeholders and develop a communication plan
 - Implement the SEA process
 - Collect baseline data [use available data]
 - Scope in dialogue with stakeholders
 - Identify alternatives and their impacts
 - Identify options for mitigation and compensation
 - Arrange quality assurance (review/audit) of the assessment
 - Inform/influence decision making
 - Make recommendations in dialogue with stakeholders
 - Monitoring & evaluation

Key principles of SEA

- Be **integrated** with existing policy, planning & decision-making structures
- Be **customised** to context
- Analyse potential **effects and risks** of policy, plan, programme and its alternatives
- Identify environmental and other **opportunities and constraints**
- Address the **linkages and trade-offs** between environmental, social and economic considerations
- Be **transparent**
- Build **capacity** for both undertaking and using SEA

Further information is available at:

- www.iaia.org (website of the International Association for Impact Assessment)
- www.seataskteam.net (website of the OEC DAC Task Team on SEA)

3. Questions and comments

Q: Does “environment” in SEA mean only the natural environment, or does it include the social and economic and cultural environment?

- It’s focused on the natural environment, but the task team and best practice promote an integrated approach. One reason that some may focus on environment is that there has been less direct attention and support to environment in recent years and this can help put the spotlight on the environment. However, in practice SEA should be done in an integrated way.

Q: Is SEA enforced by law or voluntary?

- It is both. In many cases there are legal mandates. An EU Directive requires SEA for some plans (though not policy). In Tanzania, there is a legal mandate to undertake SEA, though not yet the regulatory framework to make it accurate and effective. SEA is also done voluntarily, as in the case of an increasing number of private sector operators. The Paris Agreement creates a mandate to do SEA as part of development cooperation, though this is not strongly enforceable and should also be done where it is a matter of national priority.

Q: Is there clear SEA guidance, like the comprehensive checklists that are now available for EIA?

- There are both guidelines and checklist questions but they are still being developed. They are also not as precise as those now available for EIA, in part because SEA is a more fluid process. The specific questions or issues to be checked will depend on the context. The SEA guidance that is available now is high level (case studies, background materials, etc) and more will be developed. There are also risks to providing too detailed a checklist for something like SEA, which needs to be contextualized.

Q: Could SEA be applied to the MKUKUTA review?

- SEA is a good process for large policy reviews or changes such as this, and this would be a good opportunity. At the same time, it would require a lot of effort and time, and so perhaps there is not the window or resources to do it at this time. However, it is something that could be added to MKUKUTA II as a demand to start a process for the next round.

Q: What were outcomes of Roadshow from Zambia?

- There was a wind-up meeting that suggested further training for subsectors and further awareness raising. However, leadership and momentum on this must come from the agencies with local ownership over the process, and this has not been forthcoming yet. There may be an SEA for biofuels development in Zambia, but this is only an early stage discussion.
- Comment: There seems to be grey area/ confusion between EIA and SEA in terms of what NEMC and national regulations require, and when it is most appropriate to use one or the other. This may be an issue to be discussed within an awareness raising event on SEA (i.e., a Road Show).
- Comment: It is important to ask whether we need a ‘road show’ for awareness raising, or whether we need to focus instead on implementing SEA in strategic areas to raise profile and learn more about how it can be done in practice. It may also be possible to combine these efforts.

4. Discussion and recommendations for SEA Road Show in Tanzania

Examples of SEA in Tanzania

NB: most require clarification and more information. List here is indicative only.

SEA examples that are confirmed and/or completed:

- Poverty Reduction Support Credit (World Bank) has done a SEA
- Millennium Challenge Corporation funded IRA to look at Mafia Island airport upgrade
- SEA in Kilombero Valley, in preparation for a management plan. SEA being done by Benchmark Consulting (based in Dar es Salaam). The planning will be done in 2 – 3 months.

For follow up: SEA examples that have been mentioned, but not verified

- Ngorongoro Crater hotel construction
- Mining sector, through MEM
- Aquaculture, though status/ ownership isn’t clear
- Irrigation practices – SEA may have been launched last year
- Road system in Tanga, through Ministry of Roads

- Biofuels policy development
- Awareness raising with local NGOs in Kagera and Kigoma on land use management (through UNEP)

Additional ideas for opportunities for SEA

- SEA for hydrocarbon sector
- IRA (with IIED support) to undertake SEA of tourism sector in the northern circuit. This would be research oriented. In early discussion stages only.
- Mtwara development corridor, including extraction of coal, uranium, etc (Some participants thought that this may already be planned in some way)
- SEA that would cross cut and integrate natural resource management sectors (PFM, wetlands, wildlife, etc)
- SEA in National Wetlands Management Programme, through NWGG
- Review new technical assistance guidance from TANGO to see if there is a strong enough environmental link
- Value for Money Audit planned for the DNRM Basket Fund

Options for a Roadshow

What would a "Road Show" look like?

- Could be done in one or two weeks, as a series of awareness raising events, e.g.:
 - Meeting for MPs (Dodoma)
 - 1-2 day workshop for government, civil society, and private sector
 - Group generally agreed that it would be best to bring these sectors together for such a workshop
 - If more in-depth trainings take place in the future, as a result of the Road Show, more focus on specific sectors might be appropriate as training will need to be targeted.
 - Possible additional meeting in Arusha or elsewhere, recognizing that this would require additional funding
 - Possible meeting with leadership from private sector (per their request)
- 1-2 day technical workshop might include topics such as:
 - What is SEA?
 - How does it differ from EIA?
 - What are the advantages?
 - What is the status of SEA in Tanzania
 - What is the institutional framework for SEA in Tanzania
 - Case studies (What has worked (or is working)? What hasn't worked? What were missed opportunities and how could similar opportunities be harnessed next time? What are the barriers to SEA application?)
 - What is the relevant / how can SEA be applied in different sectors?
 - In Government
 - In Civil Society
 - In Private Sector
 - Working groups for detailed analysis, perhaps broken out by sector, e.g.:
 - Biofuels
 - Mining
 - Natural Resources
 - Agriculture
 - Tourism
 - Infrastructure development, etc
 - Working groups would be focused around concrete case studies and specific examples to have the most clarity possible on what steps are required for SEA.
- For timing, to hold meetings with MPs in Dodoma, June/ July 2010 timeframe is proposed but needs to be clarified

How would a Road Show be funded?

- Funding would need to be secured.
- Government (VPO / NEMC) would have to draw on available resources
- CSOs can fund themselves to attend events and/or work together to find funds to facilitate participation of those with fewer resources (e.g., through application to the CS Foundation)
- Private sector would be self-funded

- Task Team can fund itself, though if consultancies are needed in preparation for the events, these would have to be separately funded.

Stakeholders

- Government (VPO, MEM, MNRT, TANAPA, MAFC, etc)
- Civil Society
- Private Sector
- Media (JET and others)
- Researchers
- Development partners
- Others...

How do we engage civil society and find out what opportunities there are for SEA case studies/ show cases? If the **SEA Task Team sends a set of survey questions, IDGE can circulate** this to members and compile responses.

5. Way forward

- Task Team to brief VPO and stakeholders on Scoping Mission (done)
- Task Team to send survey questions to IDGE to learn more about what is to be done or proposed for SEA
- Task Team to look into interest and opportunity for supporting an in depth analysis of the status and institutional framework for SEA in Tanzania today
- If there is sufficient interest from Tanzanian stakeholders, including government, plans will continue toward a SEA awareness raising event of some kind (i.e., a Road Show) in about June/July of 2010.

Summary of Action Items:

- IDGE representative (Jessica Campese) to attend SEA Task Team wrap up meeting at VPO on 29 October (done).
- SEA Task Team to send survey/ template for IDGE members to provide feedback on ongoing/ planned/ proposed SEAs in Tanzania
- IDGE members to follow up on several potential SEA implementation opportunities, including for SEA under the Sustainable Wetlands Management Programme
- Task Team to report to IDGE at later date on progress towards awareness raising event development

Annex I: SEA Meeting Participant List

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