

OECD DAC Task Team on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Promoting environmental mainstreaming in development cooperation and national development.

A Concept Note for an SEA Road Show Initiative in Tanzania

1 May 2009

Background

The Network on Environment and Development Cooperation (Environet) is a subsidiary body of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Under mandate from DAC Environet, the Task Team on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has worked in recent years to develop OECD DAC Guidance on SEA, approved by DAC Development Cooperation Ministers in 2006. The Task Team is now working to build awareness of SEA and to promote uptake and application of SEA in development cooperation

A note on SEA

As SEA is becoming more widely adopted by donor agencies and their developing country partners, the donor community is committed to harmonising its procedures and requirements in the field of environmental assessment. The *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*, adopted on 2nd March 2005, commits the donor community to reforming the ways in which aid is delivered, in order to improve effectiveness. It calls upon development agencies and partner countries to develop common approaches to environmental assessment generally, and to SEA specifically (www.oecd.org):

“Donors have achieved considerable progress in harmonisation around environmental impact assessment (EIA) including relevant health and social issues at the project level. This progress needs to be deepened, including on addressing implications of global environmental issues such as climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity.

Development agencies and partner countries jointly commit to:

- *Strengthen the application of EIAs and deepen common procedures for projects, including consultations with stakeholders; and develop and apply common approaches for “strategic environmental assessment” at the sector and national levels.*
- *Continue to develop the specialised technical and policy capacity necessary for environmental analysis and for enforcement of legislation.”*

The DAC SEA Task Team uses the term Strategic Environmental Assessment to describe ***analytical and participatory approaches that aim to integrate environmental considerations into policies, plans and programmes*** (ie at a level above projects) ***and evaluate the inter linkages with economic and social considerations***

The Task Team developed the idea of an SEA sensitising workshop (also called a 'road show') that would be able to help in the above regard in individual developing countries. It would be aimed at two target audiences: (a) key planning agencies and sector ministries and (b) all donor agency representations in a particular developing country - with the purpose of

raising awareness of SEA as a tool to promote environmental mainstreaming in development assistance and national development.

On behalf of the Task Team, the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (through its Embassy in Lusaka) led a very successful pilot SEA Road Show exercise in Zambia in 2008. As background, a brief report on this exercise is provided as Appendix 1.

The Task Team is now seeking opportunities to build on this work and undertake further Road Shows in other interested partner countries. Tanzania has been identified as a country that is seeking to promote the use of SEA and where a Road Show process might be timely.

The proposal

It is suggested that the Road Show might follow the following steps, although these should be seen as adaptable depending on need and circumstances:

(a) Initiation

A donor member of the SEA Task Team will take the lead to promote the idea of a Road Show process in Tanzania. Preferably this donor would have lead responsibility for the environment 'sector' in the country (it is understood that the Danish Embassy has this role in Tanzania). This will involve the embassy in identifying and making contact with the key government agency(ies) responsible for environment (particularly SEA) to briefly present the basics of the proposal and discuss their interest/willingness to host a short scoping mission (the next step in the process).

(b) Scoping visit (3 to 4 days) to

Assuming a positive response from government, this next step would involve a small scoping team undertaking a series of meetings with government officials, donors and other stakeholders (private sector, NGOs, etc) to present and discuss the ideas for the Roadshow and provisionally explore the nature, utility and role of SEA in Tanzania.

Some meetings might be best organised as group sessions; others as individual appointments. The lead donor would organise a meeting with donors represented in Tanzania, whilst the host agency would make arrangements for all other meetings. The scoping team would include the Task Team Technical Secretariat, representative(s) of the lead donor (for environment) and possibly other donors, and the host agency. The scoping visit would:

1. Seek interest and promote stakeholder buy-in to the aims of organising an SEA Road Show (particularly the idea to organise a future SEA awareness-raising workshop(s));
2. Discuss options and modalities (including potential venues, participants, dates, etc) for the proposed awareness-raising workshop(s);
3. Identify candidate policies, plans or programmes (being developed or revised) for which Tanzania might wish or need to undertake SEA processes. The proposed awareness-raising could be designed to support such an SEA, and if it is decided that a follow-up training workshop or programme would be useful, then this too might be designed so that it contributes directly to such an SEA as a part of particular process steps.

(c) SEA awareness-raising workshop(s) (1-2 days)

It suggested that one or more partner agencies from the Government of Tanzania and OECD DAC SEA Task Team (facilitated by lead embassy) co-host and organise a one or two day workshop (or perhaps several shorter workshops for different target groups – to be discussed) in Dar es Salaam. Invitees could include, for example:

- Senior officers from development and planning agencies and sector ministries;
- Representatives for donor agencies and international organisations working in Tanzania;
- Representatives of Tanzanian environmental and development NGOs and local offices of international NGOs, private sector organisations, parliamentarians and decision-makers, and other key stakeholders.

The key purposes of the workshop(s) would be to:

- Present SEA experience (perhaps some case studies) and future plans in Tanzania to date – as a platform for moving forward;
- Outline the basic aims and approaches to SEA
- Present the work of the DAC Task Team on SEA – introduce its 2006 Guidance and current activities and consider how SEA can help partner countries and donors meet commitments in the Paris Agreement and Accra Agenda for Action;
- Consider the usefulness, role and potential of SEA as a mainstreaming approach in Tanzania (eg are there key or hot issues that might demand/require the application of SEA approaches such as the development of biofuels, tourism development);
- Discuss SEA training and capacity development needs in Tanzania.

[It is understood that the government (Ministry of Energy and Minerals, MEM) has invited tenders to deliver SEA training for various departments. The workshop might be able to help focus any such training and the proposed MEM SEA training programme might also offer a vehicle to deliver any additional training needs identified during the workshop].

(d) Further steps

If resources are available, a follow-up training workshop or programme could be organised. Preferably, such training should not be abstract. Rather it should focus on a real SEA that has been identified as needed, or is already being planned. Thus, the training would also function as an in-built component of the SEA, eg training sessions at different steps in the SEA process, eg as a kick-off step to scope the SEA.

Contacts:

Barry Dalal-Clayton, Technical Secretariat to DAC SEA Task Team (bdalalclay@aol.com)

Appendix 1

OECD DAC Task Team on SEA

Road Show to Zambia

REPORT ON SCOPING VISIT AND SEA AWARENESS WORKSHOP

*Prepared by Barry Dalal-Clayton
International Institute for Environment and Development
Task Team Technical Secretariat*

1 Scoping Visit

A scoping/preparatory visit to Zambia was undertaken on 22-25 July 2008. This was undertaken during 22-25 July 2008. It was led by Mr Matti Nummelin from Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supported by Dr Barry Dalal-Clayton from IIED. They were accompanied by Mr Steve Bass (also IIED) who led discussions on a parallel, closely-related initiative on environmental mainstreaming.

The main aims of this preparatory visit were to:

4. Meet with a range of government officials, donors and other stakeholders (private sector, NGOs, etc) to present and discuss the ideas for the Roadshow and explore the nature and role of SEA
5. Seek interest and promote stakeholder buy-in to the aims and approach suggested;
6. Discuss options and modalities (including venues, participants, dates, etc) for the proposed awareness-raising workshops
7. Identify candidate policies, plans or programmes (being developed or revised) for which Zambia might wish or need to undertake SEA processes (note: a follow-up training workshop is proposed that will aim to helpfully contribute directly to such an SEA as a part of a real initial scoping step);

The Environment Council of Zambia arranged a series of meetings, some with individual ministries, others as group meetings/sessions with line ministries and NGOs

At the same time, the participants provided responses and ideas with respect to a proposal for small retreat of Zambian experts on environmental mainstreaming (a separate but closely-related initiative being undertaken by IIED)

In all meetings and group sessions, there was universal recognition amongst participants of the potential and critical role of SEA in Zambia, and broad cross-stakeholder approval and support for the idea of organising an SEA awareness-raising workshop (prospectively in late September 2008) and subsequently organising an SEA training course – using the awareness-raising workshop to guide and finalise the focus and scope of the training course.

There was also wide interest and support for a 2-day retreat on the broader issue of environmental mainstreaming which would feed into the more focused SEA awareness-raising workshop.

It was agreed that this SEA Roadshow initiative will dovetail with and support the Government's three-year Environment and Natural Resources Management and Mainstreaming Programme currently being developed by the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources in collaboration with the Cooperating Partners supporting the environmental and natural resources sector in Zambia.

An exciting outcome was the enthusiastic desire of the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MFP) to participate in both events and to act as co-hosts with the ECZ. This signals a key step forward for effective environmental mainstreaming and the start of a partnership between these two agencies. The

involvement of MFP will also provides a strong platform for SEA to be taken seriously – it is the most influential of ministries (ECZ promoting SEA alone would be much less effective)

2 Environmental mainstreaming retreat

This was held on 22-23 September with 15 participants – Zambian environmental champions from government, private sector, NGOs and academia. The event was co-chaired by the Ministry of Finance and National Planning and the Environment Council of Zambia, and facilitated by IIED.

The main purpose was to identify lessons from Zambia’s experience of linking environment and development through brainstorming. Participants identified some of the main EM approaches used to date in Zambia, areas of progress, and some key lessons from Zambian practice in EM

The retreat concluded that a more systematic approach to mainstreaming is needed in Zambia. A short publication on the key lessons, findings and recommendations is being prepared to inform the government and partners’ environmental mainstreaming initiatives. This will be co-published by MFNP, ECZ and IIED.

3. SEA awareness workshop

The workshop was held on 25th September 2008, hosted by the Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MFNP) and Environment Council of Zambia (ECZ), in association with the SEA Task Team of the OECD DAC Environet. It was Chaired by the Ministry of Finance and National Planning.

64 participants registered. The agenda is provided in Appendix 1. The morning session comprised a series of presentations on:

- What is SEA?,
- Feedback from the mainstreaming retreat (see 2 above),
- Zambian experience with EIA,
- Two cases of SEA-like processes (pollution from lead mining, and oil palm development)
- The work of the OECD DAC Task Team on SEA.

During the afternoon session, participants split into Working Groups to enable more dialogue and discussion on key issues and strategic questions that SEAs would need to address with regard to three themes: agriculture, sugar and roads. The outcomes of these discussions will be of direct benefit in finalising terms of reference and the approaches followed for SEAs of these sectors to be undertaken by the EU in the near future. Each working group was facilitated by a resource person from the OECD DAC SEA Task Team.

The working groups also addressed three key questions for SEA capacity building In Zambia:

- What issues regarding SEA would they like to know about?
- What are the key challenges to the use of SEA in Zambia?
- What are the critical needs for SEA capacity building?

A range of key points were suggested:

- Need to develop a critical mass of SEA expertise
- Mobilise training for SEA trainers
- Review institutional capacity for undertaking SEA and identify where capacity-building support is needed
- Establish a Task Force for SEA with technical advisers from cooperating partners
- Develop a policy and legal framework for SEA
- Develop a conceptual framework for SEA in Zambia - which is the lead agency?
- EU would like to incorporate a capacity building elements into the three SEAs it will be undertaking in Zambia (for agriculture, sugar and roads) – so as to enable ‘learning by doing’.

- Focus on SEA in key areas such as the mining sector (mines are being developed across the country) and biofuels
- Engage civic and political leaders (best to focus on big issues that concern them, eg food insecurity, energy, poverty reduction)
- Develop SEA capacity within the universities
- Encourage the establishment of environment units in industry

4. Future programme for SEA capacity building in Zambia

Discussions on future capacity-building were hosted by the ECZ with representatives of MFNP, the OECD DAC SEA Task Team, EU delegation, and the Finnish Embassy.

It was agreed that a multi-year programmatic, rolling package approach (developing a legal/policy framework, training – including training of trainers, pilot SEAs, etc) is required over the next few years to build capacity for SEA in Zambia

This will need to be incorporated as an integral part of the Government's three-year Environment and Natural Resources Management and Mainstreaming Programme (the 'Mainstreaming Programme') currently being developed by the MTENR in collaboration with the Cooperating Partners supporting the environmental and natural resources sector in Zambia.

It was concluded that a package approach would need to involve the following elements over the next 2-3 years. Steps (i) and (ii) below should be viewed as immediate requirements. Steps (iv) – (vi) are needed in the medium term. Step (vii) may be considered a more long-term need.

- i. **Initial training for staff of ECZ, MTNER and MFNP** on how to plan and undertake an SEA
- ii. **A needs assessment** – building on the outcomes of the SEA awareness workshop and to verify missing issues/elements. This would also involve contacting key ministries/agencies and a range of other stakeholders to determine their perspectives.
- iii. **A Permanent Secretary-level seminar** (c. 1 hour) – to provide a briefing on SEA and the programme being taken forward.
- iv. **Training for SEA champions** (change agents – who can subsequently argue the utility and benefits of SEA and promote its uptake).
- v. Specific **technical training for SEA practitioners** – best delivered at key stages in pilot SEAs (eg scoping, main assessment phase, analysis, monitoring)
- vi. Training for other with an interest in SEA but with no day-to-day duties related to SEA
- vii. Possibly some exchange visits and study tours.