Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Training course for Thailand

Status of SEA internationally

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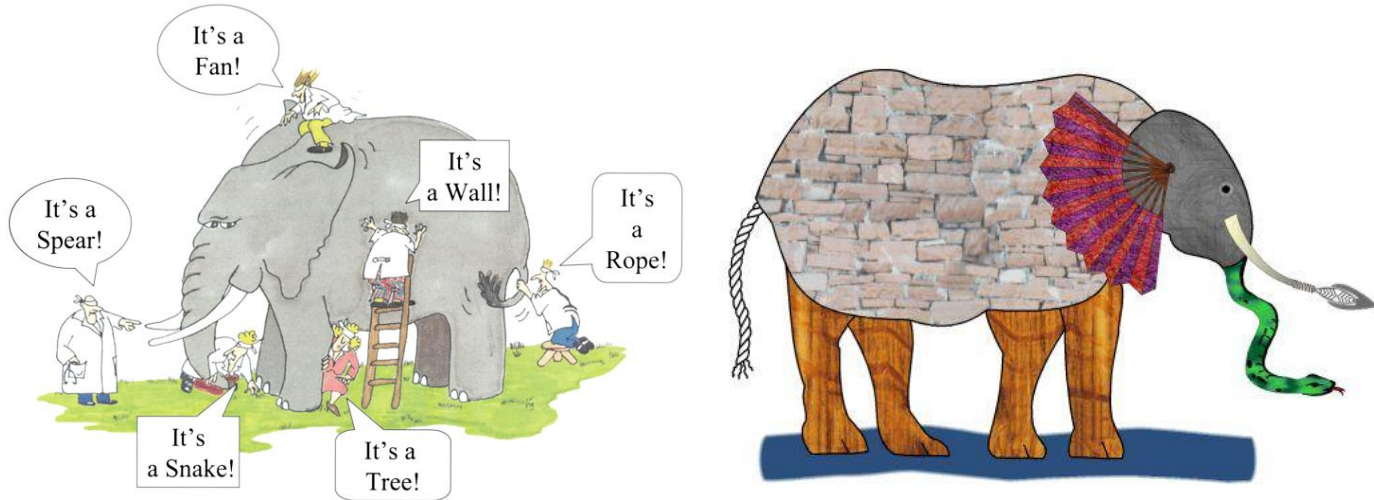
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Status of SEA internationally

politics and practice

"Politics is the process by which the society chooses the rules that will govern it"
Acemoglu and Robinson, 2012

Different interpretations of SEA

How the world see SEA   (Partidário, 2012)

The elephant metaphor of reality

Over the years many names have been used to address SEA...

- EIA of PPP
- environmental assessment
- programmatic assessment
- policy assessment
- integrated assessment
- sustainability assessment

and more....

(Partidário, 2000)
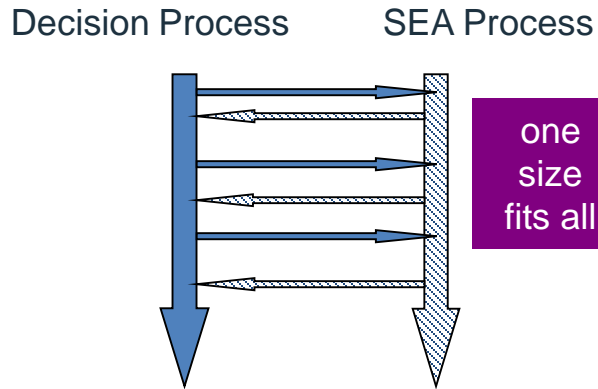
International systems on SEA

Effects
Impacts
EIA-type

Sustainability
Capacity
Strategy

SEA - From "big EIA" to strategic thinking

What works better depends on purpose and context (Partidário, 2009)
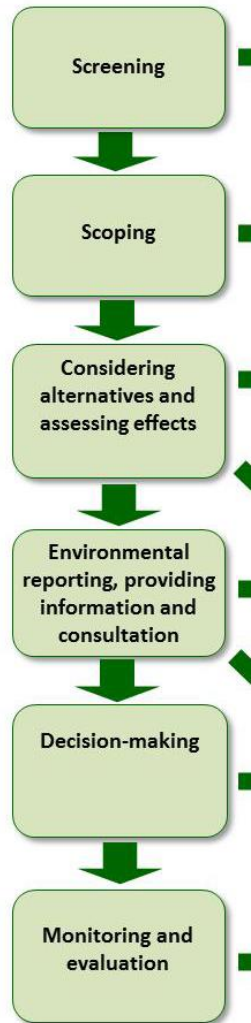
Models of SEA

1. Parallel model

Decision Process   SEA Process

one size fits all

2. Decision-centred model

Decision Process

SEA - framework of key activities

taylor-made
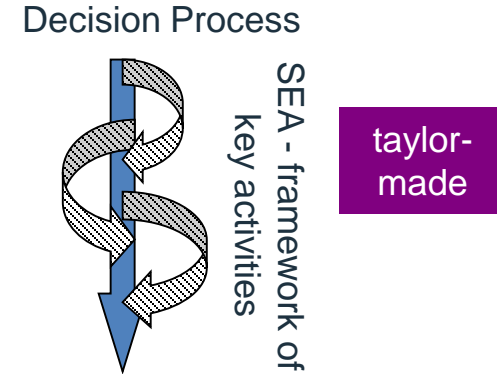
(Partidário, 2007)

SEA steps

- Screening
- Scoping
- Considering alternatives and assessing effects
- Environmental reporting, providing information and consultation
- Decision-making
- Monitoring and evaluation

European Commission, 2013

Standard process for impact assessment SEA

European Commission

(Beacon Manual, 2005)

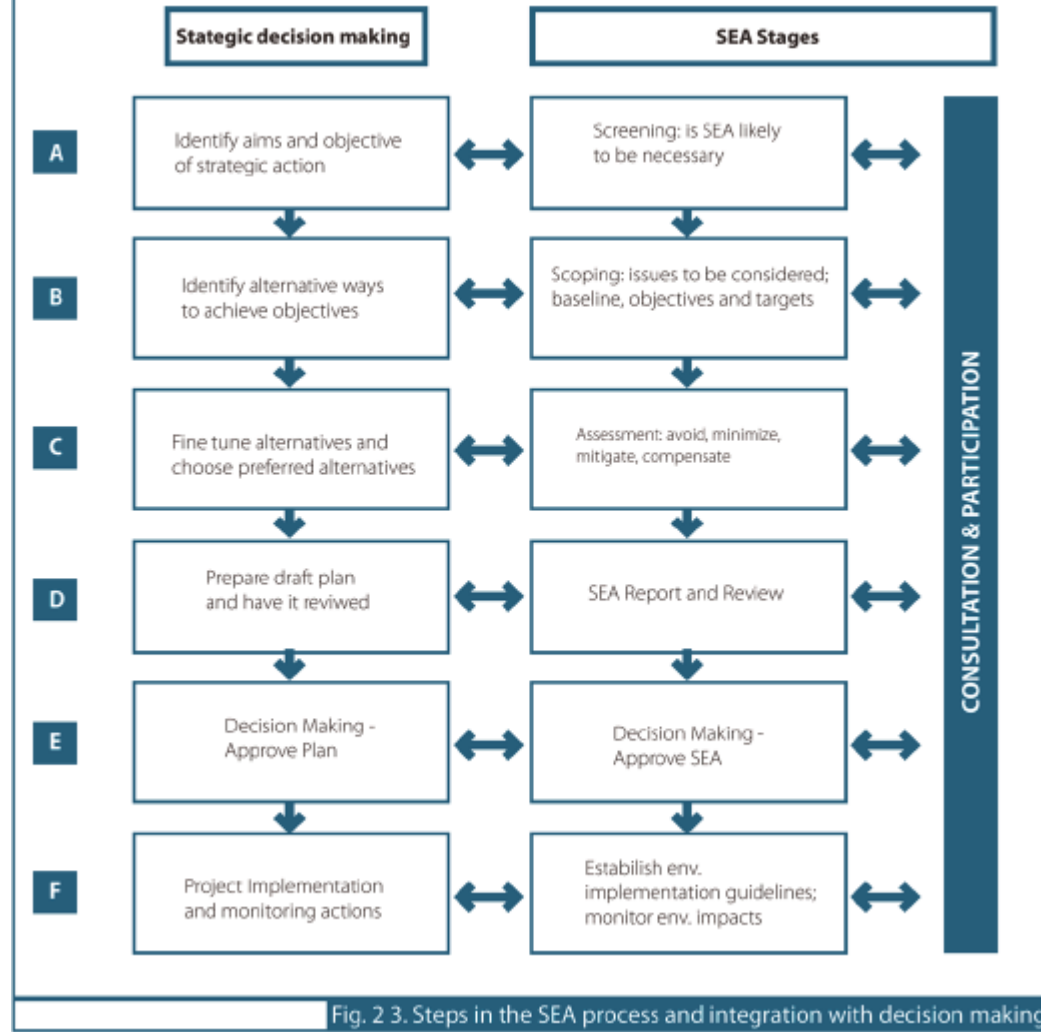| Stategic decision making	SEA Stages
A Identify aims and objective of strategic action	Screening: is SEA likely to be necessary
B Identify alternative ways to achieve objectives	Scoping: issues to be considered; baseline, objectives and targets
C Fine tune alternatives and choose preferred alternatives	Assessment: avoid, minimize, mitigate, compensate
D Prepare draft plan and have it reviwed	SEA Report and Review
E Decision Making - Approve Plan	Decision Making - Approve SEA
F Project Implementation and monitoring actions	Estabilish env. implementation guidelines; monitor env. impacts

CONSULTATION & PARTICIPATION

Fig. 2 3. Steps in the SEA process and integration with decision making

The Netherlands Commission on Environmental Assessment (NCEA) describe differently the same steps for EIA and SEA

Initial Dutch impact assessment model for SEA

	SEA	EIA
Screening	Mostly decided case by case	Projects requiring EA are often listed
Scoping	Combination of political agenda, stakeholder discussion and expert judgement	Combination of local issues and technical checklists
Public participation	Focus on representative bodies	Often include general public
Assessment	More qualitative (expert judgement)	More quantitative
Quality review	Both quality of information and stakeholder process	Focus on quality of information
Decision making	Comparison of alternatives against policy objectives	Comparison against norms and standards
Monitoring	Focus on plan implementation	Focus on measuring actual impacts

| Establish the SEA context | Implement the SEA | Inform, influence, and make recommendations | Monitor and evaluate |

Phases in SEA (OECD-DAC, 2006)

1. Establishing the context for SEA
   - Screening
   - Setting objectives
   - Identifying **stakeholders**

2. Implementing the SEA
   - Scoping (in dialogue with **stakeholders**)
   - Collecting baseline data
   - Identifying alternatives
   - How to enhance opportunities and mitigate negative impacts
   - Quality assurance
   - Reporting

3. Informing decision making
   - Make recommendations (in dialogue with **stakeholders**)

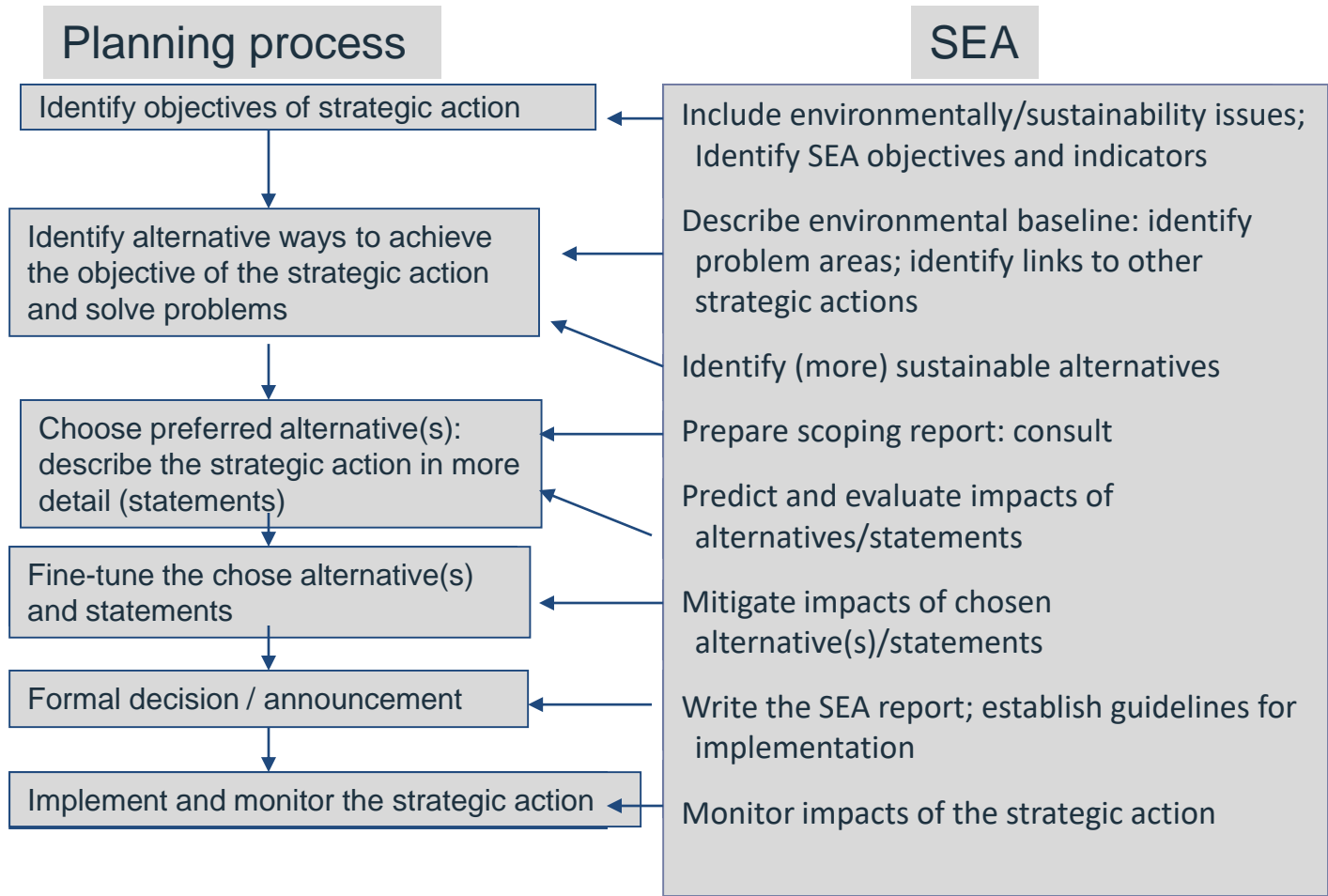4. Monitoring and evaluation

OECD-DAC, 2006

(http://www.seataskteam.net/guidance.php)

mostly technical

Phases in SEA (OECD-DAC, 2006)

	S...
Screening	M...
Scoping	C... st... e...
Public participation	F...
Assessment	M... ju...
Quality review	B... st...
Decision making	C... a...
Monitoring	F...

1. Establishing the context for SEA
   - Screening
   - Setting objectives
   - Identifying stakeholders
2. Implementing the SEA
   - Scoping (in dialogue with stakeholders)
   - Collecting baseline data
   - Identifying alternatives
   - How to enhance opportunities and mitigate negative impacts
   - Quality assurance
   - Reporting
3. Informing decision making
   - Make recommendations (in dialogue with stakeholders)
4. Monitoring and evaluation

Riki Therivel suggested methodology for SEA in the UK (2004)

Planning process

SEA

Identify objectives of strategic action

Include environmentally/sustainability issues; Identify SEA objectives and indicators

Identify alternative ways to achieve the objective of the strategic action and solve problems

Describe environmental baseline: identify problem areas; identify links to other strategic actions

Identify (more) sustainable alternatives

Choose preferred alternative(s): describe the strategic action in more detail (statements)

Prepare scoping report: consult

Predict and evaluate impacts of alternatives/statements

Fine-tune the chose alternative(s) and statements

Mitigate impacts of chosen alternative(s)/statements

Formal decision / announcement

Write the SEA report; establish guidelines for implementation

Implement and monitor the strategic action

Monitor impacts of the strategic action
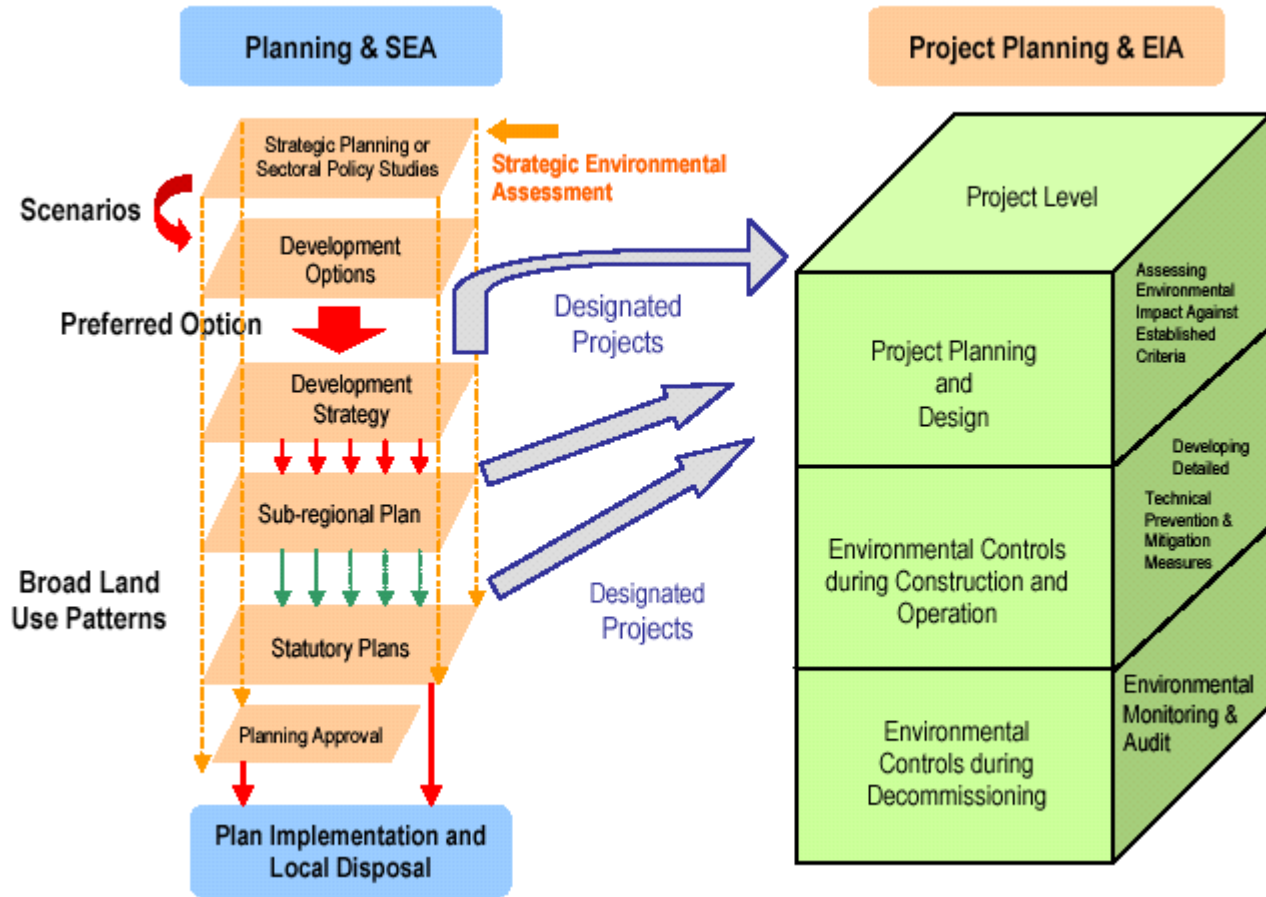
Generic SEA steps in Hong-Kong

Continuous interaction with public and stakeholders

1. Understanding the needs, nature and objectives of PPP

2. Design/select SEA process and methods

3. Initial screening and scoping

INITIAL ASSESSMENT

4. Baseline / background studies

5. Identify and examine strategic environmental issues and linkages

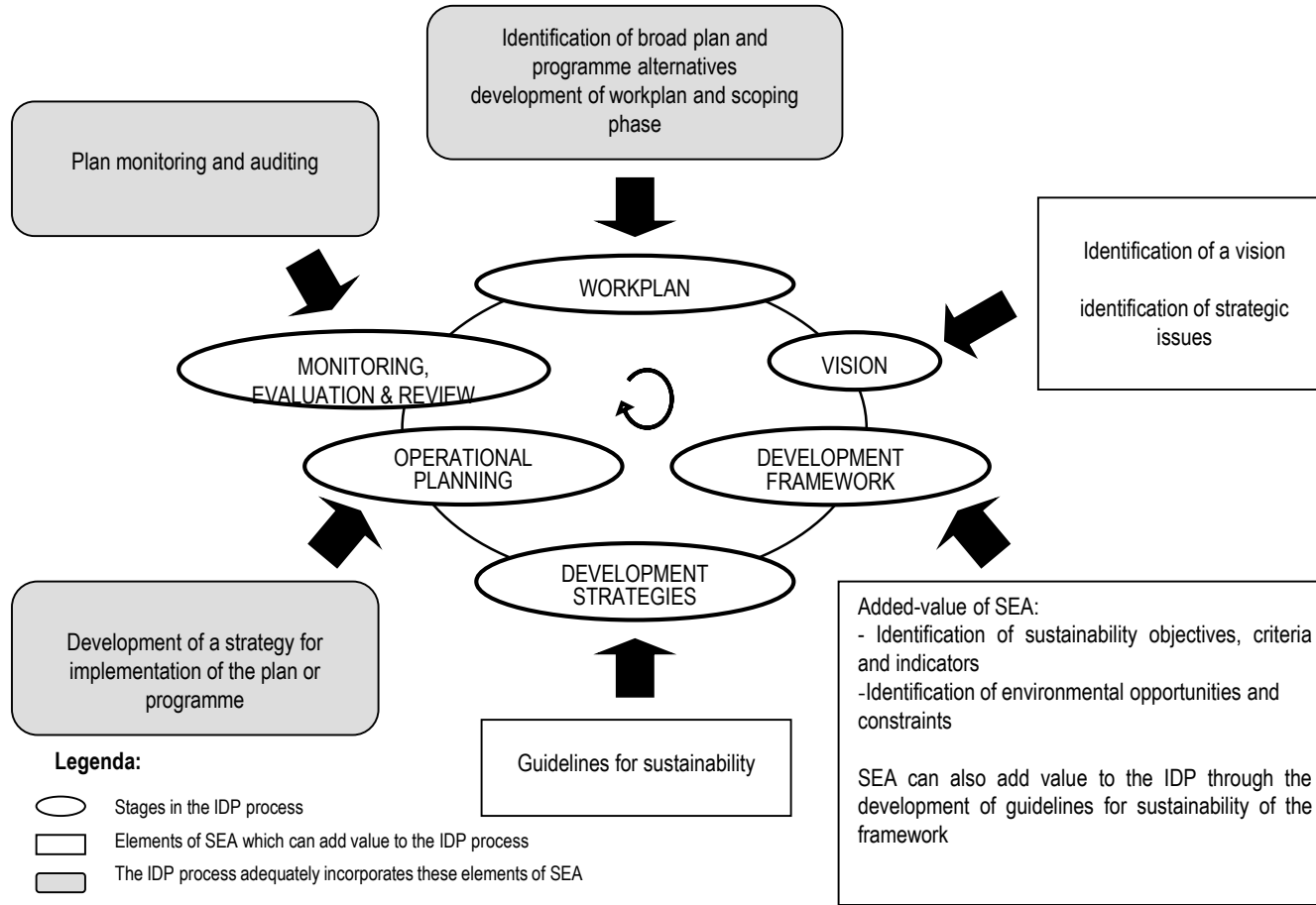6. Identify and evaluate possible options, alternatives means and resulting environmental implications

FINAL ASSESSMENT

7. Identify and evaluate preferred options
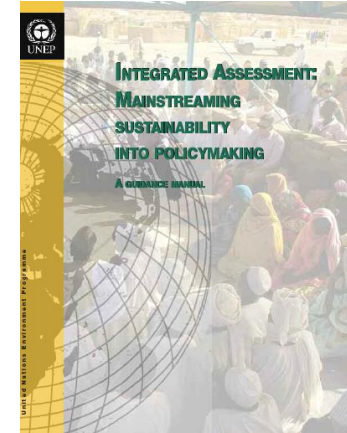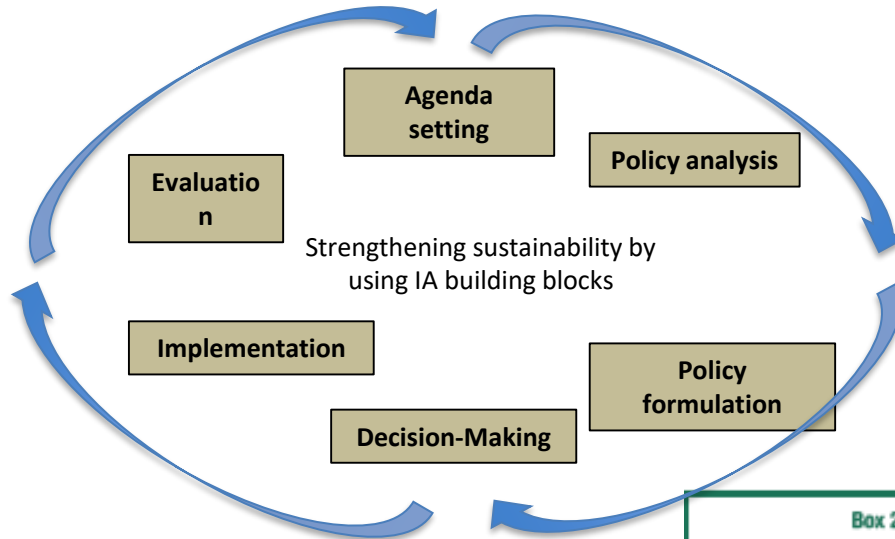
8. Determine follow-up actions, monitoring requirements

Hong-Kong Manual for SEA, 2004

South Africa - Integrated Development Planning (IDP) Process and elements of SEA (DEAT-CSIR, 2000)

UNEP, 2009 (http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/index.php)

Strengthening sustainability by using IA building blocks

- Agenda setting
- Policy analysis
- Policy formulation
- Decision-Making
- Implementation
- Evaluation

Box 2.1: Integrated Assessment building blocks

A. Process
A1: Process design and links
A2: Policymaking decision windows
A3: Communication strategy formulating

B. Policy Institutional context
B1: Institutional analysis and change
B2: IA team organizational model
B3: Stakeholder engagement and strengthening civil society
B4: Evaluation and learning

C. Analytical Contents
C1: Strategic framework and identification of key sustainability issues
C2: Trends and scenarios
C3: Identification of opportunities and alternative policy option
C4: Assessment of impacts/ risks and benefits
C5: Monitoring and evaluation

2009

UNEP (http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/index.php)

Integrated Assessment: building blocks (UNEP, 2009)

Components of an SEA

A. Process

A1: Process design and links
A2: Policymaking decision windows
A3: Communication strategy formulating

B. Policy Institutional Context

B1: Institutional analysis and change
B2: IA team organizational model
B3 Stakeholder engagement and strengthening civil society
B4: Evaluation and learning

C. Analytical contexts

C1: Strategic framework and identification of key sustainability issues
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Status of SEA International

Bad current practice	Current practice	Innovative practice
report driven	Impact driven (Traditional SEA – uses same logic of EIA)	Strategic thinking SEA

Impact based practice vs strategic thinking

- Impact based – seek impact assessment – backwards looking (assesses effects on existing values, corrects situations)

- Strategic thinking – seek creating contexts for sustainability – forward looking (opens opportunities, explores new values)