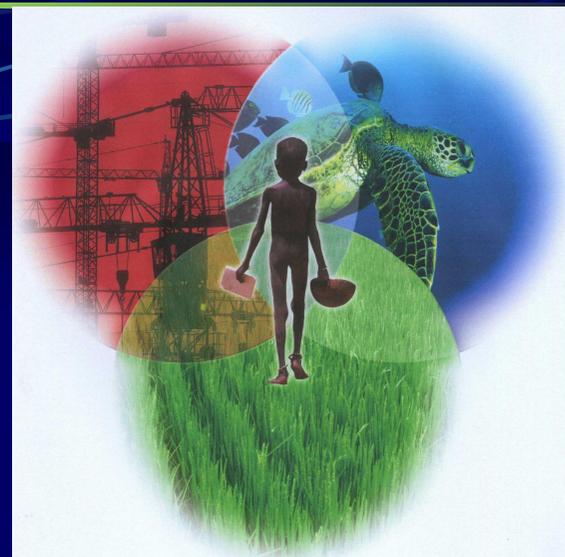


STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT in Development Cooperation

**Brief comparison with SEA
Directive, SEA Protocol and
World Bank OP/BP 4.01**

Jon Hobbs



Purpose of Presentation

- To introduce and place DAC *Guidance* in the context of other internationally important SEA regimes
- Brief comparison of differences and similarities with EC, UNECE and World Bank frameworks
- Guidance now being implemented and pilot tested by members and partners
- As part of this effort, looking at relationships to other instruments that apply to bear on development cooperation or opportunities for coordinating activities and supporting capacity development in partner countries

Basis and Status of Approaches

- DAC Guidance (2006) is a common approach framework, outlines SEA tools and opportunities for application for discretionary use of DAC members and partners
- EC Directive (2001, in force since 2004) is a framework law, contains basic provision and requirements for SEA; binding on EU member states (leaving the process to their discretion)
- UNECE Protocol (2003, not yet in force) is similar instrument but with more detailed (trans-boundary) provisions; once ratified is binding on Parties and open to accession by all countries
- World Bank OP/BP on EA (1989, amended to 1999) is part of safeguard policy, outside this framework, SEA applied on non-mandatory basis

Coverage and examples of use

- DAC guidance covers all development cooperation PPP; from macro-level and infrastructure strategies led by partners to donor county assistance, institution and sector initiatives
- EC Directive applies to major plans/ programmes for specified sectors such as water, energy, transport and land use or which effect sites subject to assessment under the Habitat Directive
- UNECE Protocol covers same types of plans/programmes, also encourages application to policies and legislation. Current focus on capacity building and preparedness
- World Bank uses sector and regional SEA as part of safeguards policy, also used more flexibly for development policy lending, analytical and advisory work and technical assistance

Areas of Similarity

- Stated purpose and aims (mainstreaming and protecting the environment)
- Role and relationship to decision-making (aiding and advisory)
- Basic principles and fundamentals (systematic, analytical and participatory approach)
- Main steps and elements (screening, consultation measures, information for decision-making etc)

Areas of Difference

- Nature of requirements >> legal, procedural 'musts' of the Directive and Protocol versus 'should do's' of Bank OP/BP 4.01 or 'good practices' of DAC guidance
- Definition of SEA >> procedurally as in the Directive and Protocol or generically as in Bank or DAC guidance (which includes integrated, sustainability approaches)
- Scope of application >> specifically defined (Directive, Protocol) versus more open ended (Bank, DAC guidance)
- Track record of implementation ranges from
 - >> considerable – decade plus at Bank
 - >> recent – Directive still in early phase
 - >> piloting -- DAC guidance

Sign off messages

- DAC guidance adds a fourth international cornerstone to SEA frameworks
- These reflect a diversity of approaches and good practice advice, consistent with their mandates
- Important to retain this broad family of fit-for-purpose SEA instruments
- But also critical to indicate how these relate to each other so as to offer a coherent approach for developing countries
- We need to work further on this [and it is proposed to.....]

Increasing value and importance of 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 less effective at these levels - need an upstream, holistic approach
- OECD DAC policy guidance on SEA (2006) - to
 - Support accelerated application of SEA in development cooperation
 - Encourage greater harmonisation of SEA approaches

DAC Guidance on SEA: Contents

- Executive summary
- Introduction
- Understanding SEA
- Benefits of using SEA in development cooperation
- Towards SEA good practice: principles and processes
- 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
- How to evaluate an SEA
- Capacity development for SEA in development cooperation
- Appendices