



SEA Guidance for Renewable Energy Development

An IAIA Initiative

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Presentation to EU Energy Community



Rationale

- **International/national commitments** to address climate change and support for the **Energy Transition Mechanism** (ETM) requires the retirement of coal and other fossil fuel power facilities and movement towards renewable energy (RE) supplies (wind, hydropower, solar, tidal, bioenergy & geothermal)
- There is a need to foster the application of **SEA to support planning for ETM** and development of RE development
- Initial focus is on the use of **SEA for RE by national governments** (applied to PPPs for energy sector)
- Requires a strong focus on **capacity strengthening and outreach** beyond guidance development

A Multi Phase Initiative

- **A: Launch Phase** (January - June 2022):
 - Develop a draft outline of the guidance
 - Establish oversight through a 'Partners Council' and 'Technical Advisory Committee'
- **B: Development Phase** (November 2022 – September 2023)
 - Preparing draft & final approved guidelines
- **C: Implementation/roll-out** (Mid 2023 – 2027 onwards)
 - Regional and other workshops (piggy-backing)
 - Testing guidance in various countries – voluntary application to renewable energy plans and programs
 - Building awareness and capacity, and training for SEA for renewable energy facilities
 - Dissemination of guidelines
 - Case study project applications for different renewable energy facilities

Inventory of SEA Guidelines

Lots of available guidelines: 142 identified to date

- Africa (15)
- Asia (20)
- Middle East (0)
- Caribbean and South and Central America (2)
- Europe (37)
- North America (1)
- Mediterranean (1)
- Australia, New Zealand and Pacific (2)
- UN and international organisations (14)
- IFIs and bilateral donors (3)
- Themes and topics (28)
- Others (19)

Most in electronic library as pdfs, some as url (web resource):

<https://www.iaia.org/hot-topics.php>

The image displays three book covers related to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The top left cover is titled "Applying Strategic Environmental Assessment" and is part of the "DAC Guidelines and Reference Series" by OECD Publishing. It features a central illustration of a person holding baskets, surrounded by symbols of industry and nature. The top right cover is titled "Resource Manual to Support Application of the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment" and is published by the United Nations. It features a collage of various landscape and urban scenes. The bottom right cover is titled "Guidelines for Drafting Strategic Environmental Assessment" and is published by UN-Habitat. It features a colorful illustration of a person walking through a stylized landscape with buildings and a globe.

c.100 of 193 UN member states have adopted SEA legislation.

SESA being applied to ETM in Indonesia and Philippines

SESAs addressing the impacts of

- Retiring an identified set of existing coal generation plants
- Associated infrastructure (including mine closure)
- New renewable energy generation options.

- ETM will provide many benefits and opportunities
- But may result in negative environmental and socio-economic risks and impacts.
- Renewables are not necessarily benign

Some examples of key issues

- Loss of land and forests (for access roads, transmission lines)
- Loss of biodiversity
- Waste (solar panels, wind turbines)
- Loss of jobs
- Gender issues
- Effects on regional economies

Types of Guidelines

- **'Full' generic guidelines** - cover all types of application - include context, history of SEA and theory (e.g. objectives and principles, comparison with EIA, costs and benefits, stakeholder engagement), legal aspects, process steps, available tools and methods reporting requirements, developing SEMP, quality assurance, etc.). Tend to be less common (e.g. Bhutan, Kenya, Thailand).
- **'Full' guidelines which focus on a particular theme or sector** such as hydropower (e.g. Pakistan), transboundary (e.g. Kenya), health (e.g. UK).
- **Skeletal and cover partial aspects of a 'full' guideline** (e.g. Nigeria).
- **Mix of actual guidance and other background and academic overview materials concerning SEA** (e.g. India).
- **Mainly set out government formal requirements** (e.g. what SEA must be applied to, responsibilities, required scope/content, etc.) (e.g. Cote d'Ivoire)
 - Sometimes available only as online guidance (e.g. UK).
 - Tend to lack specific guidance on process and good practice.

Outline Framework for Draft Table of Contents

- Executive summary
- Introduction
- Legal context, requirements & commitments to applying SEA
- Stages and steps in undertaking an SEA
- Key issues for SEAs on national/regional energy PPPs
- Key issues for SEA in : hydropower, wind, solar, bioenergy, geothermal, tidal, retirement of CFPPs/mine closure
- References
- Annexes

General & generic issues, common to all SEAs

Chapters specific to different RE/energy types



Format of Guidelines

- Initial single volume document (likely to be large)
- Convert to online (IAIA website) resource – make attractive, easy to use
- Rolling resource (add content and examples)
- Accompany with case studies, videos, source materials, etc.



Key Challenges for SEA

1. Ensuring that **TORs** are well constructed and focus on the essentials - this has a lot to do with decision-makers lack of understanding of SEA
2. Getting adequate and effective **stakeholder engagement**
3. Inadequate addressing of **alternatives and cumulative impacts**
4. Inadequate investment in the **scoping** phase - including determining whether an impacts-based or objectives-based approach should be followed
5. **Institutional challenges**, rivalries and conflicts regarding implementation, monitoring and follow-up of SEA/SESMP recommendations

Additional challenges for SEA – particularly in developing countries

1. Securing effective **political will** for SEA process
2. **Lack of awareness** of the role, functions, modalities and benefits of SEA to planning and decision-making
3. **Inadequate integration of the SEA with the planning and decision-making process** (all too often an SEA is unable to influence a decision)
4. Availability/accessibility, reliability and relevance of **data**

Thank You!

Please help the process

- What SEAs have been conducted (or are being planned) for National Energy Plans and Policies?
- Wish to participate in the Reference Group?
- Want to receive more information or comment on the process?
- Want to join the Partner's Council?

Contact the consultants preparing the guidance:

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