

Greater Mekong Subregion Strategic Environmental Assessment

Knowledge Sharing Forum

30-31 October 2014, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Concept Note and Agenda

BACKGROUND

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a framework to assess the environmental, and often social, consequences of development policies, plans and programs. It is increasingly recognised that SEA is a process which helps to make policies, plans and programs more sustainable, in particular in light of the political discussion on green growth and Post-2015 development agenda. Uptake of SEA in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) varies between countries. Early adopting countries such as the People's Republic of China and Viet Nam already apply SEA in a number of different contexts while other GMS countries such as Lao PDR are only now putting in place legislation, guidelines and methodologies for applying SEA to policies, plans and programs.

Through the GMS Core Environment Program, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other development partners are supporting the GMS countries to develop and improve SEA regulatory and implementation frameworks, and to build country capacity to incorporate SEA into planning, policy setting and programming processes. Numerous awareness raising and capacity building activities and SEA exercises have now been completed, encompassing a variety of regional, national and sub-national planning processes.

To better tailor and target future SEA capacity development efforts, it is timely to take stock and review the extent to which SEA systems have been established in the GMS, and to put this into context with global best practice to identify opportunities for improvements. The assessment and review will capture:

- the extent to which SEA has been institutionalized as a planning tool within government;

- how well SEA has contributed to national and sector planning processes and how effective SEA has helped to deliver more sustainable policies and investment decisions;
- challenges and opportunities for increasing the effective use of SEA in the GMS.

The expected overall outcome of the SEA Knowledge Sharing Forum will be an increased recognition of the benefits of SEA for achieving regional and national sustainable planning, awareness of present SEA knowledge and capacity gaps, and clear priorities to tackle these challenges. Outcomes of this Forum will ultimately deliver concrete messages and recommendations to the Fourth GMS Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM4), taking place in January 2015. These recommendations will focus on how to ensure effective SEA approaches are scaled up to deliver more sustainable development policies, plans and programs in the GMS.

Objectives

The Forum will be hosted by the ADB GMS Environment Operations Center (EOC) and the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, with funding support from the GMS Core Environment Program. It will bring together country SEA practitioners and policymakers – including GMS government officials from ministries engaged in sector- or area-based strategic planning – as well as representatives from international organizations, research institutes, and non-government organizations. During the two-day event they will share their experience and knowledge of SEA application at regional, national and sector levels. In doing so, the Forum aims to:

- identify good practices at global, regional and national levels in establishing SEA systems and integrating SEA into decision making processes;
- assess the effectiveness of SEA in the GMS, including the extent to which SEA outcomes have benefited policy and investment decisions;
- build understanding of the challenges and opportunities countries face in applying SEA for national and sector planning, as well as define enabling conditions required to further the uptake of SEA in GMS countries;
- present technical and analytical development of SEA approaches and tools, as well as potential for their adoption in the GMS;
- map support from international development agencies on applying SEA for decision making in the GMS region, as well as recommend actions to strengthen support;
- identify concrete actions for GMS countries to take to benefit from the use of SEA as a multisector and multicriteria approach for achieving green growth and Post-2015 development goals.

About the GMS Core Environment Program

The Core Environment Program (CEP) is supporting the GMS in delivering environmentally friendly economic growth. Overseen by the environment ministries of the six GMS countries and administered by the Asian Development Bank, CEP promotes regional cooperation to improve development planning, safeguards, monitoring, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience. CEP is also a leader in supporting GMS countries to carry out SEA activities.

Find out more: www.gms-eoc.org

Day 1 – Thursday, 30 October 2014	
08:30 – 08:45	Opening and keynotes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan Hansen, Cambodia Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank (ADB) • H.E. Yin Kimsean, Secretary of State of Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
08:45 – 10:15	Session 1: Uptake and development of SEA in the context of green growth and Post-2015 development agenda – a global view <p>Two presentations and a moderated discussion will focus on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment, advancement and added value of SEA as a tool for making sustainable policies, sound investments and delivering more equitable social outcomes • Deployment of SEA at global level and progress made within developing countries • SEA in the context of green growth and Post-2015 development agenda Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanath Ranawana, Thailand Resident Mission, ADB Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry Dalal-Clayton, Environment and Development Services • Rob Verheem, Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 – 12:30	Session 2: Deployment of SEA in the GMS countries for strategic level planning – experiences, outcomes and challenges foreseen <p>Three presentations and a moderated discussion will focus on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMS country approaches and experience in establishing SEA systems (i.e. through legislation, frameworks, procedures and institutional set-ups) • Effectiveness of SEA as a tool for safeguarding and delivering policy and investment decisions to achieve sustainable development outcomes • Enabling conditions to support the use of SEA systems for sustainable national development planning and social policy process • Challenges in deploying SEA in the GMS countries and proposed actions to overcome these challenges / improve the quality of current practices for meeting green growth policy objectives and Post-2015 development goals Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter King, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haoguang Cheng, School of Environment, Beijing Normal University, PRC • Pham Anh Dung, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam • Ketkeo Salichanh, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR • Danh Serey, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
12:30 – 13:45	Lunch Break

<p>13:45 – 15:45</p>	<p>Parallel Session: Applying SEA for sector and thematic level policy making – experiences, outcomes and policy implications</p> <p>Each session will be involve one or two presentations and a moderated discussion on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMS experience in applying SEA at sector and thematic level for deriving sustainable policy outcomes • Effectiveness of SEA as a tool to safeguard and achieve sustainable sector level policy making • Enabling conditions to support the use of SEA at sector and thematic levels • Challenges in applying SEA at sector and thematic levels and proposed actions to overcome these challenges 		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p><i>Parallel session 1 – SEA and power sector development</i></p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Soussan, Independent International consultant <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating SEA into regional power planning by Peter-John Maynell, International Centre for Environmental Management (ICEM) • Applying SEA to hydropower planning by Jeremy Carew-Reid, ICEM • Country perspective by Huyen Nguyen Thi Thu, Institute of Energy, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam </td> <td> <p><i>Parallel session 2 – SEA and integrated spatial planning</i></p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simone Quatrini, Global Mechanism, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Country perspective</i> by Ken Serey Rotha, General Secretariat for Green Growth, Cambodia and Loeung Kesaro, Cambodia National Mekong Committee • <i>Country perspective</i> by Peter Jensen, Environmental Management Support Programme, Lao PDR </td> </tr> </table>	<p><i>Parallel session 1 – SEA and power sector development</i></p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Soussan, Independent International consultant <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating SEA into regional power planning by Peter-John Maynell, International Centre for Environmental Management (ICEM) • Applying SEA to hydropower planning by Jeremy Carew-Reid, ICEM • Country perspective by Huyen Nguyen Thi Thu, Institute of Energy, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam 	<p><i>Parallel session 2 – SEA and integrated spatial planning</i></p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simone Quatrini, Global Mechanism, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Country perspective</i> by Ken Serey Rotha, General Secretariat for Green Growth, Cambodia and Loeung Kesaro, Cambodia National Mekong Committee • <i>Country perspective</i> by Peter Jensen, Environmental Management Support Programme, Lao PDR
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<p>15:45 – 16:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Coffee Break</p>		
<p>16:00 – 17:30</p>	<p>Session 3: SEA uptakes in other regions – cross-regional knowledge sharing</p> <p>Two presentations and a moderated discussion will focus on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEA deployment internationally • Experience to date – good practices, challenges and opportunities <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Smajgl, Mekong Region Futures Institute <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>African perspective</i> - Barry Dalal-Clayton, Environment and Development Services • <i>Elsewhere in Asia</i> – David Annandale, Independent International Consultant 		

<p>17:30 – 18:00</p>	<p>Session 4: Identifying actions to improve the effectiveness of SEA</p> <p>Based on Day 1’s discussion, this short moderated session will aim to identify priority actions required to overcome existing challenges and improve the effectiveness of SEA both in national level policy making and sector / thematic policy making</p> <p>Reappporteur</p> <p>Iain Watson and Shannon Wang, ADB GMS EOC</p>
<p>18:30</p>	<p>Reception</p>
<p>Day 2 – Friday, 31 October 2014</p>	
<p>09:00 – 11:00</p>	<p>Session 5: Development, challenges and research needed in making SEA process and tools more effective</p> <p>Five presentations (three focus on the technical aspect and one focuses on the SEA process) and a moderated discussion on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEA tools, in particular tools for sector planning, multicriteria analysis and natural capital valuation • Good practices to make SEA process more holistic and enhancing public engagement • Development of SEA guidelines and procedures • Challenges and areas requiring further research and guidance <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Verheem, Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baromey Neth, InVEST, WWF • Andrea Bassi, LIVES Initiative • Nguyen Hanh Quyen, ADB GMS EOC • David Annandale, Independent International Consultant
<p>11:00 – 11:15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Coffee Break</p>
<p>11:15 – 12:30</p>	<p>Session 5 (cont’d): A technical session on tools for analysing land use impacts</p> <p>This session, a mini technical workshop, aims to present current tools and case studies for valuing and analysing the impacts of land use change.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simone Quatrini, Global Mechanism, UNCCD <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke Brander, Freelance Environmental Economist • Siv Oystese, Global Mechanisms, UNCCD • Tracy Farrell, Conservation International
<p>12:30 – 13:45</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch Break</p>

<p>13:45 – 15:15</p>	<p>Session 6: International support to strengthen and scale up SEA deployment in the GMS</p> <p>Two presentations and a panel discussion will focus on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of development cooperation support in promoting SEA deployment in GMS to meet green growth objectives and Post-2015 development goals • Ideas on how to better respond to SEA needs in GMS and other developing countries, such as through understanding country decision making structures and implementing capacity building programmes • Development cooperation to deploy internal SEA processes to ensure agency wise policy coherence and sustainability of their development policies <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Jensen, Environmental Management Support Programme, Lao PDR <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anja Beier, Environment and Development Help Desk, Swedish International Development Agency • Claus Pedersen, NIRAS Natura, Sweden • Sarah Bieber, United States Agency for International Development
<p>15:15 – 15:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Coffee Break</p>
<p>15:30 – 17:00</p>	<p>Session 7: Develop concrete action points for the upcoming EMM</p> <p>This interactive session will focus on drafting a set of generic and country specific action points that can feed into the EMM4 preparation process. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus on the use of SEA for sustainable decision making, in particular in the context of green growth and Post-2015 agenda • Challenges identified by GMS countries in deploying SEA systems for national level policy making and sector / thematic level decision making • Actions and enabling conditions required to overcome these challenges • SEA research and scoping capacity development needs to reflect evolving SEA knowledge • International support for effective SEA deployment • Cross-country / cross-region knowledge sharing and its benefits <p>Moderator</p> <p>Rob Verheem, Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment</p> <p>Reapporteur</p> <p>Iain Watson, ADB GMS EOC</p>
<p>17:00 – 17:30</p>	<p>Session 5: Conclusions and final remarks by Michael Green, ADB GMS EOC</p>