

THE ROLE OF SEA AND ITS VALUE IN THE CONTEXT OF GREEN GROWTH AND THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

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&

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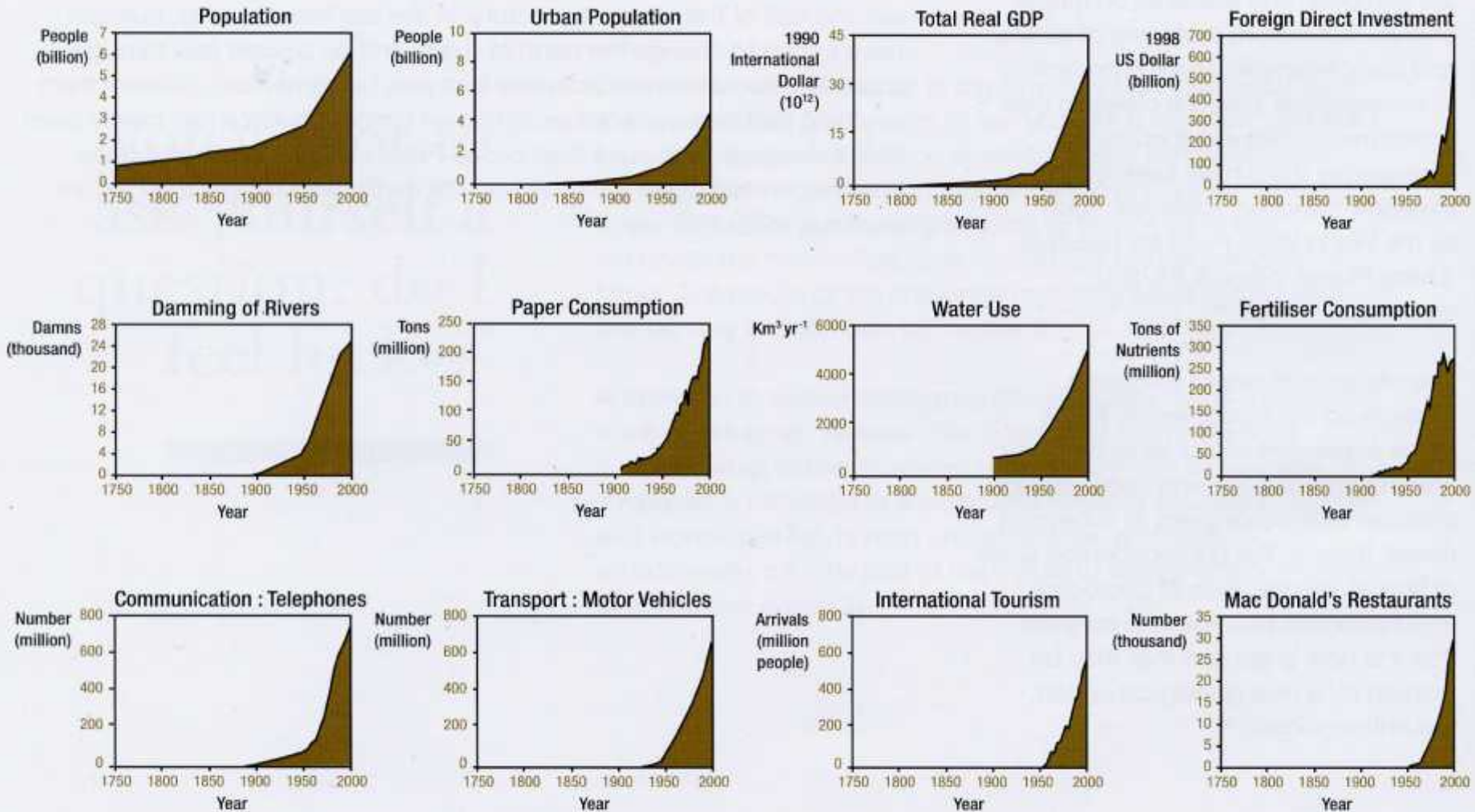


OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- **Why do we need SEA?** – Barry Dalal-Clayton
- **What is SEA and how best to do it?** – Rob Verheem
- **SEA and Green Growth** – Barry Dalal-Clayton

WHY DO WE NEED SEA?

RAPIDLY GROWING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY



Source: Steffen et al. (see note 20)

... is breaching ecological limits...

Loss of biodiversity



Deforestation



Soil erosion



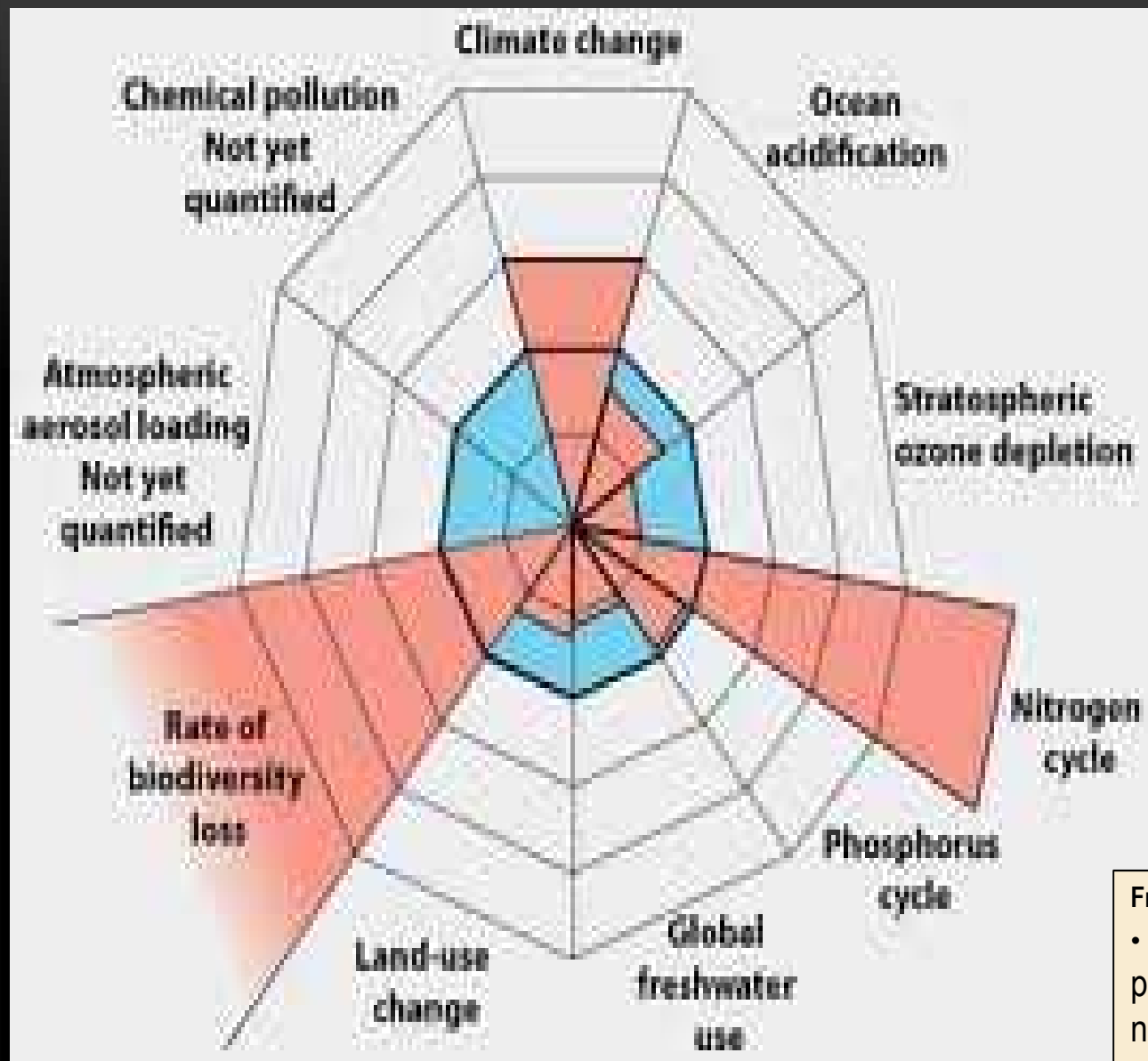
Rapid population growth



Climate change



Pollution



- **60% of ecosystems are degraded** (MA 2005)
- **Cost = 11% of GDP** (UNEP, 2010)

From article in "Nature", 2009

- Inner blue shading represents the proposed safe operating space for nine **planetary systems**.
- Red wedges represent an estimate of the current position for each variable – 3 exceeded

Breaching planetary boundaries

BEWARE UPSETTING THE FINE BALANCE

Environmental Mainstreaming through SEA is critical for SD and Green Growth



Social

Economic

Environment

Environment

SEA is a key tool for Environmental integration

- Integrating environment into development policy, planning and investment **never more urgent**, eg

- Climate-proofing infrastructure and agriculture



- Making industry water-efficient and clean



- Tackling environmental deprivations of poor people



WHAT IS THE NCEA?

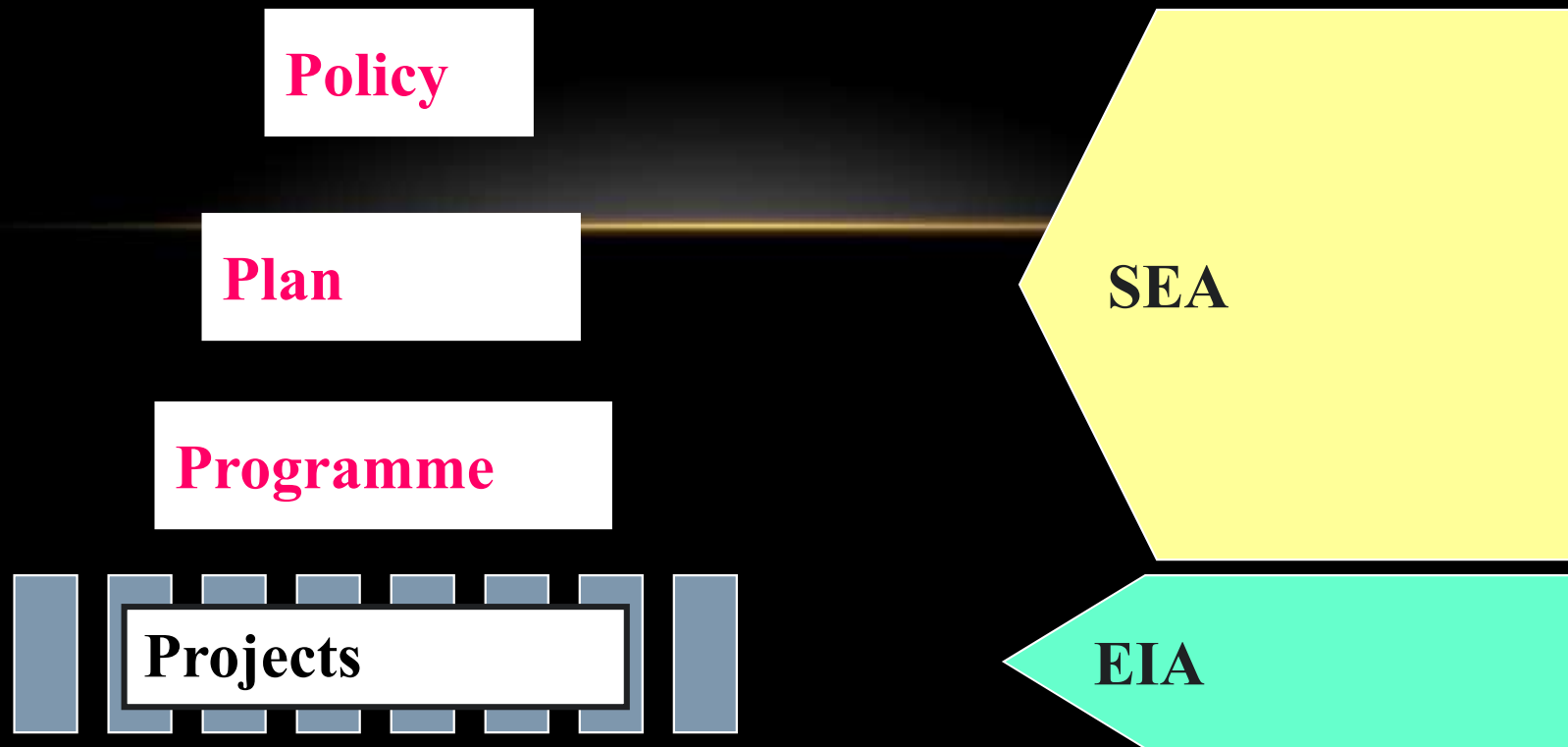
- Established by government; independent knowledge institute
- In The Netherlands: legal role to review EIA/SEA quality
- International: support (developing) countries in quality review and strengthening EIA/SEA practice
- WWW.EIA.NL

WHAT IS SEA?

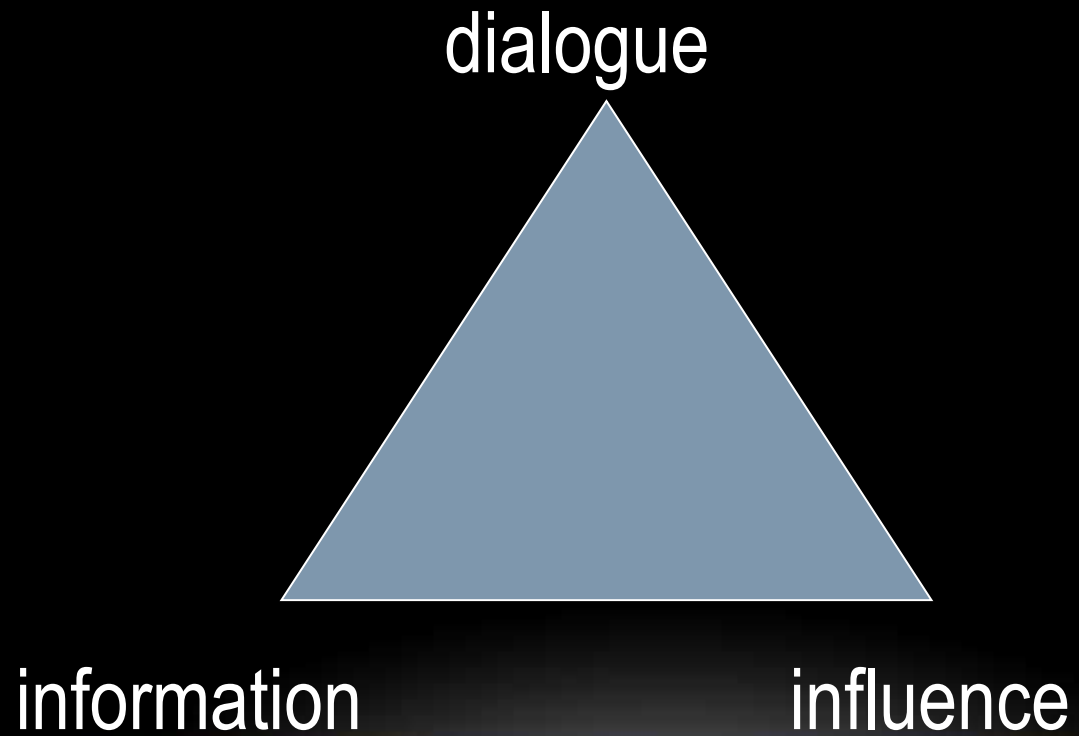
AND HOW BEST TO DO IT ?

- SEA = environmental & social issues
- SEA = SESA

SEA evolved to complement EIA

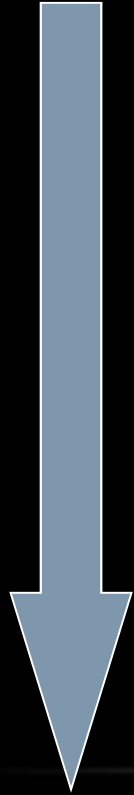


DEVELOPMENT OF SEA

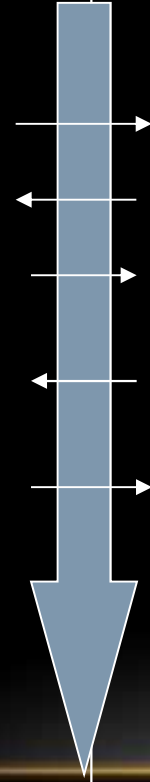


SEA IN PRACTICE

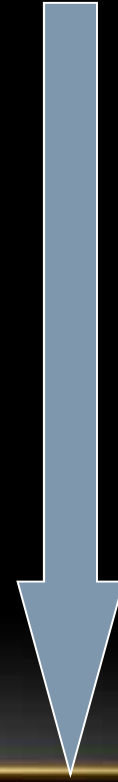
Planning



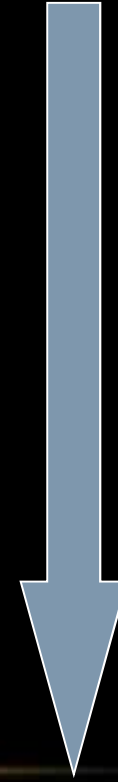
Influence



Dialogue



Information



HOW TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE SEA APPROACH?

- Have a good legal SEA procedure
- Organise an effective SEA process
- Create mechanisms for influence

WHAT IS A GOOD SEA PROCEDURE?

A complete set of legal requirements on:

- Information (impacts & institutional analysis)
- dialogue & communication
- Influence, e.g. transparency & accountability

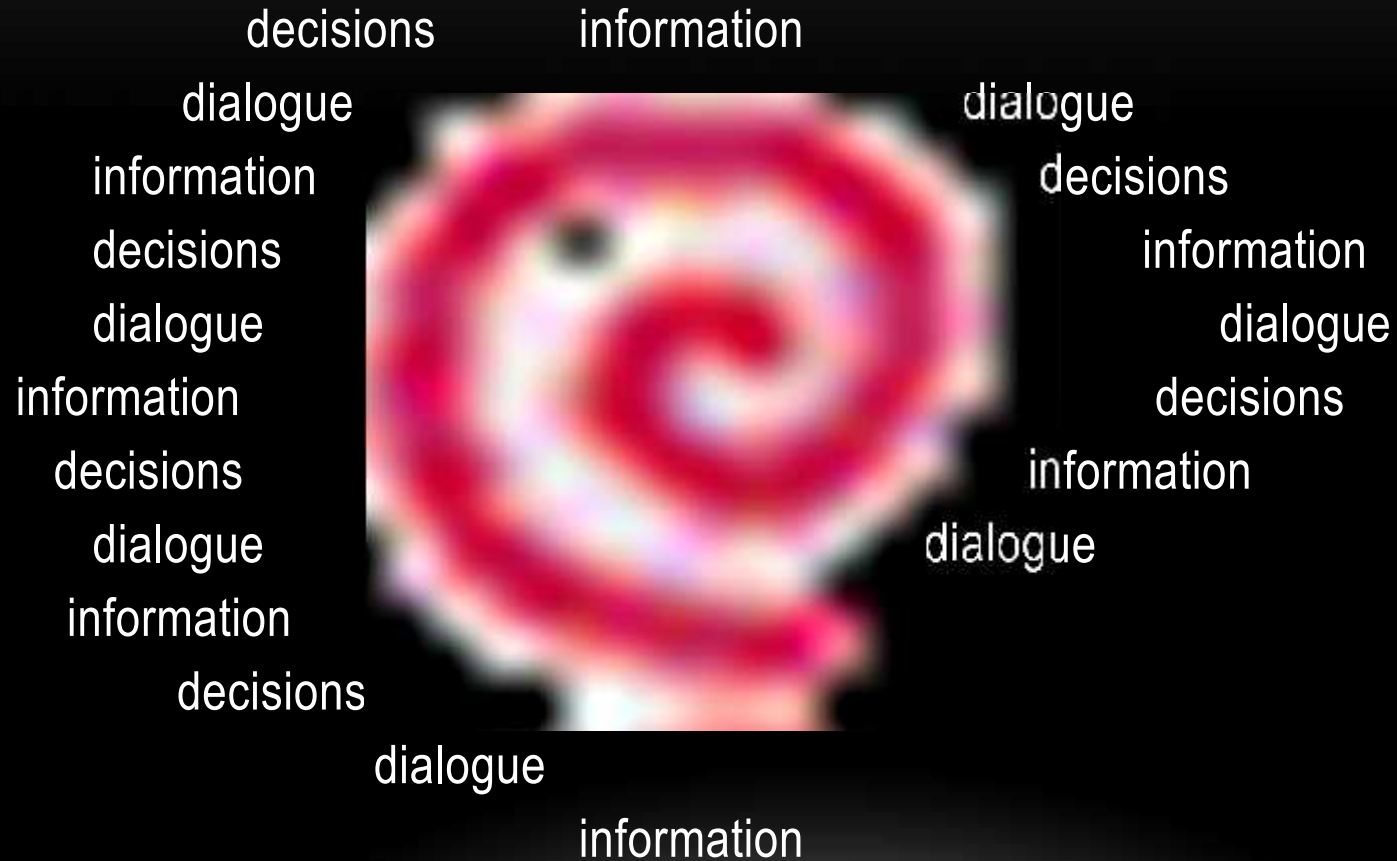
EXAMPLE: OECD RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE



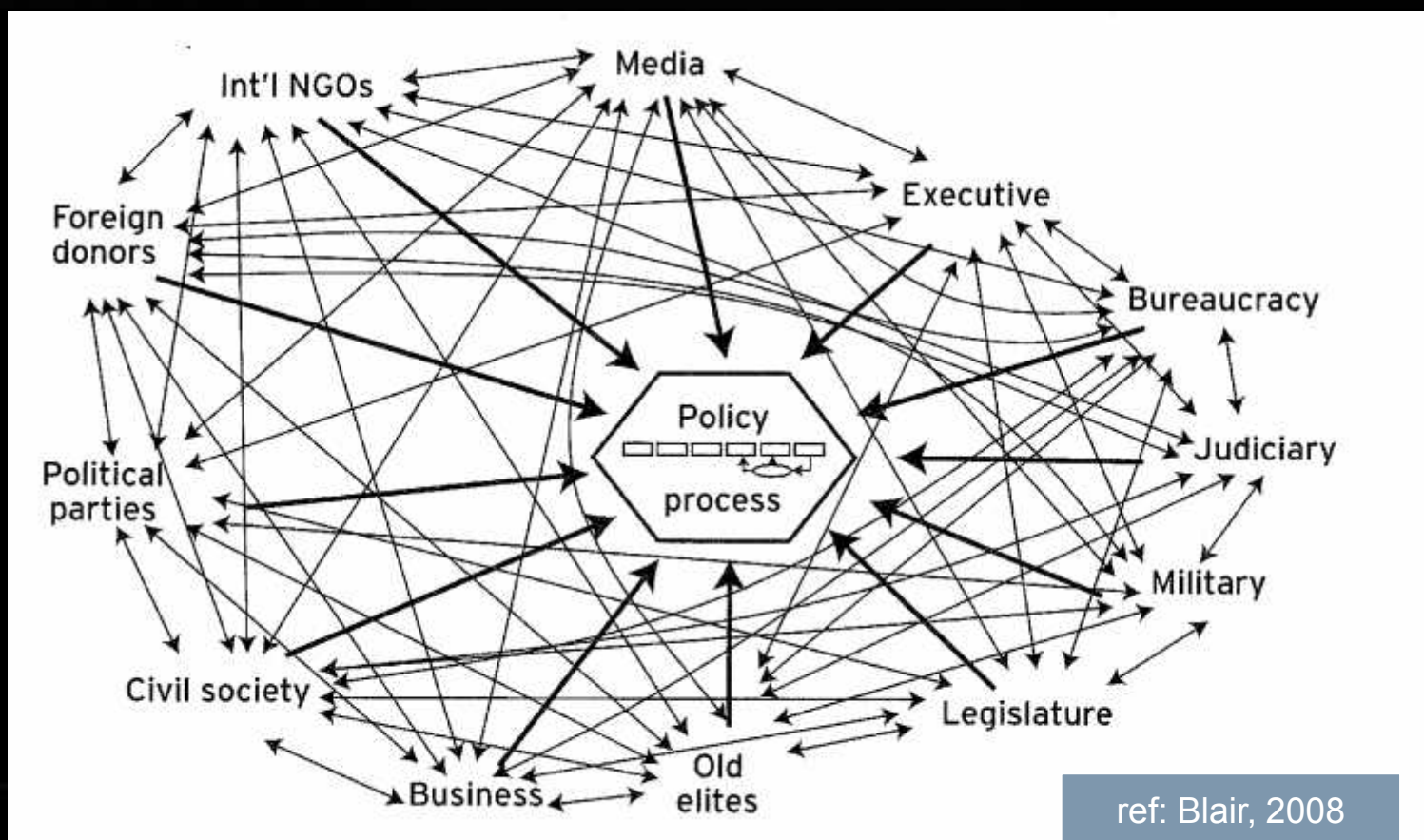
WHAT IS AN EFFECTIVE SEA PROCESS?

Don't mistake a good legal SEA procedure for an effective SEA process!

STRATEGIC PLANNING IS NON-LINEAR



PLANNING IS COMPLEX & UNPREDICTABLE

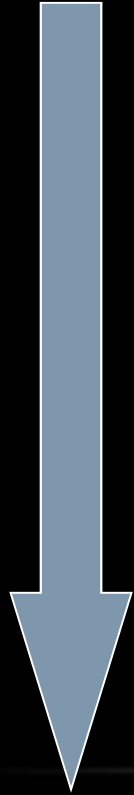


CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EFFECTIVE PROCESS

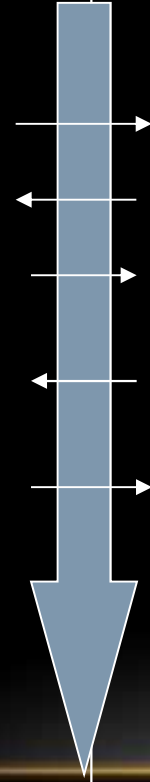
- **Iterative:** ongoing sequence of information, dialogue and decision making
- **Flexible** to meet ever changing demands
- **Continuously integrated** into decision making process

SEA IN PRACTICE

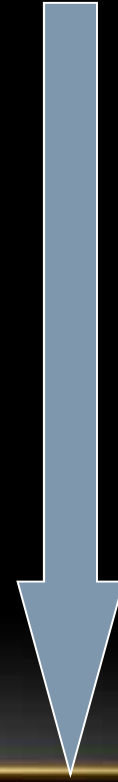
Planning



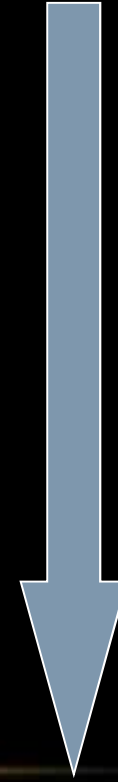
Influence



Dialogue



Information



HOW TO CREATE INFLUENCE? (1)

- Ensure high quality of SEA
- Have independent quality assurance
- Create transparency
- Increase accountability

HOW TO INCREASE INFLUENCE? (2)

- Have the timing right
- Ensure media coverage
- Find high level champions
- Communication: speak the right language (money?)

In summary: what is SEA?

- **analytical** and **participatory** approach
- to **influence** policies & plans by **integrating** environmental considerations
- to evaluate the inter linkages with **economic** and **social** considerations

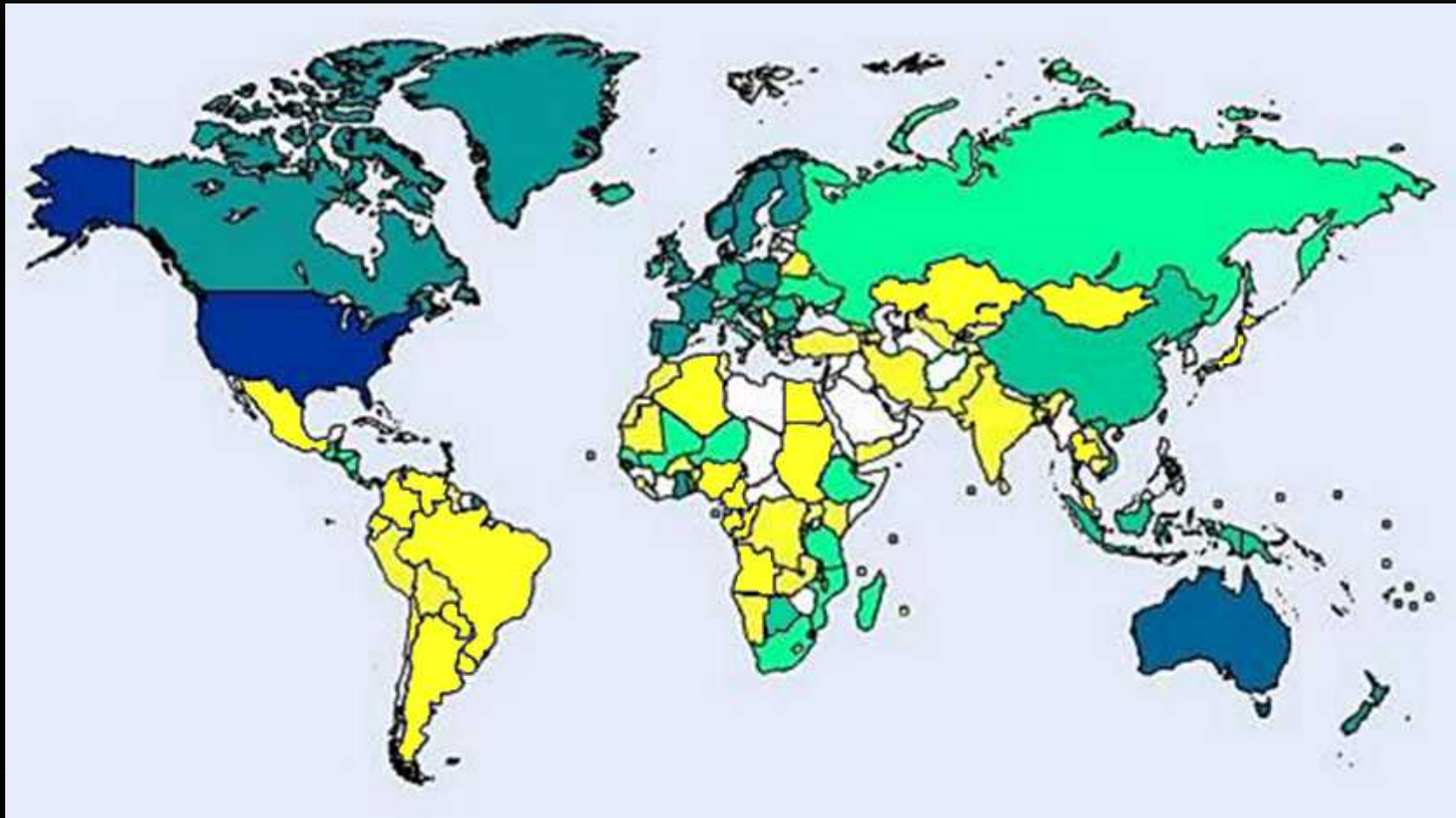
OECD DAC SEA Task Team (2006)



HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM EIA?

- **The process is non-linear and continuous**
- **The assessment includes institutions & governance**
- **Focuses on cumulative impacts of many projects**
- **Aims to prevent rather than mitigate**

SEA IS APPLIED AND DEVELOPING WORLD WIDE



Why is SEA important for green growth?

New policies and plans often fail to achieve green growth because:

- **Too little information** on the economic value of ecosystem services and the dependency of economic development on environment/social resources
- **Too little dialogue** between economic & financial stakeholders and environment and social stakeholders
- **Too little influence:** existing institutions have weak incentives to achieve green growth (they prefer vested interests and business as usual)

The role of SEA in achieving green growth

- **information:** show dependency of economy on environment, the value of ecosystems services, long term impacts of economic development
- **Dialogue:** organize dialogue between economic and environment/social agencies; between strong and weak stakeholders, between government and society
- **Influence:** create incentives by showing how economy depends on environment & social assets; enhance institutional innovation

SEA AND GREEN GROWTH

What is Green Growth / Green Economy ?

Various definitions – no consensus yet:

“Fostering growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the environmental resources and services on which human well-being relies”

[OECD]

Making more positive use of environmental assets within ecological limits

- **Use existing (or being developed) innovations or building blocks – social and technological, eg:.**
 - **Low-carbon energy, infrastructure and transport;**
 - **Sustainable systems of food production, water and sanitation, and waste;**
 - **Ways of protecting and sustainably using biodiversity and ecosystem services;**
 - **Green jobs, decent work, sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods that ensure social justice and equity, and set real measures for progress and wellbeing;**
 - **Investment in green sectors, environmental ‘accounting’ and the introduction of new business models;**
 - **Policy reform.**

Taking Green Growth Forward

Likely to see promotion of :

- Laws, policies, strategies & regulations
- Plans & programmes
- Projects & initiatives

to encourage, take to scale, & broaden uptake of a wide range of GG initiatives

- Clear role for SEA

SEA and Green Growth / Green Economy

- Few, if any, SEAs labelled as for GG purposes.
- But increasing number address issues relevant to GG/GE transition.

TWO KEY WAYS FOR SEA TO GREEN DECISION-MAKING

□ Providing 'green' information :

- describe environmental baseline;
- evaluate options re environmental impacts;
- Determine significance of *impacts*;
- Depict ways to avoid, minimise, mitigate, compensate for remaining impacts; and make recommendations
- Assess different components (eg water, flora, fauna) - various methods
- Systematic & participatory decision-support

□ Greening outcomes through SEA

- PPPs often give insufficient consideration to green aspects
- SEA leads to changes in PPP being assessed or in related PPPs
 - Direct – design of PPP; envir manag't commitments / conditions
 - Indirect - in medium to long term (eg leading to changed attitudes or values of those involved in the process, or changes in established routines of institutions).

Contexts / entry points for applying SEA to green economy

- Existing policies, plans & programmes (PPP)
- **Where no underlying PPP**
 - Critical role in informing early thinking and development of PPP
- Climate change & low-carbon growth initiatives
- **Sustainable transport**
- Waste management, water & sanitation
- **Ecosystems & sustainable use of biodiversity**
- Sustainable agriculture, food production & supply
- **Green energy (eg solar, biofuels)**
- Trade

Entry points for SEA in other initiatives

- SEA applied to development actions that are not specifically designed as GG/GE initiatives;
- Can indicate whether may → -ve envir. & social impacts that could counteract green growth aspirations.

SEA AND ENTRY POINTS

- 2 EXAMPLES

Green energy

- Wind, solar, plant matter, geothermal, wave power and tidal, improved energy efficiency
- Nuclear – sustainable? – controversial, concerns about peak uranium, radioactive waste disposal, risks of accidents, terrorism, natural disaster.
 - Namibia – SEA for uranium mining (2011)
- SEAs for green energy plans & schemes
 - UK - for licensing/leasing offshore oil & gas, gas importation & storage, CO₂ transport & storage, offshore wind, wave and tidal technologies
 - S.Africa – for SEAs for wind and solar PV developments
 - Iceland - Master Plan for Hydro and Geothermal Energy Resources (= SEA)
- Colombia – SEA for Biofuels development (2006)

Waste management, water & sanitation

- Transportation of waste to landfills to complex systems, including waste prevention and waste recycling + waste treatment & landfill technologies
- UK – SEAs for local/ municipal waste management plans & strategies
- Austria – SEA every 5 yrs to update Waste Management Plan
- Still few such SEAs in developing countries, more for water and sanitation plans
 - eg Ghana;s National Water Policy and 1999 Environmental Sanitation Policy

A need for caution

- **Not all GG initiatives are likely to be truly sustainable.**
 - Improperly planned **hydroelectric projects** can cause many direct & indirect [→] -ve environmental effects - flooding, erosion, earthquakes and mercury release.
 - Energy and materials used to produce massive amounts of **concrete** can also be unsustainable.
 - SEA can be used to **stress test a GG initiative** to more thoroughly assess the sustainability parameters

Where to from here? - 1

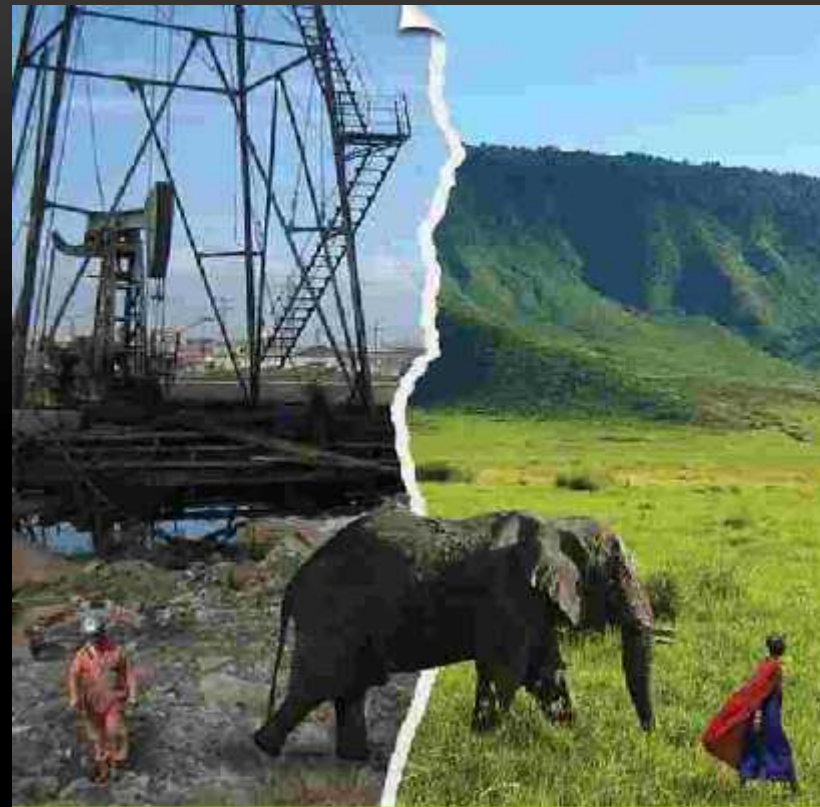
- **SEA professionals & practitioners** – must
 - Become more aware of the GG/GE movement
 - Understand its aims, modalities and initiatives
 - Identify how SEA can help to support the goal of GG/GE
 - Establish links with those engaged in GG/GE initiatives
- **GG/GE actors need to**
 - Know that much learned in past 20 yrs in advancing goal of SD - can be harnessed in pursuit of GG/GE.

Where to from here? - 2

OECD Africa workshop on SEA & GG/GE (2013):

- **Establish strong business case for SEA**
- **Case studies to show success of SEA in meeting objectives & influencing decisions/outcomes**
- **Link GG/GE directly to SD – mutual support**
- **Incorporate SEA in budget processes**
- **Identify champions for SEA**
- **National GG and SEA focal groups**
- **SEA should address growth and green jobs creation**
- **Capacity-building & awareness-raising for SEA**

For more on SEA and Green Economy



Turning green the strategic way

The role and potential of strategic environmental assessment in securing a green economy

Barry Dalah-Clayton

Useful websites for SEA and GG/GE

www.seataskteam.net

www.iaia.org

www.greeconomycoalition.org

THANKYOU