



Strategic Environment Assessment

Institutionalizing Good Practices for Sustainable Development



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Strategic Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a systematic decision support process, aiming to ensure that environmental and other sustainability aspects are considered in policies, plans and programs. In this context SEA may be considered to be:

- A structured, rigorous, participative, open and transparent environmental impact assessment (EIA)-based process, applied to plans and programs prepared by public planning authorities and at times private bodies; or
- A participative, open and transparent non-EIA-based process, applied in a more flexible manner to policies prepared by public planning authorities and at times private bodies, or a flexible non-EIA-based process applied to legislative proposals and other decision-making policies, plans and programs.

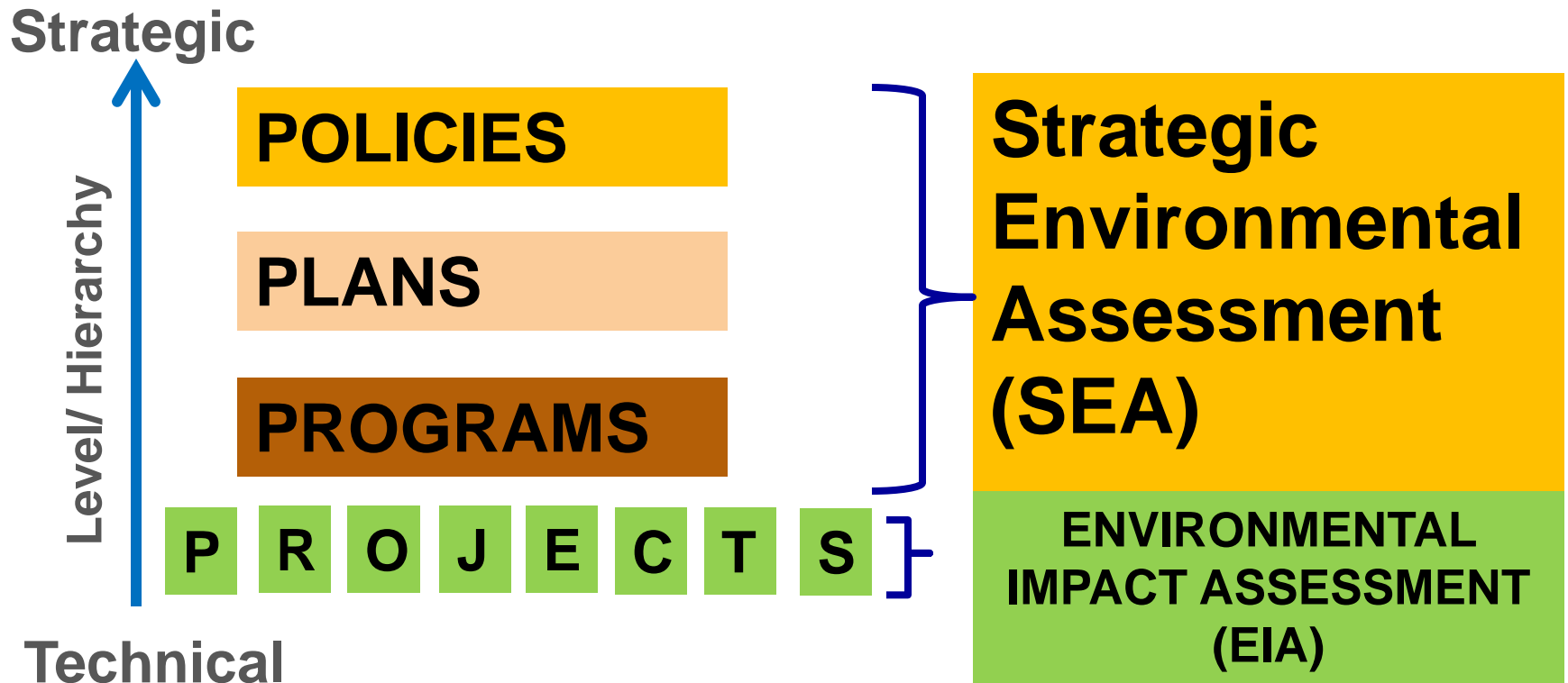
Strategic Environmental Assessment

SEA operates within a structured and tiered framework intended to provide more effective and efficient decision-making support for sustainable development and improved governance by providing a substantive emphasis on questions, issues and alternatives to consider in policy, plan and program (PPP) making.

SEA is an evidence-based instrument designed to add scientific rigour to PPP making by using appropriate assessment methods and techniques. It is an approach to the design and implementation of public policies that follows a continuous process rather than one that functions as a discrete intervention.

SEA GAP ANALYSIS HIERARCHY

Purpose of Strategic Environmental Assessment



- UP-STREAM ENVIROMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO DECISION MAKING HIERARCHY
- RESPONSIBILITY OF DEVELOPERS/INVESTORS AND PLANNING AGENCIES/AUTHORITIES

Comparison of SEA and EIA

SEA

A political instrument related to concepts.

A proactive approach – at earlier stages of decision-making.

Addresses issues impacting sustainable development.

Provides early warning of cumulative effects.

Preventive in terms of the identification of environmental objectives.

EIA

A technical instrument related to activities with geographic and technical specifications.

A reactive approach – at the end of the decision-making process.

Identifies specific impacts in the environment.

Limited review of cumulative effects.

Emphasis on mitigating and minimizing impacts.

Advantages and Challenges of SEA

Advantages

- Starts at an earlier stage.
- Concerned with impacts that are difficult to identify at the project level (cumulative, synergistic impacts).
- Promotes better coordination of alternatives.
- Informs and influences decision making.
- Facilitates public participation in strategic decision making.
- Promotes tiering.

Challenges

- Takes time and resources.
- Still a relatively new tool, process (data, capacity, etc.).
- Weak incentives; not a legal requirement.
- Considers a huge range of decision-making processes.
- Stand alone process vs. integrated sustainability assessment.

SEA Applications

- **Spatial Plans:** costal zone development; urban and industrial development.
- **Multi-intervention Programs:** in instances in which individual appraisal is not cost-effective. SEA integrates generic issues with mitigation measures that are applied across the entire program.
- **Cumulative Impacts:** impacts of individual projects are limited, but are significant if linked.
- **Macro Policies:** poverty reduction strategies; tax reform; public sector reform; privatization; trade policies.
- **Sector Wide Policies:** water; waste management; transport planning; energy; infrastructure => national impacts.



GMS Infrastructure Development

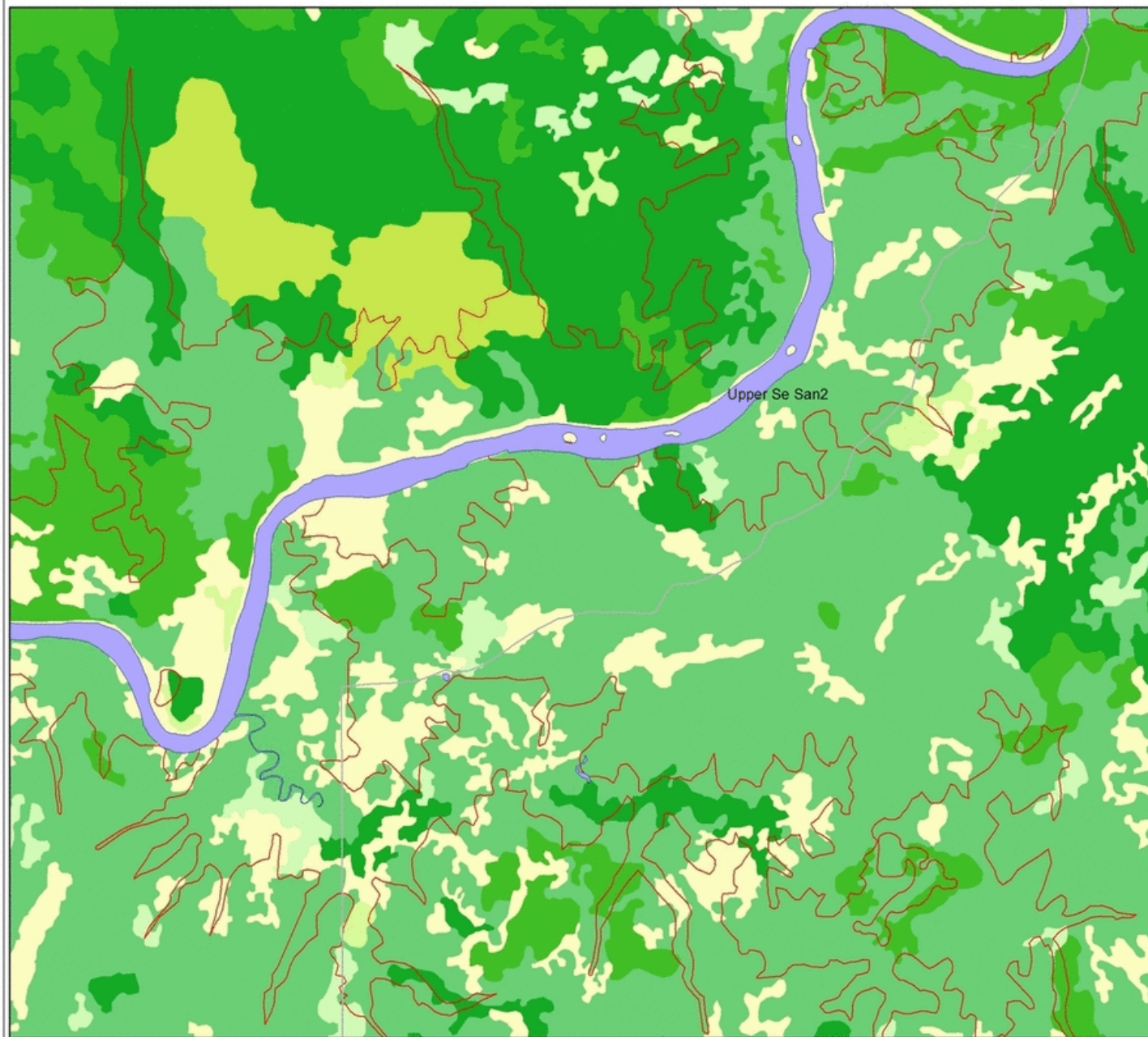
- North-South Corridor
- North-Eastern Corridor
- East-West Corridor
- Southern Corridor
- Central Corridor
- Southern Coastal Corridor



Source: NESDB as of Jan 20, 2009

KEY EXISTING AND PROPOSED DAMS IN THE 3S RIVER BASINS

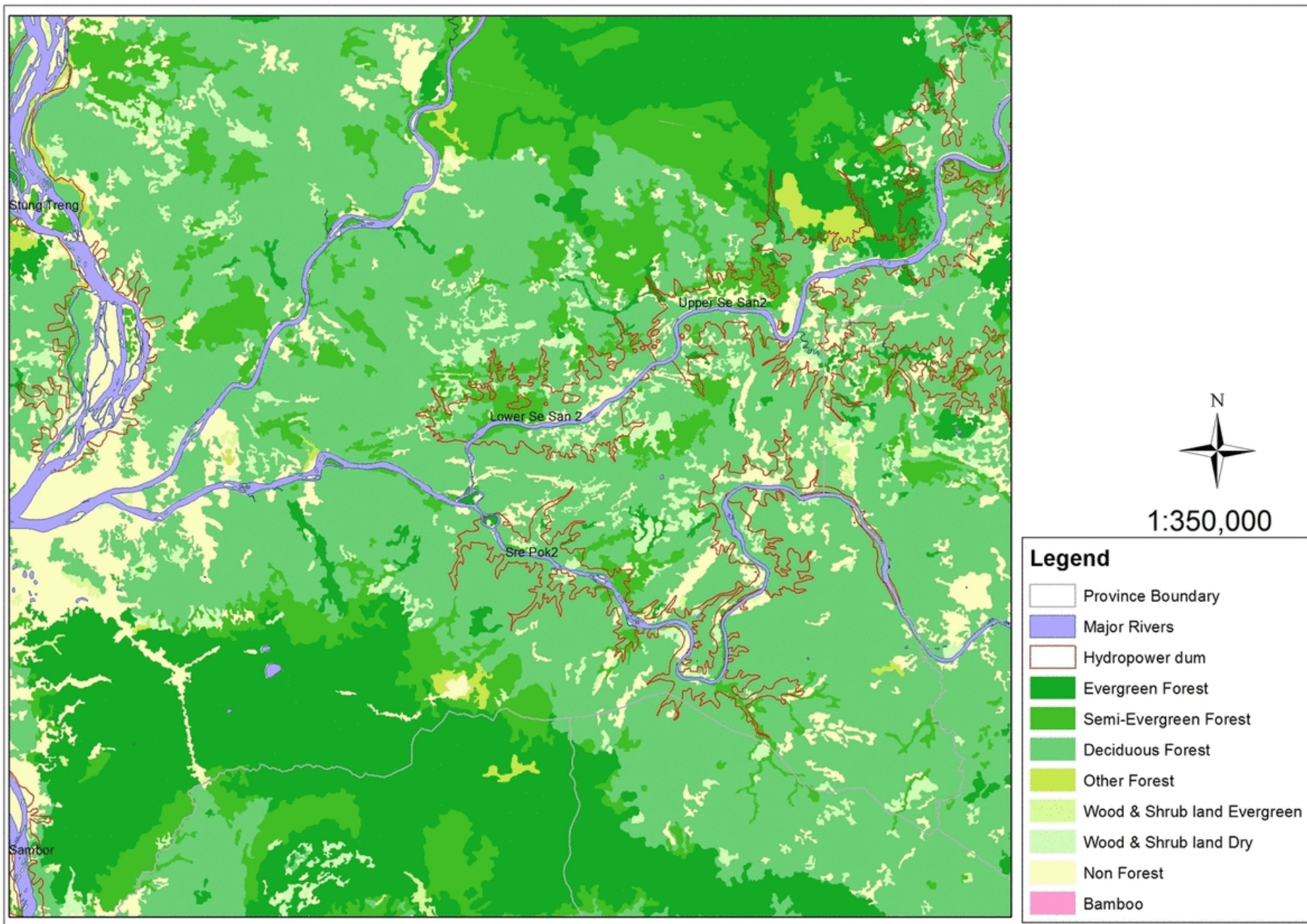




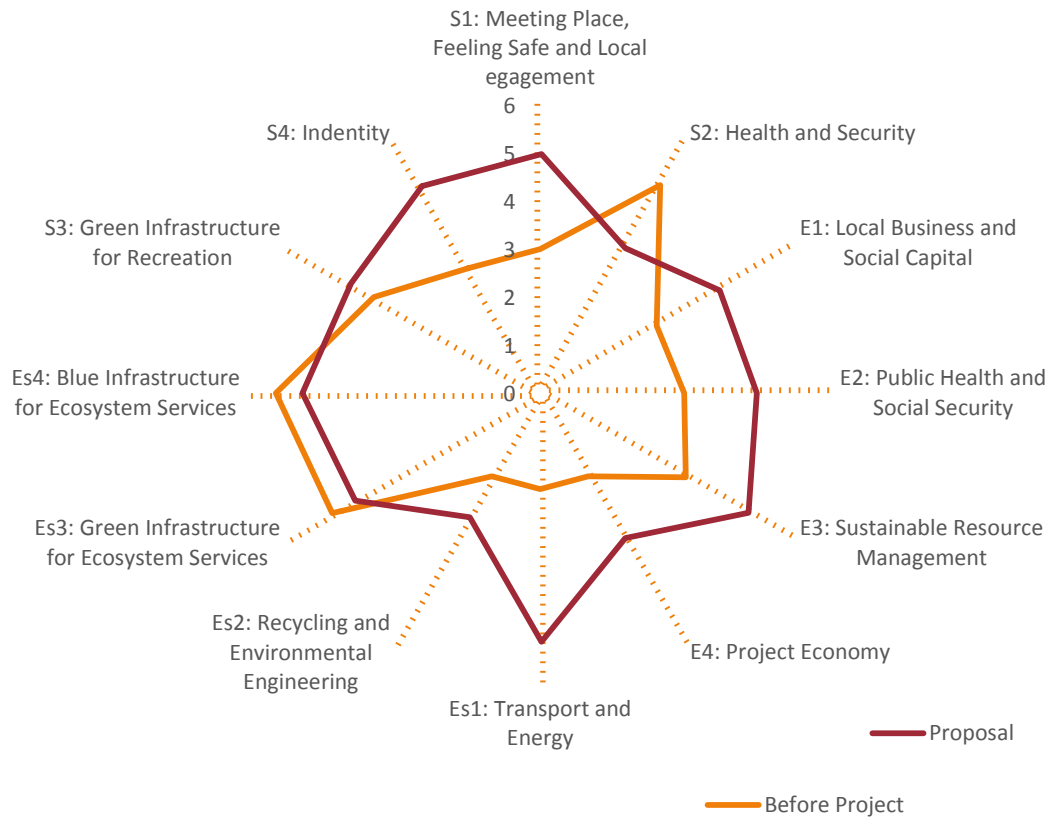
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Legend

- Province Boundary
- Major Rivers
- Hydropower dum
- Evergreen Forest
- Semi-Evergreen Forest
- Deciduous Forest
- Other Forest
- Wood & Shrub land Evergreen
- Wood & Shrub land Dry
- Non Forest
- Bamboo



SEA SYSTEM: Cumulative Impacts of PPP



SEA SYSTEM PRINCIPLES

- Screening** : investigate needs (legislation, significant negative environmental impacts,...)
- Scoping** : define the boundaries (issues, stakeholders, assumptions)
- Set Baseline** : document the state of the environment, collect data, analyze baseline trends (“zero alternative”)
- Consultations** : meaningful engagement; inform, learn from and consult with the public
- Identify environmental impacts**: determine likely (non-marginal) environmental impacts, usually in terms of direction of change rather than firm figures
- Alternatives** : prioritize; inform/influence decisions; assess development, objectives, institutions, actions
- Mitigation and monitoring** : establish an M&E framework, monitor the effect of PPP after implementation, ensure mitigation and adequate implementation
- Document** : produce the SEA report.

Purposes of Good SEA Practices: The 5 I's

Influence	planning, decisions, and implementation.
Inform	planners, stakeholders, and decision-makers.
Interact	among agencies, planners, stakeholders, and decision-makers.
Institutions	analyze, strengthen/build capacity, reform.
Integrate	environment in other sectors, development themes.

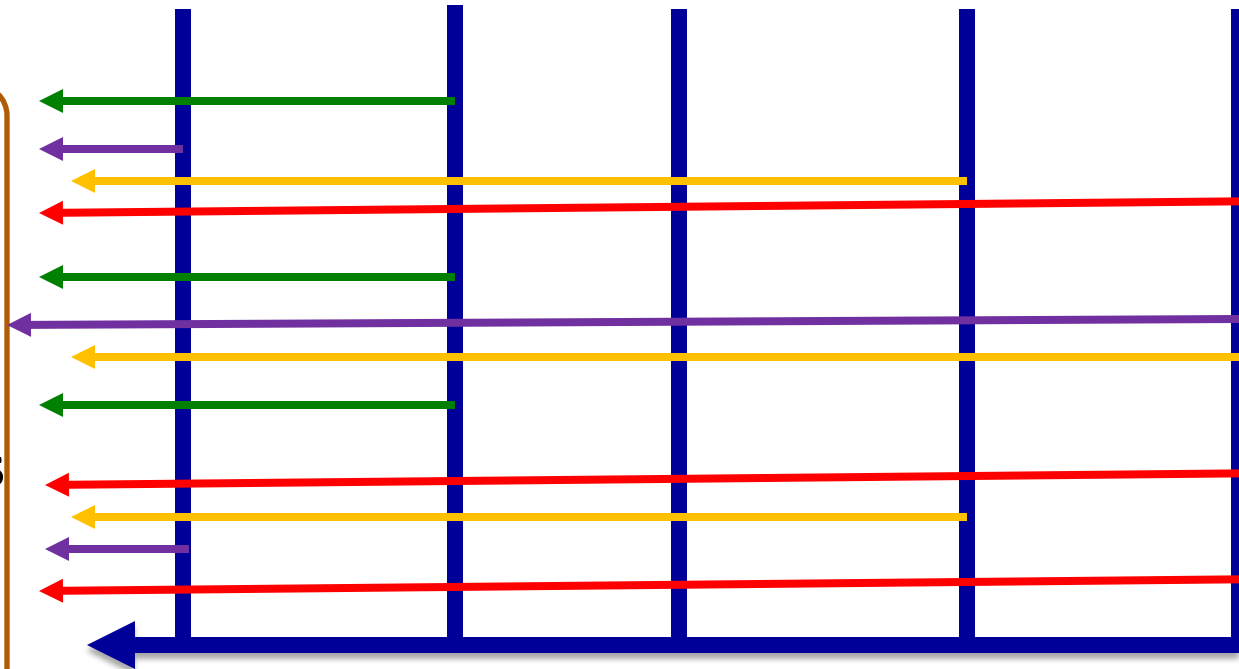
Purposes of Good SEA Practices: The 5 I's

Influence Inform Interact Institutions Integrate

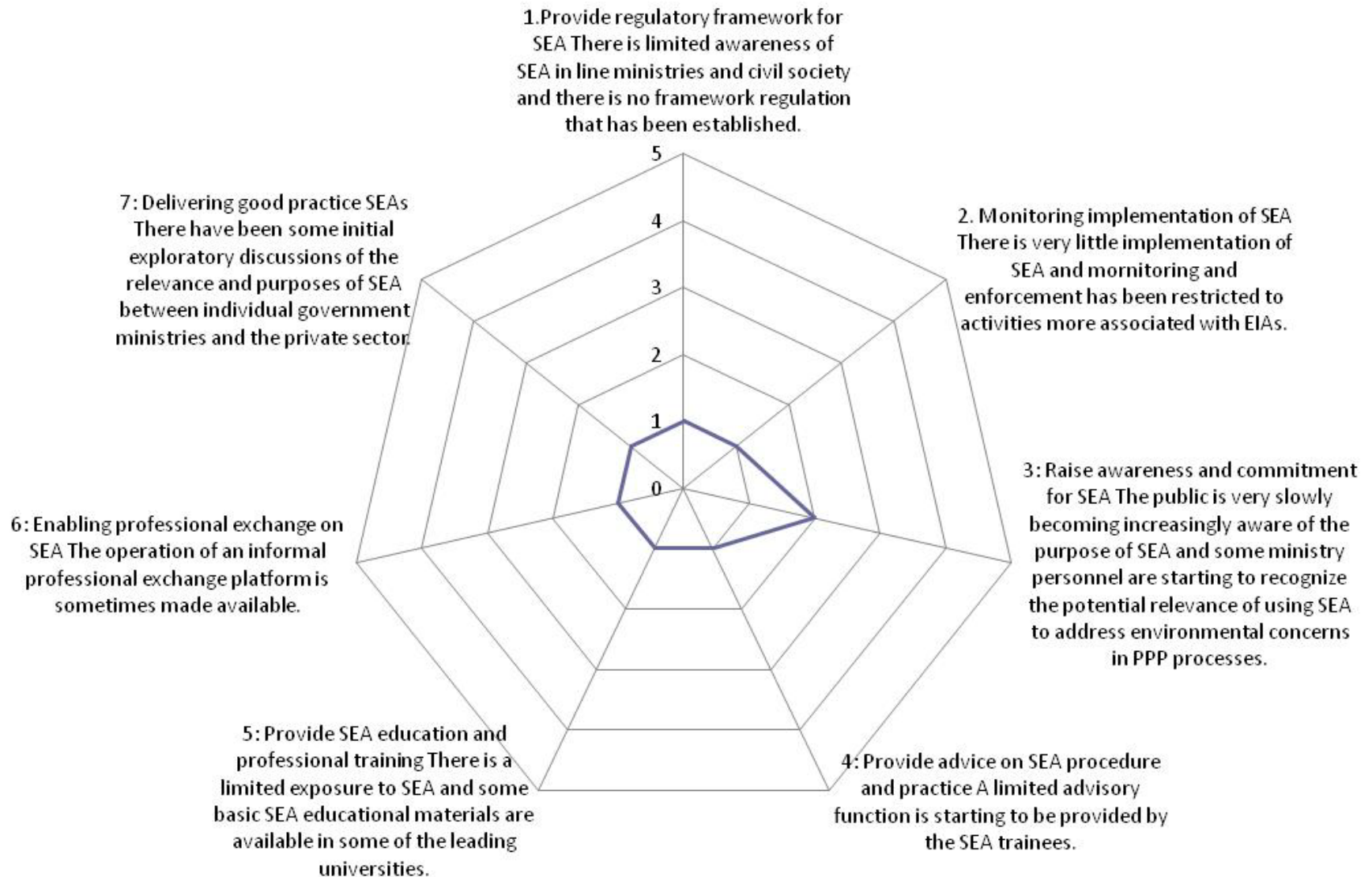
Planning
Process:
Screening

Continuous!

Scoping
Set Baseline
Impacts
Alternatives
Consultations
Decisions
Monitoring



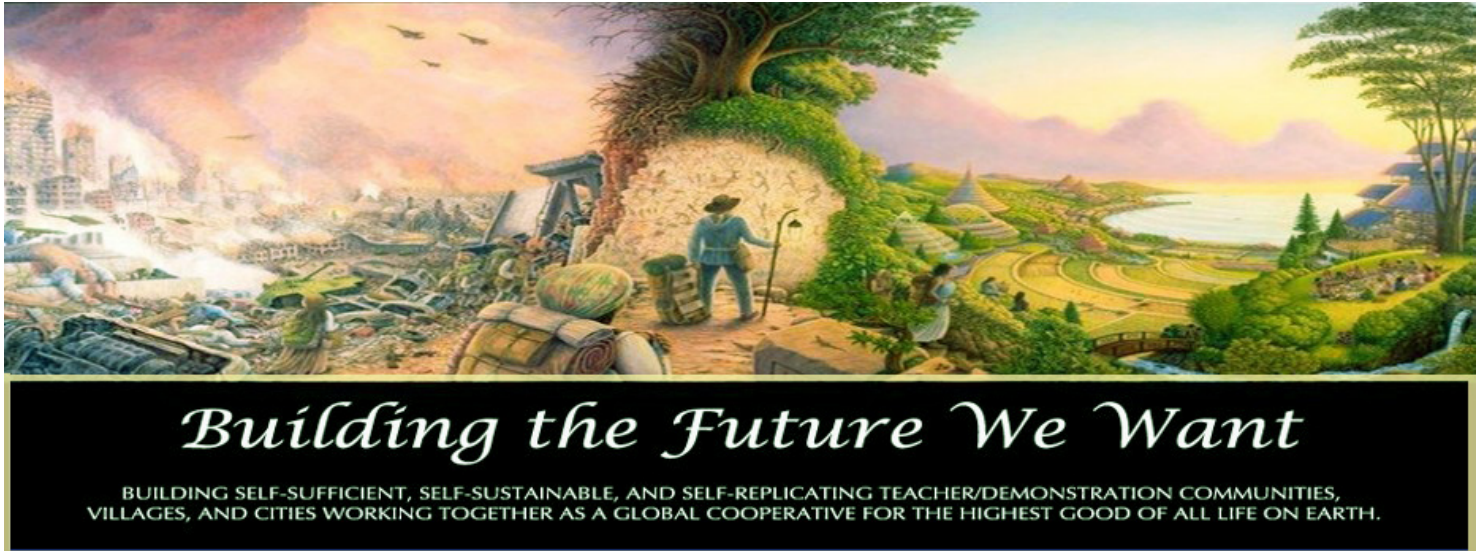
SEA SYSTEM GAP ANALYSIS



Recommendations

- Integrate environmental considerations into policies, plans and programs and evaluate inter-linkages with economic and social considerations
- Recognize that the final goal of an SEA is not necessarily a 'well done' SEA, but 'better' decisions that contribute to sustainable development.

Thank you for your attention!



Collaboration and cooperation for sustainable landscape management and conservation to make safer world habitats for all.