

“Lineamientos Técnicos para la Elaboración de las EAE”

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¿Porqué ESA (evaluación ambiental y social) Tradicional de un Proyecto no Funciona?

- When asked to do a traditional ESA of a gas-fired thermo-electric generator, there is no chance to construct a solar generator or a hidroeléctrica.
- The gas-fired decision has already been made.
- The gas-fired decision rules out alternatives such as geothermal, solar, hydro & wind energy.
- An ESA of roads to Peru's Camisea gas project would have excluded river transport. Shell commendably ruled out highways and included an assessment of hover-craft

Definition of SEA ⁽¹⁾

- SEA begins BEFORE each project is selected.
- SEA comes BEFORE the next project has been identified.
- Conventional ESA comes after SEA.
- SEA is a planning process: like spatial landscape planning: designed to promote socio-environmental sustainability.

Definition of SEA ⁽²⁾

- SEA is holistic: it emphasizes Environment and Socio-cultural (p.ex. Pueblos Indigenas, public health, pollution, climate change, biodiversity).
- SEA promotes sustainability and reduces climate change risks (p.ex. normally promotes small hydro over coal; promotes conservation over deforestation, melting Andean glaciers included, promotes “Desarrollo Limpio” before hydrocarbons).
- SEA is a socio-environmental tool; economics has its own cost-benefit, least-cost and similar tools. Engineering also has its own tools. All need to be integrated.

Characteristics of SEA

- SEA is generic, often large scale, and usually public sector.
- SEA is fully participatory, totally transparent, and consensual (p.ex. UN DRIP's FPIC, signed by Peru). BID emphasizes citizen participation.
- SEA can be National, Regional (p.ex. Amazonia Peruana), or Sectorial (p.ex. NUMES). Less often local.
- SEA is a decision-making process with the goals:
 - To promote the better & more sustainable, low- impact projects.
 - To demote questionable projects.
 - To help cancel the worst, unsustainable or highest impact projects.
- Systematic monitoring of progress is essential.
- SEA helps to comply with international treaties. Example: ILO & UNDRIP conventions, cross-border impacts, Biodiversity Conventions.

The Main Categories of SEA

- Most SEA are regional or sectoral and help to identify the next best project.
- All SEA are pre-project.
- SEA also focus on:
 - Policies, legislation, standards: national mining codes, water quality standards, policy-based loans from BID.
 - Plans and Strategies: regional plans, sectoral plans, national poverty reduction strategy, annual budgets.
 - Programs or sets of coordinated projects: program loans.
- A good example is IIRSA: La Iniciativa para la Integración de la Infraestructura Regional Suramericana en los doce países suramericanos. Two distinctive features, unlike SEA:
 - IIRSA first is top-down.
 - IIRSA second includes only infrastructure.

How SEA Works to Foster Consensus

- SEA is best led by the Environmental Ministry with national Government and much Inter-Ministerial cooperation.
- Stakeholder analysis at the outset identifies who must be consulted and invited to participate (p.ex. potentially affected people, Indigenous Peoples, provincial and municipal authorities, academia, civil society, labor syndicates).
- SEA implies acceptance of its findings at the end of the process if all stakeholders have participated and their concerns addressed.
- Sectoral SEA often ranks potential projects into an order of priority, with the least socio-environmental impacts at the top.

SEA Examples⁽¹⁾

- A Regional SEA of Amazonia Peruana would show where projects may be sited and which areas are sensitive for what types of development and where "No-Go Zones" are off limits for projects. The recent Loreto Iquitos SEA workshop is an excellent start.
- Example: The President of Ecuador requested IDB's President Iglesias to finance a major SEA of Ecuadorian Amazonia in 2003.
- "No-Go Zones" are important in SEA. No-Go Zones means unacceptably high socio-environmental impacts, such as Indigenous Areas, National Parks, centers of endemism, biodiversity hot-spots.
- Example: In most countries, all UN Ramsar Wetland sites are No-Go Zones. What is the status of Abanico del Pastaza?

SEA Examples⁽²⁾

- Example: The Government of Ecuador wants to conserve Amazonia's Yasuni forest for the Indigenous Peoples and biodiversity, rather than to exploit its rich oil reserves.
- Example: If the Energy Ministry has a list of 20 economically viable hydroprojects, then SEA would rank all 20. Then only the best scoring on social and environment would proceed.
- An SEA of the proposed Inter-Oceanic Highway would include river/canal & rail options, plus which areas should be avoided.
- Vanishing Urubamba fish would have been prevented by SEA. Machiguenga substituting cans of tuna/sardinas is unsustainable and unaffordable.

Timing and Finance of SEA

- UNEP, UNDP, GEF, OECD, BID and Banco Mundial finance SEA, especially if major projects are proposed for an undeveloped regions.
- The Netherlands MER Commission will design SEA free of charge upon governmental request.
- UNEP and others will finance training workshops for the teams starting SEA.
- SEA takes much less time than conventional project-level ESAs.
- Project-level ESAs are faster, much more reliable and lower cost if they follow an SEA.

Caution about SEA

SEA tests the assertions:

- "This time it will be different".
- "We have learned from previous mistakes".
- "Technology has vastly improved".
- "Stringent government policies and laws are in place".
- "New corporate standards will prevent damage".
- "We can now clean up oil spills"

¡Muchas Gracias!
¡Buena Suerte!
¡Vaya con Dios!

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