

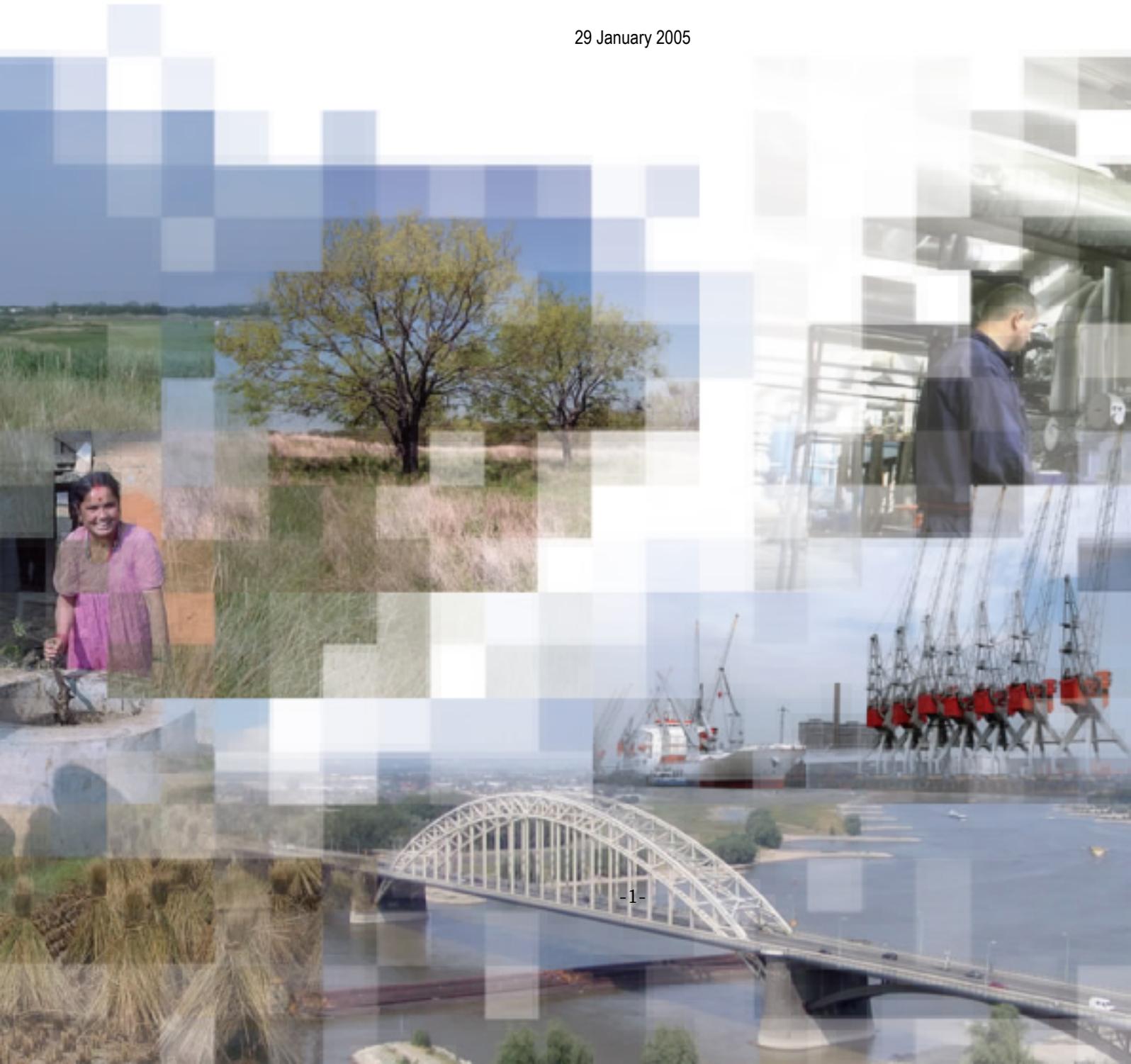


Netherlands Commission for  
Environmental Assessment

# Proposed set-up for a Strategic Environmental Assessment for Post Tsunami Reconstruction Planning

Memorandum by the NCEA

29 January 2005



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# Advice of the Secretariat

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**To** The Central Environmental Authority of Sri Lanka  
**Attn** D.G. Manel Jayamanna  
**CC** Netherlands Embassy in Colombo, Mr. Jan Huesken  
**From** Mr. Reinoud Post (Technical Secretary - Netherlands Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment)  
**Date** 29 January 2005  
**Subject** Proposed set-up for a Strategic Environmental Assessment for post tsunami reconstruction planning.

By: Secretariat of the Netherlands Commission for EIA

Advice 2005-004

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

After the tsunami on 26 December 2004, the president of Sri Lanka installed a national task force to plan and coordinate the reconstruction works (TAFREN). The CEA identified the necessity to assist post tsunami reconstruction planning with a Strategic Environmental Assessment. CEA proposed to the Netherlands Embassy to invite the Netherlands Commission to assist the CEA in this venture and to ask the Netherlands Commission to make available its administrative system for rapid deployment of all expertise that would be needed to perform the SEA. The Ministry for Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) had already engaged in a rapid assessment of tsunami damage to nature resources (green assessment) and CEA was preparing a rapid assessment of tsunami damage to the non nature areas (brown assessment).

## **2. CEA'S QUESTION**

CEA's questions with regard to assistance of the Commission were formulated in Terms of Reference for a fact finding mission (appendix 1).

## **3. OUTPUT**

The output of the mission is a draft advice (appendix 2) that gives:

1. a description of the methodology for SEA for coordinated reconstruction planning

2. details on this set-up in 7 annexes

The set-up includes thorough capacity building, process facilitation and coaching. It also includes an independent review of the quality of SEA results.

As the formulation of a memorandum of cooperation was amongst the ToR, the SEA set-up is framed around a draft for such a memorandum. This draft specifies the fields and ways of collaboration and financial arrangement for cooperation. It also specifies third party activities that have a function in the SEA and that are brought under the financial arrangements of the memorandum. In addition, it calculates a provisional budget ceiling and gives a time schedule.

Initially the DG of CEA and the Netherlands Embassy assumed that the CEA would facilitate the project under the Dutch provided Environmental Sector Fund. Differences of opinion in CEA management caused changes in this position. It was decided that the project would have to be facilitated by MENR.

#### **4. COMPLIANCE WITH TOR**

The advice responds to the ToR with three exceptions:

1. All tasks given in the ToR were carried out with the exception of the term that invited to explore the possibility of developing relations with DCMR. The Commission found that involving DCMR had little relevance for the proposed SEA
2. The advice does not give names of local or international experts. This was purposely done, on request of the CEA.
3. The advice does not provide an overview of what different donors are doing that has relevance for SEA. Composing such an overview would have consumed most of the mission's time and contributed little to the aim of the mission

## **Appendix 1**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Central Environmental Authority, 13 January 2005

Representative of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment

#### **1 Background**

The Central Environmental Authority proposes to carry out the following assessments in order to contribute toward the national recovery effort following the tsunami disaster:

- Rapid Environmental Assessment; and
- Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The Royal Netherlands Embassy conveyed to the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) its interest in providing support for such assessments aimed at strengthening and consolidating the environmental aspects of the recovery process as well as overall development. The document contains the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the representative of NCEIA to define the needs for the SEA, and its links of the REA

#### **2. Rationale**

It is globally confirmed that process to recovery following a disaster should be guided by a rapid environmental assessment. The absence of REA and SEA to guide recovery will certainly lead to:

- (i) The side effects of interventions may aggravate existing environmental problems
- (ii) The interests of the most vulnerable groups that depend upon natural resources for livelihood may acquire inadequate attention
- (iii) Recovery interventions potentially aggravate existing conflicts in resource use or may even create new ones
- (iv) Recovery interventions inevitably have spatial and natural resources implications.

There an environmental assessment seeks to provide guidance to the recovery measures in order to provide environmental harmony and sustainability.

On the other hand, it is internationally realized that disaster recovery efforts and interventions that are not linked strategically to the national and regional development processes had resulted in short-lived benefits to the clients (beneficiaries) of the recovery effort. A strategic environmental assessment seeks to link the interventions in the disaster affected areas to the broader national and regional development processes to provide sustainability.

## **Tasks**

- Establish a suitable methodology for the SEA to assess the reconstruction
- Analyse and decide with CEA, experts, and stakeholders about national and international necessary expertise for the SEA
- Form a team of institutions/individual experts to do the SEA
- Attend relevant meetings, argument the merits of SEA, and provide advice and feedback to CEA about how to obtain support from the top to authorise the SEA.
- Support the EIA unit of the CEA in formulating a Memorandum of Understanding between CEA and NCEIA
- Explore the possibility of involving DCMR in preparing environmental 'convenants' with the private sector (who conforms gets support, who does not will pay the cost of environmental damage)
- Establish cooperation with ITC on continued availability of spatial data and databases
- Discuss with donors and development banks the post-Tsunami plans, and increase awareness about the need for SEA
- Provide awareness on SEA to stakeholders as required

## **Output**

- Final mission report, including a methodology for SEA, a work plan, a division of tasks and roles in the SEA.
- Overview of what different donors are doing that has relevance for both REA and SEA.
- List of required experts and arrangements for their recruitment.

## **Appendix 2**

MEMORANDUM of co-operation MENR-NCEIA (second draft).doc

Add. I with Memorandum Reconstruction planning SEA proposal.doc

SEA proposal annex 1 Assumed benefits.doc

SEA proposal annex 2 Organisational structure.doc

SEA proposal annex 3 Composition Planning Platform.doc

SEA proposal annex 4 Helpdesk / SEA team brief.doc

SEA proposal annex 6 Process flows.doc

SEA proposal Annex 7 Emergency measures and commitments.doc

Add. II additional activities.doc

Add. III additional activities budget.xls

Add. IV Expense claim statement.xls