



Netherlands Commission for
Environmental Assessment

SEA Awareness Raising Seminar for Water Policy Makers

Mission Report

ETHIOPIA



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Advice of the Secretariat

To Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity (MOWIE), Ethiopia

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From The Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA)

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1. Introduction

Within the Ministry of Water, irrigation and Electricity (MOWIE) in Ethiopia, the Environment and Climate Change Directorate (ECCD) is responsible for ESIA¹, SEA² and policy development. The Director and one senior Environmental Monitoring & Evaluation Expert currently participate in a Swedish international training course on SEA, organised by SIDA/NIRAS. As a special project within this training, the ECCD plans to integrate SEA in the new water policy that is to be developed in the coming months in Ethiopia. To get support for this idea, ECCD will need to raise awareness on the importance of SEA for water planning and the role it could play in that context. To this end, the ECCD organised a 3-day seminar on SEA for water policy makers. ECCD asked the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) to act as resource person for this seminar. This document reflects the NCEA's findings of this seminar. Chapter 1 presents the objectives, evaluation and next steps. Chapter 2 gives a short day-to-day report of the seminar.

1.1 Objectives

The seminar was designed to meet the following two main objectives:

1. The seminar aims to raise awareness on the importance and role of SEA in water governance and water resources planning in Ethiopia, to get SEA adopted as part of the new water policy for Ethiopia.
2. Once SEA gets integrated into the water policy, the Ministry needs to set up a system for SEA functioning. During the seminar, participants will consider elements required to set up such a system.

Both objectives were largely met. Participants actively discussed the pros and cons of SEA for water management in Ethiopia. Already after the first day, people saw the potential for Ethiopia and discussed possible application.

1.2 Participants

The targeted participants all play a role in the development and/or implementation of water policy in Ethiopia and will therefore be influential in the integration of SEA in the new water policy for Ethiopia. In all, the following 50 senior water policy officers were invited:

- Head Regional Water and Energy officers (16)
- Head of Responsible offices to the Ministry (Ethiopia Electric power, Ethiopia Electric Utility, Ethiopia Energy Authority, Water fund Office, Water Technology Institute and Metrology Agency) (6)
- Head Basin Authorities (Awash Basin Authorities, Abay Basin Authorities and Rift Valley Basin Authorities) (3)
- Head of Directorates, Senior Experts in the Ministry (25)

¹ ESIA = *Environmental and Social Impact Assessment*

² SEA = *Strategic Environmental Assessment*

In total, approximately 42 people participated during all three days. A digitised list of names will be provided by the ECCD to be presented in Annex 2. For the moment, a scanned copy of the list is included.

1.3 Next steps

Next steps that are identified by the seminar's participants are, among others:

- SEA should be introduced for water management. A first step is to integrate it into the new water policy. MOWIE, and specifically ECCD, is asked to develop an action plan on how to organise this. NCEA can play a role in such next steps, this will be discussed between ECCD and the NCEA;
- SEA should not only be introduced for the water sector, but in the country's planning and decision making system. For this purpose, an SEA regulation and guidelines will be necessary. MEFC is currently drafting such guidelines and will ask the NCEA to assist them with their finalisation;
- Once the above steps are taken, further awareness raising as well as capacity development will be required to ensure readiness to implement SEA for water planning. Exact needs will need to be identified by MOWIE/MEFC;
- Preferably, a pilot SEA will be carried out so that experience can be gained in practice. This experience can then help to draft an SEA regulation that fits the Ethiopian context. A plan process will need to be identified that would benefit from SEA. The NCEA could be asked to coach such pilot SEA.

See also par 2.4 and Annex 3.

1.4 Conclusion & Evaluation

The seminar was concluded with the handing-out of certificates. The overall session was evaluated positively. Results of the evaluation are presented in Annex 4.

2. Short report of the Seminar

Focus of the seminar was on the role of SEA in planning for the sustainable use of water resources and how to set up SEA for the Ministry and its partners. It contained the following main programme elements. The detailed programme is presented in Annex 1.

2.1 Day 1: The concept of SEA

The day started with a general introduction of participants, of ECCD and the NCEA. ECCD presented the way ESIA is used within MOWIE. This served as a basis for the identification of questions and expectations of the seminar. (PICTURE). Most if not all expectations fit well with the seminar objectives and had to do with learning about the concept of SEA, the steps and procedure of SEA, the differences and similarities of ESIA and SEA.

The afternoon session was dedicated to learning about SEA: the concept, how to set up SEA, and link it to planning. It also dealt with the differences between ESIA and SEA. Many different examples of SEAs around the world were provided to illustrate statements on SEA. There was a very active participation with many different questions from the participants.

2.2 Day 2: for Sustainable Planning

The second day started with a recapitulation of the previous day. What had the participants retained from the first day? What were the key insights or lessons learnt?

Key insights/lessons learnt of day 1

- I understand the concept of SEA better. It is a tool for strategic planning
- I can already see the usefulness of SEA for Ethiopia
- SEA is interesting for transboundary issues. These are complex questions with implications for others. SEA process could help.
- SEA can be used for trans-regional issues as well, and at the level of river basins
- But it would be good to start first with simpler SEA to gain experience before embarking on complex transboundary SEA
- ESIA is more about mitigating impacts caused by investment projects, SEA is more about preventing such impacts
- SEA is a government responsibility, it involves institutional stakeholders
- I work at the planning department, I want to include SEA in the water policy so my colleagues need to provide me with the right formulation to include it there

The day then proceeded with an initial experience on starting SEA, using the Tana Delta case as a basis for an exercise. After a presentation of the issues and challenges in the Tana Delta in Kenya, four groups started working on exercises relates to the linkage of planning, defining the scope of the SEA, and identifying the stakeholders. The discussions were heated and intense, and participants stated to be very satisfied with the tough questions, the strong drawing of conclusions by the NCEA facilitator which

resulted in good learning through this exercise, which really helped starting to think along the lines of an SEA.

During the discussions, some elements that popped out were:

- SEA helps to look at planning in an integrated way, more than the traditional sectoral way of thinking. When deciding on the plan, try to aim for integrated planning if possible
- Objectives should solve the problems in the area
- Be precise on who is responsible: identify exactly who has the mandate to decide on the plan and on the SEA
- Identify stakeholders who have a role in decision making, who should be consulted, and so on. Try to understand their influence and level of interest in order to know how to deal with them
- Map the system: map existing activities, map planned and future activities, and analyse where there may be conflicts and where there may be potential for development
- Develop alternatives and criteria to assess them
- Find a way to link the SEA and the plan in such a way that the influence is the highest. Often, this is an integrated SEA and planning process

Afterwards, participants the following lessons learnt on SEA through the Tana Delta case:

- To be effective, SEA should be customised, tailor-made, localised
- Not too much! It should remain recognisable as SEA, there are key elements that should be there
- It requires a responsible authority
- It requires high level engagement
- It requires institutional capability
- We have to pay attention to the zone of influence
- SEA brings about better stakeholder involvement than traditional planning
- It brings different perspectives into the planning process
- SEA helps avoid foregone conclusions

Today was considered as very useful. As people commented:

- Helped deepen my understanding
- Going from theory to application
- Showed us that we have to act and apply SEA in basins with development conflicts

2.3 Day 3: Setting up an SEA System

This third and last day started by MOWIE presenting the Water Policy in Ethiopia. This served as a basis for the discussions of the day. The NCEA presented its system approach to SEA, to facilitate the discussion on what would be needed if MOWIE would indeed integrate SEA in its new water policy. What will be needed to start applying it? Which of the six system functions would need to be worked on, and which stakeholders would need to play a role?

Systems functioning & priority system functions to work on

The NCEA defines an SEA system as a coherent set of 'functions' that are necessary for effective SEA practice. At system level, the NCEA has identified six key functions (see graph).

In the view of the NCEA, these six functions need to be fulfilled for an ESIA system to be effective. For each of the six functions we have formulated the results that we would hope to see as we work with partners to ensure that each of the functions is operational within their EIA system. For each result, we have defined a set of indicators to measure progress on these results, as well as means of verification.

During the last day of the seminar, a joint analysis was made of system functioning, keeping in mind the integration of SEA in the water policy: what would be needed in terms of system strengthening, in order to get it operational? Participants discussed each function in groups, after which in plenary, it was discussed which parties would be responsible for the operationalisation of each function. In the end, participants voted to say which functions they consider a priority to work on.

The seminar concluded that, since SEA is to be introduced newly, all functions need strengthening. However, the functions of especially Regulatory framework and Awareness raising, should be prioritised according to the group. These two function received 27 and 21 votes, by far the most of all functions, see table. The more detailed results of this analysis and the discussions is presented in Annex 3 and in par 2.4, below.



SEA system functions – by the NCEA

Function	# Votes
1. Regulatory framework	27
2. Awareness & commitment	21
3. Education & Professional Training	7
4. Helpdesk	2
5. Monitoring & Implementation	4
6. Professional exchange	6

2.4 Participants' feedback: next steps

After the quick system analysis/needs assessment, participants provided the following feedback on what they feel should be undertaken as next steps. These suggestions can serve as inputs for MOWIE when developing an action plan towards the integration and application of SEA in the water sector. It will also discuss possibilities for support by the NCEA for this introduction.

Regulatory framework

- Preparation of the draft SEA document
- Acquiring information using the available helpdesk so that we can design a mechanism to incorporate SEA into development activities
- Defining mandate, gaps and roles
- 1. Policy & legal framework drafting. 2. Convening stakeholder meetings on the drafts. 3. Initiating the approval process. 4. Building capacity.

Awareness raising

- Creating awareness for the stakeholders and institutions who are involved
- Awareness creation for decision making bodies (parliament, ministers...)
- Create awareness and incorporate SEA issues in the development of programmes or projects
- Awareness creation for those who are not/were not aware
- Awareness to the decision makers
- Inform the decision makers immediately

Monitoring and implementation

- Apply it [SEA] based on local knowledge, geographical application etc
- Monitoring and implementation
- Implementation and practice
- Doing SEA for water and energy sectors
- The responsible body with government perform SEA with stakeholders
- Establish committee and go into practice
- Implementation of SEA!
- Identify projects/programmes to implement SEA
- Apply in the river basin organisation along with basin plan
- To prepare projects based on SEA
- [set up a] coordinating team who should take the initiation to bring to the attention of government
- Plan to work on SEA. Discuss with stakeholders and responsible bodies
- Implementation
- Starting sectoral level SEA preparation

Capacity development

- Continuation of training of this kind until results are obtained
- More training including experience sharing with other countries
- Training
- Training for all stakeholders
- Getting detailed capacity building
- Detailed trainings for technical staff

Follow-up of this seminar

- Documentation of all the measures taken for the future and other SEA implementation
- Informing these issues to the higher officials/ministers
- Establish committee
- Continuous performance research & development
- Action plan to be prepared to make operational all functions & SEA establishment
- Documentation and publication (2x)
- Follow up of the outcome of this training by you
- Continuous connection and integration with NCEA

Annex 1: Programme SEA seminar for water policy makers, Bahir Dar, Amhara, Ethiopia

Day → Time ↓	Tuesday 13 June “The concept of SEA”	Wednesday 14 June “Using SEA for Sustainable Planning”	Thursday 15 June “Setting up an SEA System”
8:30–9:00		Recap of Day 1 +Q&A	Recap of Day 2 +Q&A
9:00 – 10:30	Arrival* Installation & registration of participants and organisers	How to apply SEA – Different steps in SEA process (initial phase, scoping, assessment, review, decision making, monitoring) (NCEA) – Group exercise on SEA steps; Tana Delta, Kenya	Water policy in Ethiopia – presentation by MOWIE SEA system functioning – What does a functioning SEA system look like? – What would be needed to set up SEA for water policy in Ethiopia?
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee/tea Break	Coffee/tea Break	Coffee/tea Break
11:00 – 12:30	Getting to know each other Introduction of participants, ECCD and NCEA – short introduction on programme: ESIA & SEA in Ethiopia (by ECCD) – short introduction of NCEA	Continue: group exercise on SEA steps – analyse the plan process and objectives of the plan – identify objectives of the SEA – linking the plan and the SEA	SEA needs assessment – identification of actors in the water governance system, their potential roles and gaps in capacities re: SEA – identification of next steps
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break
13:30 – 15:00	General Introduction on SEA – What is SEA? – Link/difference EIA and SEA – How to do SEA exchange: sharing experiences of participants with SEA, discussion on expectations of role of SEA in Ethiopia	Reporting back ESIA and SEA for water management in Ethiopia – Experiences with ESIA and SEA for water management in Ethiopia (by ECCD) – To what kind of programmes, plans and policies should SEA apply?	Free space Time to discuss emerging issues. Closing of the seminar – Evaluation of the seminar – Closing remarks by ECCD and NCEA – Handing out of Certificates
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee/tea Break	Coffee/tea Break	Coffee/tea Break
15:30 – 17:00	SEA case studies – SEA case examples from elsewhere; – exchange on lessons learnt.	Drawing lessons from the day Handing out of references (hard copy and USB sticks)	Departure of NCEA

Annex 2: List of Participants

Participant Registration Form for Workshop on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environment and Climate Change Directorate (ECCD), Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity						
Serial No	Name of Participant	Name of Organization	Region	Position	E-mail	Phone No
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14	Sendu Teruf	"	"	Director	terufesin@gmail.com	091167623
15	Tolosa Yadesse	MEFCC	A.A	Expert	tyterfa2011@gmail.com	0913704227
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17	Zakereh Katile	"	"	Director		091199094

Participant Registration Form for Workshop on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
 Environment and Climate Change Directorate (ECCD)
 Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity

Serial No	Name of Participant	Name of Organization	Region	Position	E-mail	Phone No	Signature
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31	Tadesc Tirfenes	MOWIE	A/A	driver	-	0913332434	
32	Tilahun Galtchab	"	"	driver	-	0912905333	
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**Participant Registration Form for Workshop on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
Environment and Climate Change Directorate (ECCD)
Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity**

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38	Agete Negash	Banker	A.A	MWIE		
39	Wisham Afraw	Accountant	"	MWIE		
40	Tomme Ababa	Cashier	"	"		
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47	Amotsehay Tija	Abay Basin	Amhara	laboratory expert	Amotsehay@gmail.com	0918786154

Annex 3: System functioning & next steps

Function	Needs/Things that should be strengthened	Who should be responsible?	Who should play a role?	Discussion & conclusions
1. Regulatory framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstream: In water policy In the sector strategy In sector regulations (across MOWIE, including Energy!) In Ethiopia (across sectors) Including transboundary Develop guidelines etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOWIE MEFCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning commission Line ministries Regional line bureau 	Priority: 27 votes
2. Awareness & Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First a legal framework is needed to raise awareness on! Financing! Products to raise awareness with Lobbying politics & officials Sessions/activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOWIE MEFCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of media & communication NGOs/CSOs Media International organisations 	Priority: 21 votes MoU
3. Education & Professional training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum Linkages between MOWIE – University Dedicated sessions for target groups, task related 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of education universities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOWIE MEFCC Ministry of Finance Research/knowledge institutes 	7 votes
4. Helpdesk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEA helpdesk Legal, budget, lobbying Implementation strategy procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOWIE MEFCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliamentary standing committee (PSC) Basin High council Central statistics agency Ethiopia mapping agency 	2 votes
5. Monitoring & Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Rules manpower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOWIE MEFCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSC Planning commission Line ministries/key sectors Regional bureaus Representatives of the public 	4 votes Independence?
6. Professional exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gap analysis Identify professionals (Ethiopia/international) Create link/platform or forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOWIE Association 		6 votes

Annex 4: Evaluation of the seminar

In total, 37 participants have filled the evaluation form. The detailed results and answers per person are available at the NCEA.

In general, the participants have very much appreciated the seminar: 57% was very satisfied, and 32% was satisfied (see the upper graph). Some remarked that the seminar could be longer than 2,5–3 days, and that the venue, with one relatively small room, could be better.

Approximately half of the participants (51%, see the middle graph) judged that after the seminar, they have improved the level of knowledge and skills to adequate levels to contribute to SEA in Ethiopia. Most of the others or 43% feel that they have improved their knowledge and skills, but do not feel to have sufficient skill and knowledge yet for this activity. This is of course not surprising after only 3 days of work on an entirely new topic. Follow-up capacity development would be required for those people.

Almost all participants considered the seminar useful for their work (78% very useful, 19% useful, see lower graph).

Lessons learnt

Among the most important lessons learnt, people remarked upon the importance of participation:

- The SEA approach involves more stakeholders in the process
- SEA involving different stakeholders and real participation
- Unilateral developments are bottlenecks, stakeholders should come together
- No perspective is right or wrong. The importance of being open minded and receptive to a range of perspectives on something.

They reflected upon the importance of integrating environmental concerns:

- The issue of environmental safeguards in projects that WRDF is financing
- The sustainability of projects/programs is of crucial importance

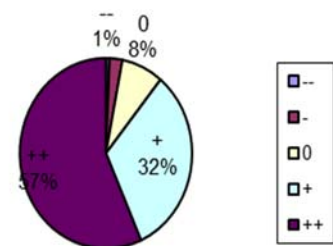
And about adopting SEA for water management:

- Mainstreaming SEA in water policy
- Integrated water resources management implementation with SEA
- Incorporation of SEA in water and energy sectors and their consistency check
- Links between EIA & SEA, our organisation is now preparing basin plan to this Basin Plan need SEA so then, this topic is very useful to my work
- Defining projects is result of SEA process and not an input – no foregone conclusions

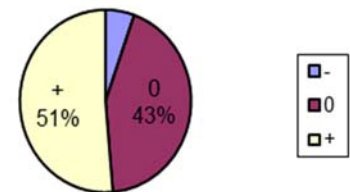
And to operationalise this:

- Needs assessment using systems approach and identifying the right SEA implementer
- Preparing guidelines for SEA
- Process of SEA and procedure of SEA, this topic is useful when we prepare SEA in the future.

Overall impression of the training
(all respondents and all questions combined)



Level of Knowledge and skills
(all respondents and all questions combined)



Relevance of the training to your work
(all respondents combined)

