

C6 1 Planning for biodiversity and development: SEA as a tool	
<i>Session Leader(s)</i>	Martin Slater Martin.slater@environment-agency.gov.uk
<i>Focus and approach</i>	<p>Approach:</p> <p>Brief presentations (5 slides) followed by facilitated open discussion around key discussion points. The focus of the session was on:</p> <p>Q1 What lessons can be learnt from practical experience for global application?</p> <p>Q2 Do we need SEA to do biodiversity planning?</p> <p>Q3 Does SEA deliver better outcomes for biodiversity (eg as opposed to sequential project-EIA)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction by Martin Slater outlining key discussion points 2. Inclusion of Environmental Risk Assessment within SEA as a way to ensure the biodiversity conservation in Brazilian oil exploration and production offshore areas. <i>Katia Cristina Garcia, Emilio Lebre La Rovere, Alvaro Bezerra de Souza Junior</i> 3. SEA and implementation of the Shell Biodiversity Strategy <i>Susana Muhamad</i> 4. SEA of the India Ecodevelopment Project: a review of prospects and challenges for biodiversity conservation. <i>Asha Rajvanshi</i> 5. Integrating biodiversity considerations in SEA of an irrigation project in Central India. <i>Vinod Mathur</i>
<i>Main trends and issues</i>	<p>Key issues:</p> <p>For sectoral development activities, there is a need to carry standard operational risk assessments to a more strategic level, for example to manage down biodiversity risk at the planning stage. Otherwise only technical alternatives are available to manage risk.</p> <p>Corporate policies and standards, with biodiversity ‘champions’ can deliver enhancement through corporate strategic planning.</p> <p>A strategic approach is required to deliver many biodiversity benefits (long lead times). SEA can help move companies and governments from damage limitation to positive management and enhancement of biodiversity</p> <p>SEA is necessary to take an ecosystem approach to assessment and management as advocated by the global conventions and to deal with cumulative effects.</p> <p>Advantages of SEA to a company and partner country/government include:</p> <p>Conditions for development have been set in advance and trade offs agreed: dos and don’ts in a specific area can be identified at policy</p>

	level before development starts.
<i>Profile of the status, quality and effectiveness of SEA</i>	<p>Very good examples of corporate tools (Shell Biodiversity Standard and Biodiversity Base Map) which could support a strategic approach. Companies and the governments they work with recognize the need for a more strategic approach, but this is a relatively new area for application of SEA.</p> <p>No consensus about the merits of formalizing SEA with respect to mainstreaming biodiversity considerations in the planning process, though agreement that an SEA-type mechanism is required.</p> <p>Regulatory frameworks often weak: to what extent should private companies raise expectations and standards of environmental assessment (eg Shell’s corporate policies and standards often demand higher standard than governments in countries where Shell is operating)</p> <p>Good examples of biodiversity conservation planning outputs being used systematically to support a strategic planning approach.. also of stakeholder participation to ensure local community needs for biodiversity are recognized and provided for.</p>
<i>Key findings and lessons</i>	<p>From a biodiversity perspective, project EIA is often deficient.. a wider temporal and spatial scope is required for effective assessment and management.</p> <p>Q1 What lessons can be learnt from practical experience for global application? Biodiversity risks and opportunities need to be considered earlier in the planning of activities (presentations by Muhamad and Garcia)..SEA is one way to do this, so long as it is developed WITH the plan and not done retrospectively. SEA must be open, transparent, based on participation etc</p> <p>Vinod Mathur presented examples of practical biodiversity ‘triggers’ to help determine the need for SEA.</p> <p>Q2 Do we need SEA to do biodiversity planning? SEA helps support an ecosystem-approach and raises the profile of important constraints. SEA of the India Eco-development Project (Rajvanshi) was a catalyst for new thinking about the benefits of biodiversity and access to biodiversity resources so that impacts on protected areas could be better managed.*Involvement of local communities is key, including in design and planning of the SEA process.</p> <p>SEA can also help generate biodiversity information when this is deficient or lacking (Vinod Mathur).</p> <p>Q3 Does SEA deliver better outcomes for biodiversity (eg as opposed to sequential project-EIA) SEA helps companies and governments to clarify trade-offs and requirements early (it has a streamlining role). This means that there is more focus on enhancement and less just on firefighting and damage limitation</p> <p>*NB the World Bank requested environmental review of the India Eco-Development Project.. SEA was chosen as an appropriate tool..</p>

	<p>WB could recommend SEA more often!</p> <p>SEA helps deliver better biodiversity mitigation (Vinod Mathur)</p>
<i>Future directions</i>	<p>Advice needed on tools for assessment of corporate policies, standards and plans.. does this need to be formalized?</p> <p>Clear biodiversity information required as a focus for planning of activities.. any generic indicators?</p> <p><i>Advice/ examples of effective participatory approaches</i></p>