

EXISTING GUIDANCE ON BIODIVERSITY AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Comprehensive legislation and guidelines available for EIA
- No legislation or guidelines on SEA
- Increasing understanding that SEA at the policy and planning level can be used to advocate a sustainable approach to development

KEY PLAYERS OR STAKEHOLDERS

- Regulatory Agencies
- Conservation oriented agencies (Forest Dept., Dept. of Wildlife Conservation, Coast Conservation Department)
- Universities
- Research agencies
- Private consultancy firms
- Non-governmental organisations

NEEDS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING, SUPPORT, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Capacity building in

- Concepts of biodiversity
- Concepts of SEA
- Integration of biodiversity in EIA
- Publication of best-practice EIAs which address biodiversity issues
- Advice/guidance on incorporation of biodiversity issues in EIA
- Advice/guidance on SEA
- Evaluation of past EIA studies for adequacy of biodiversity issues

RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR PROJECT INVOLVEMENT

- Develop guidelines for incorporation of biodiversity into EIA in practice.
- Compile 'best-practice' cases which address biodiversity issues in EIA
- Develop model legislation for incorporation of BIA in EIA
- Develop procedures for analyzing impacts of programmes and policies by developing model legislation and guidelines on SEA
- Study the adequacy - or otherwise - of past EIA projects for integration of biodiversity issues

Training of EIA Practitioners on Biodiversity Assessments

- Annual ten-day residential training programme for EIA practitioners including government agencies, non-governmental agencies, consultants and academics.
- This programme could be effectively used to impart this knowledge to all EIA stakeholders