

## **Module 1: Basics of SEA**

# **SEA at the Policy, Plan and Program Levels**

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# What Are the Three Ps?

- **Policy: a broad statement of intent, including an objective and a broadly stated course of action to meet the objective (and issues of priority?)**
  - **Can be: private or public, explicit or implicit, statutory or non-statutory**

# What Are the Three Ps? (Cont.)

- **Plan:** a more specific outline of a strategy for implementing a policy
- **Program:** an agenda consisting of proposals or instruments, of greater specificity, for implementing a policy; sometimes referred to as a group of projects

# What Are the Three Ps? (Cont.)

- Policies, plans and programs make up the hierarchy of the decision-making process
- Result in a tiered relationship
- There is considerable overlap between plans and programs
- Level of specificity and certainty increase moving downwards in the hierarchy
- Work at different spatial and temporal scales

# Implications of Definitions

- **Although generalized statements can be made about the meaning of PPPs, in practice definitions vary between countries:**
  - **Vary by country and/or agency**
  - **Primarily due to their dependence on existing political and institutional contexts**
  - **Exact definitions often outlined in policy documents**

# Implications of Differences in Definitions

- **Differences impact:**
  - Level of integration (agency and through the tiers)
  - Method selection - success
- **Need clear definitions to select appropriate methods**

# General Methodology

- The literature to date has promoted the benefits of SEA but lacks details on how the process should be carried out
- To primary categories for the emerging methodology:
  - Extension of EIA
  - Sustainability-led

# General Methodology (cont.)

## ■ Extension of EIA

- Using project EIA procedures and techniques at the PPP level

## ■ Sustainability-led

- Integrating sustainability ideas in a tiering/trickle-down process
- Using policy analysis-type methods
- Growing focus

# General Methodology (cont.)

- **Key characteristics of both streams of methodology:**
  - **Public involvement**
  - **Accountability**
  - **Early use**
  - **Consideration of alternatives and potential impacts**
  - **Timely, relevant and influential in the decision process when used**

# Methodology - Policy

- **SEA is a policy formulation aid not a post-facto justification tool**
- **Integration needs to start at the policy level**
- **Addresses higher levels of uncertainty**
- **Examples of integrated policy instruments are the Resource Management Act in New Zealand, and the Dutch e-test**

# Methodology - Plan and Program

- **Focus on sectors:**
  - **Primarily - energy, transport and waste management**
  - **Secondary - regional development and land use planning**

# Methodology - Plan

- **Two potential forms:**
  - **Existing sector system integration - e.g. spatial planning process in Portugal**
  - **Broad based integration - e.g. schemes in Western Australia**

# Methodology - Program

- **E.g. U.S. programmatic EIS**
  - **New agency programs or regulations under NEPA**
  - **Major federal actions**

# **IAIA Criteria for SEA**

- **Integrated**
- **Sustainability-led**
- **Focused**
- **Accountable**
- **Participative**
- **Iterative**

# Concluding Remarks

- **Implications of PPP definitions**
- **General methodology themes**
- **Selection of SEA methodology**