



SEA: Dealing with Alternatives, Mitigation measures and Monitoring

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Alternatives in SEA

- The SEA Directive requires description and evaluation of reasonable alternatives and an explanation of the reasons for the final choice “in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with.”
- „Zero Alternative“ is always available for comparison
- Within the SEA process various strategic options for proposed developments can be considered:
 - Need or demand for proposed actions;
 - Technology or processes used;
 - Locations; and
 - Priorities, timing or sequencing of the proposed actions.

Hierarchy of alternative options that could be addressed in the SEA process

- **Question 1: Is the proposed development necessary - generally and in the scale proposed?** (Need or demand management options)
 - Can the need or demand be met without new development or infrastructure etc. at all? Are there any realistic opportunities for managing development demand (e.g. through regulatory, economic or administrative tools or other proposals that promote behavioural changes?)
- **Question 2: How should it be done?** (Method or process options)
 - Are there methods, technologies or processes that can meet the development demands with less environmental damage than 'obvious' or traditional methods?
- **Question 3: Where should it go?** (Location options or 'no-go' areas)
 - Where should the proposed developments go and where should be avoided?
- **Question 4: When should it be implemented?** (Timing or sequencing options)
 - When and in what sequence should developments be carried out?

Measures for mitigating adverse impacts and enhancing positive impacts

- Recommendations for design of planned activities/projects.
 - recommendations on specific issues and alternatives that should be investigated in their design,
 - proposing scope and focus of specific EIAs that will be undertaken in the future for these activities,
 - recommending conditions for implementation of these activities/projects.
- Improvements in inter-institutional arrangements to ensure that side effects of the proposed plan are properly managed.
 - These may include improved coordination between relevant authorities, better use of economic instruments or enhanced enforcement and administrative supervision of proposed developments.
- Other proposed initiatives to offset adverse impacts.

Practical suggestions

Once recommendations (e.g. ToR for future EIAs, Guiding Notes etc.) were formulated for all actions, consider what needs to be done for their proper reflection in terms of:

- Institutional arrangements (coordination, supervisions)
- Capacity development for sound implementation of this system

Monitoring

- What is generally expected in the design of the post-SEA monitoring?
- How should post-SEA monitoring link with the monitoring for the plan?
- Monitoring Indicators
 - scientifically sound
 - linked to the identified key issues/problems
 - (preferably) based on available data
 - where possible, a target or critical value shall be identified