



Netherlands Commission for
Environmental Assessment

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The Aalborg Lessons

Guidance and Practice in Using SEA for Climate Issues in Developing Countries



Overall objective of the Aalborg sessions

Is current guidance on climate tools effective for EIA and SEA practitioners?

Issues discussed

1. What kind of guidance on climate issues do SEA practitioners in developing countries **need**?
2. Looking at what already exists, do we need **new** guidance?
3. Is there a need for **streamlining or harmonizing** existing guidance?
4. What role could **IAIA** play?

What cases & guidance are available?

Case studies:

- Very little available
- Much underway, but few concluded and/or analysed

Guidance:

- Not a lot specifically aimed at SEA & climate in a developing countries context
- But a lot that may be useful, e.g. guidance:
 - on specific tools and methods
 - on how to find the best tool for a specific purpose
 - aimed at developed countries
 - etc

Some examples of existing guidance

Aimed at **SEA & climate** in **developing** countries:

- OECD DAC SEA task force: SEA & climate change adaptation
- CIDA: Climate Change Integration Tool/SEA applicability tool
- UNDP Technical Paper: Framework to Apply the SEA Approach to Adaptation

Some examples of existing guidance

Useful for SEA e.g.:

- Alterra/NCEA/CPWC
- Levett-Therivel
- Scott Wilson/GTZ (ongoing)
- USAID
- UNDP
- OECD DAC EPOC Climate task team
- UNECE SEA protocol & UNECE Water protocol
- EU (ongoing)
- GTZ/Inwent
- UK-IDS (Orchid)
- IUCN (Cristal)
- etc etc

How do they compare?

- **Advisory note on SEA & climate change adaptation**
 - OECD DAC SEA task force, 2008
- **Climate Risk Screening and Assessment Tools**
 - OECD DAC-EPOC Task Team on Climate, 2010
- **Adaptation tools for the water sector**
 - Alterra, NCEA, CPWC 2010

OECD SEA task team advisory note

- *Objective*: how to apply SEA to mainstream climate adaptation
- *Applicability*: all sectors, strategic planning, development cooperation
- *Target audience*: SEA practitioners + sector specialists, donor community
- *Format*: checklist of questions per step in SEA process

OECD SEA task team advisory note

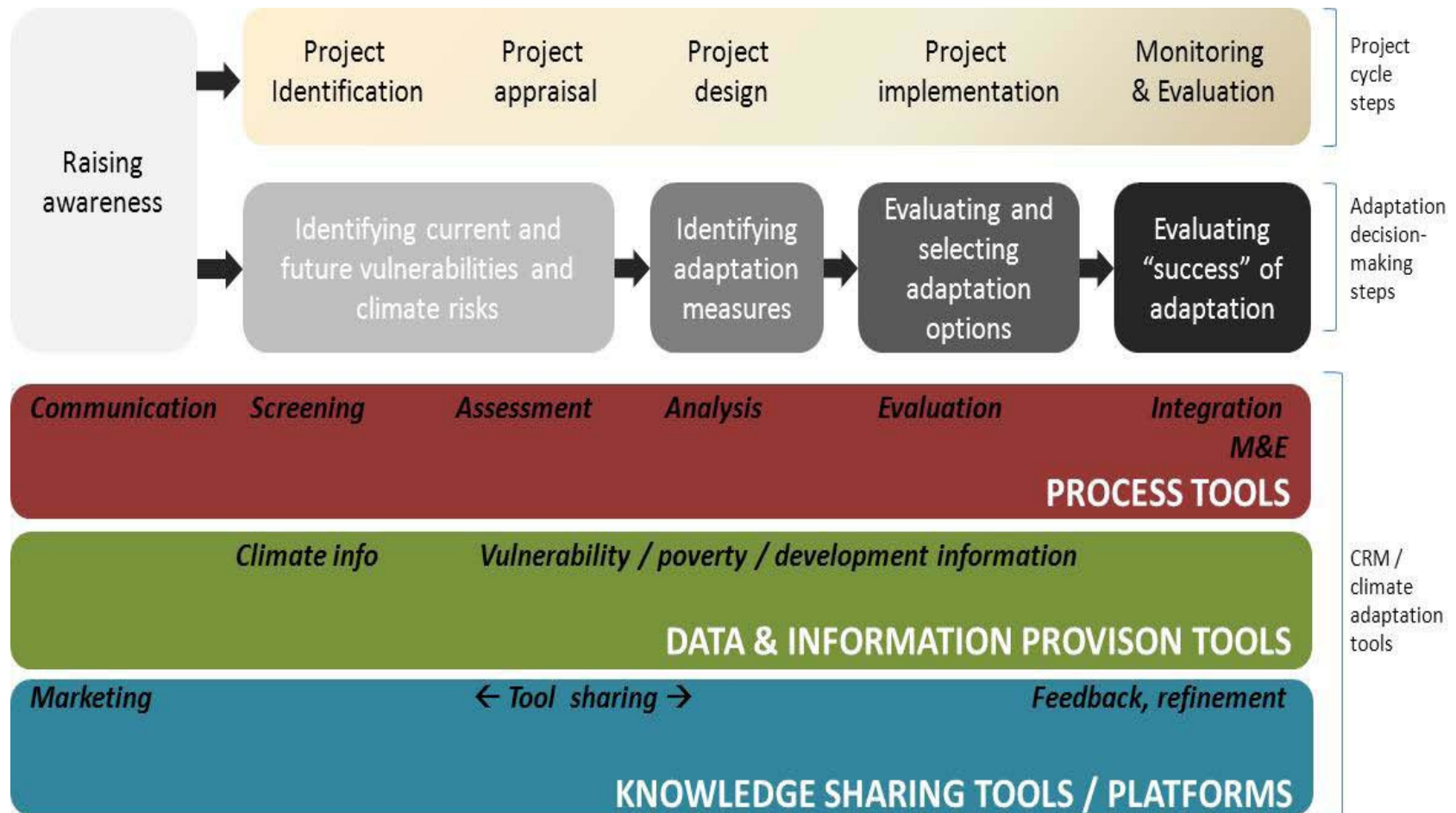
1.1 Assess the need for climate change considerations in the SEA

- Which key ***national development priorities***, geographical ***areas*** and/or ***sectors*** are likely to be particularly ***affected by climate change***?
- What are the ***main climate trends***?
- What is the level of awareness of climate change and associated risks among planners and society at large?
- For specific sectors, ***what are the main risks from climate change***? (e.g. loss of coastal systems for tourism, reduced runoff and recharge for water, increased rainfall variability for agriculture, expansion of disease vector ranges for health)
- Etc

OECD Climate task team inventory

- *Objective*: overview of main climate screening and assessment tools
- *Applicability*: all sectors, project and strategic level, development cooperation
- *Target audience*: development community, both donor and developing countries
- *Format*: analysis and short description of tools, indication of usefulness per decision making step

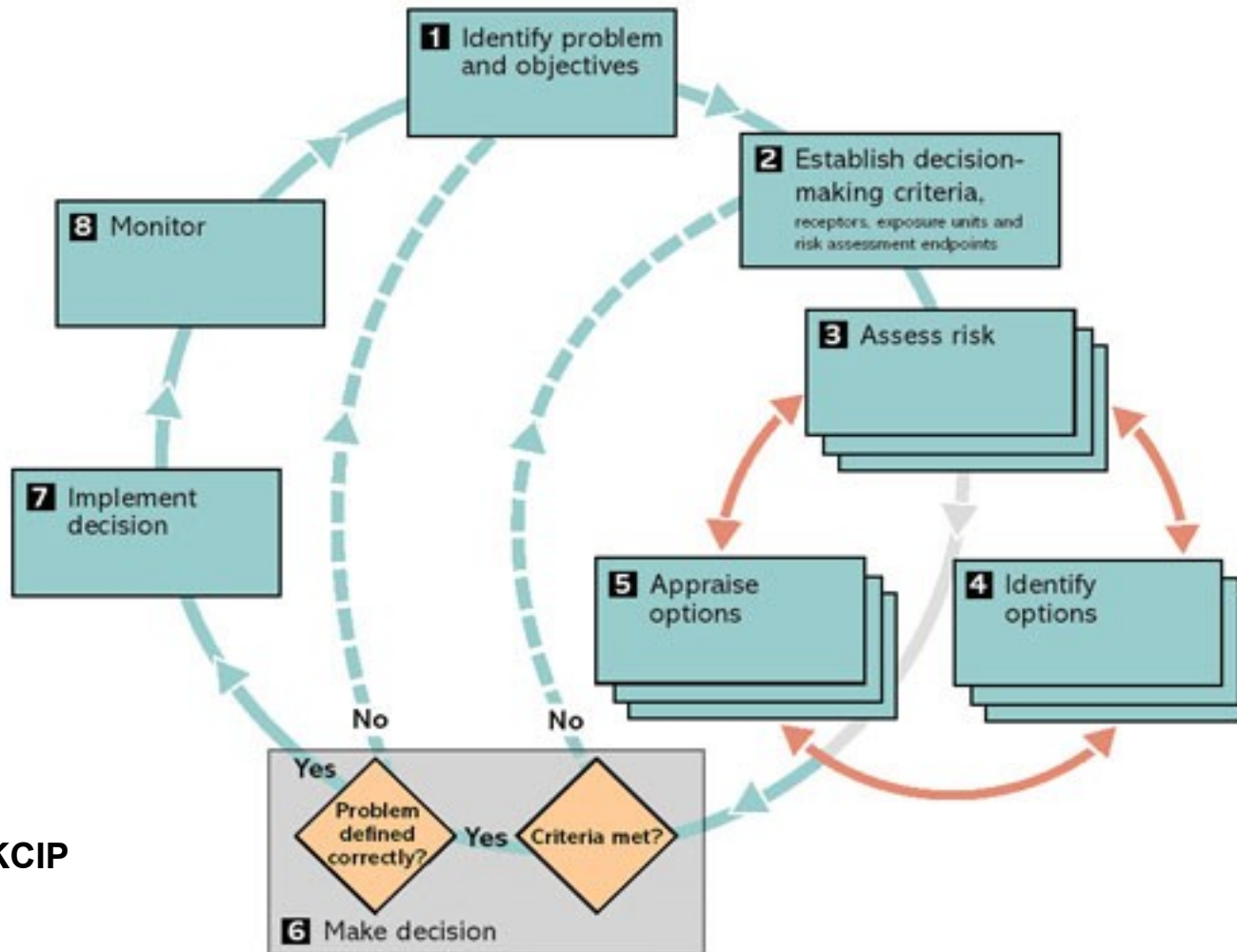
OECD Climate task team inventory



Dutch tool kit: adaptation tools for the water sector

- *Objective*: overview of tools to assess and evaluate climate impacts and adaptation options
- *Applicability*: water and water-related sectors, developed & developing countries, project & strategic
- *Target audience*: practitioners in developing countries, both local and donor
- *Framework*: analysis and short description of tools; usability per decision making phase

Dutch adaptation tool kit



Source: UKCIP

Source: Hasse Goosen/
Bouwstenen NAS

Some conclusions in Aalborg

1. What kind of guidance on climate issues do SEA practitioners in developing countries **need**?
 - guidance on SEA process as important as guidance on how to find data
 - don't make new guidance, but integrate climate guidance into existing SEA guidance

Some conclusions in Aalborg

2. Looking at what already exists, do we need **new** guidance?
 - develop more guidance on how to ***influence*** strategic decision making and ***convince/commit*** decision makers
 - more guidance on applying SEA as ***bridge/communicator*** between science and political decision making

Some conclusions in Aalborg

3. Is there a need for **streamlining or harmonizing** existing guidance?
 - Don't bother too much about confusion or overlap; practice will sort that out ('natural evolution')
 - Most needed:
 - continuous **communication** between SEA experts, sector experts and climate experts
 - an effective mechanism to keep each other **updated** of what we are doing

Some conclusions in Aalborg

4. What role could **IAIA** play?
 - IAIA and/or NCEA to act as **focal point** for **communication** and **updates** on climate guidance
 - Both within SEA community and **across sectors**
 - Consider a short **position paper** on role of SEA in climate change, and how it links to other tools
 - (And do the same for EIA)

Last slide

- For latest news: check www.eia.nl