


April 2004

REVIEWING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SEA IN GUIDING SUBSEQUENT PLANNING, DECISION-MAKING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT


A CASE STUDY FROM THE COEGA
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE
(IDZ), SOUTH AFRICA

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Structure of presentation

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1. Aims of this presentation
 2. Background to the Coega IDZ and Port
 3. Overview of EA&M at Coega
 4. Review of effectiveness
 - Approach
 - Key findings
 - Gaps and shortcomings
 - Recommendations

Aims of this presentation

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- Provide a framework for evaluating the effectiveness of the Coega SEA
 - Present key findings from the review of the effectiveness of the Coega SEA
 - Convey gaps, shortcomings and recommendations for future SEAs for IDZs

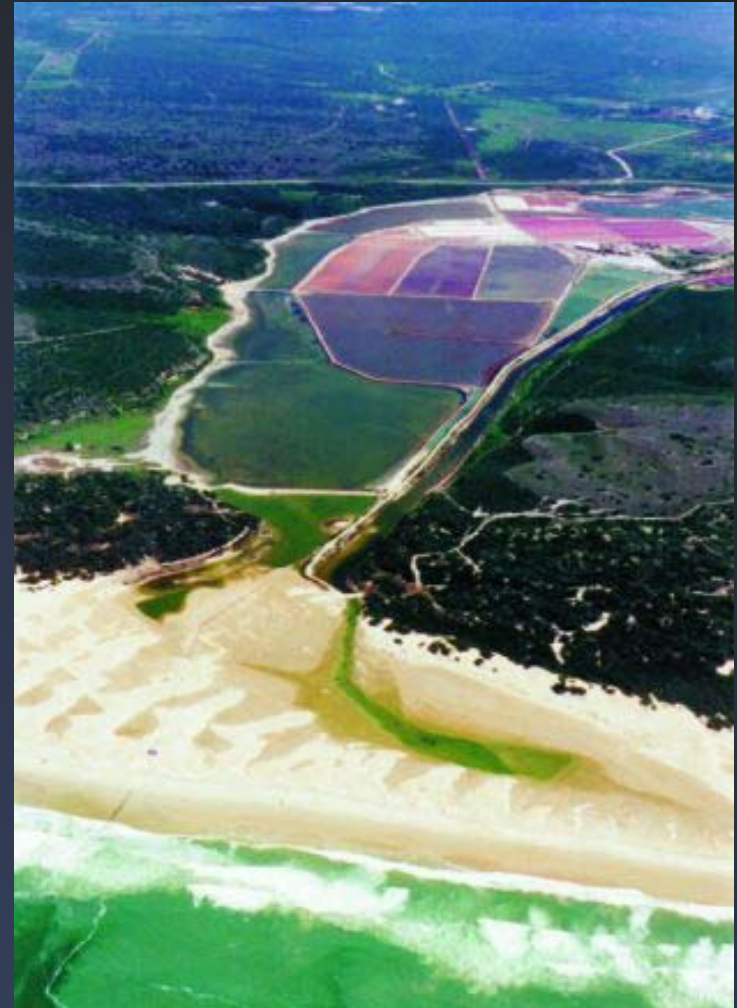
Background to the Coega IDZ and Port

- National policy to:
 - promote new industrial investment and economic growth
 - establish SA internationally as a key manufacturing centre
- Coega identified as flagship new IDZ

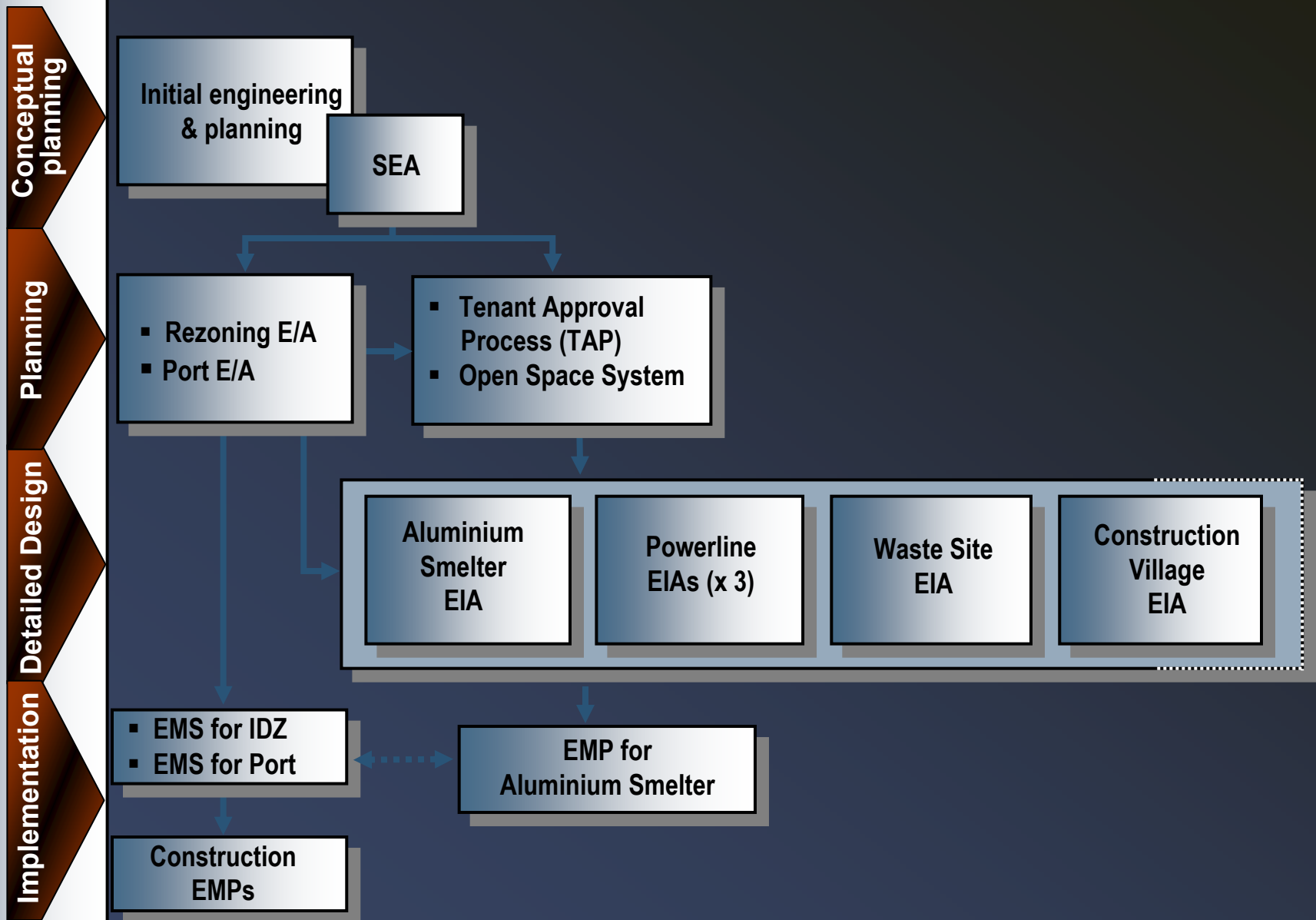


Background to the Coega IDZ and Port


- 12 000 ha duty-free IDZ and deepwater port
- Environmental issues considered from early in the planning
- SEA undertaken (1996-1997) to:
 - identify any fatal flaws
 - set conditions under which IDZ could proceed




Overview of EA&M at Coega



Components of effectiveness

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- How effective was the Coega SEA in:
 - identifying **strategic issues and impacts**?
 - facilitating meaningful **stakeholder engagement**?
 - informing **decision-making** processes?
 - being incorporated into and implemented via **planning** processes?
 - guiding and informing subsequent **EA&M** processes?

Approach

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- Review of documentation
 - Interviews with key roleplayers:
 - Provincial environmental authority
 - Coega Development Corporation
 - National Port Authority
 - Environmental consultants
 - NGO: Wildlife & Environment Society
 - Prompted feedback on biophysical, social, economic and institutional issues
 - Sourced a combination of experience, perceptions, opinions and facts



Effectiveness in identifying strategic issues and impacts?

Effective:

- SEA adequately identified issues for IDZ → Rezoning EIA did not require additional scoping

Shortcomings:

- Supporting infrastructure and resource requirements not adequately assessed:
 - power
 - bulk water availability



Effectiveness in facilitating meaningful stakeholder engagement?

Effective:

- Raising general environmental awareness
- Sensitizing stakeholders to environmental issues early in the planning process

Shortcomings:

- General public perception in the Eastern Cape was that the SEA was seen to be trying to legitimise the decision to locate an IDZ at Coega.



Effectiveness in informing decision-making processes?

Shortcomings:

- SEA not linked to a specific decision by government, in terms of legislated planning or environmental processes
- Decision to proceed with IDZ at Coega a *fait accompli* and no fundamental development alternatives considered.
- *Brief for SEA should have been at a higher level, with key question: “Does South Africa need an IDZ and deepwater port? If so, where?”*




Effectiveness in influencing planning processes?

Effective:

- Analysis of vegetation and sensitive areas led to identification of “no go” areas, which were formally adopted in the Open Space System.

Shortcomings:

- Planning of infrastructure corridors not integrated with demarcation of “no go” areas. Conflicts later emerged.



Effectiveness in guiding subsequent EA&M processes?

Effective:

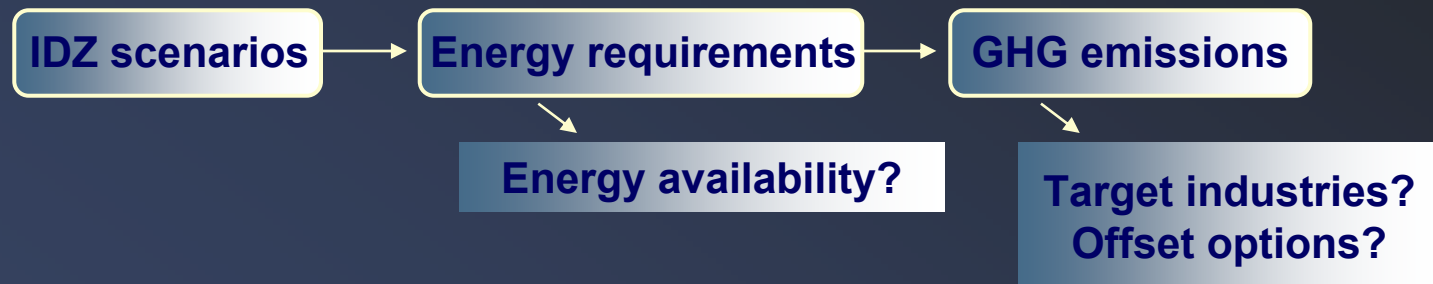
- Comprehensive vegetation mapping and analysis done for the SEA. Subsequent EIAs did not need to assess general impacts on vegetation, but could focus on specific issues.
- SEA recommendations of cumulative air pollution limits were useful, and were adopted and taken into later EIAs.

Shortcomings:

- Social and economic recommendations too general and not sufficiently context-specific.

Recommendations to improve effectiveness of SEAs for IDZs (1)

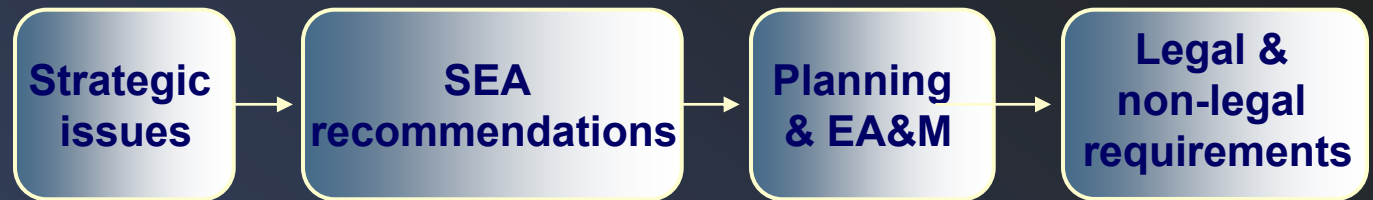
- Conduct an **international review** of strategic environmental issues and **best practice** associated with IDZs
- Develop plausible future **development scenarios** for the IDZ → possible land uses and associated inputs and outputs.
- **Trace links** between IDZ issues and regional/global issues



- Improve **social and economic aspects** of SEA to provide more context-specific guidelines for EIAs.

Recommendations to improve effectiveness of SEAs for IDZs (2)

- To realize all aspects of effectiveness included in this review, **linkages** need to be clear.



- Ensure that the role of the SEA and different **stakeholders** involved is clear. Can then build commitment to the process and outcomes, across biophysical, social and economic aspects.
- Ensure that the **recommendations** from the SEA are linked to implementing bodies/individuals, and that there is the commitment, skill and resources to implement the recommendations.

Conclusions

Effective

Shortcomings



Spirit of learning and improvement

Constructive relationship among stakeholders