

---

# **Topic 15**

## **Future directions**

---

---

## Using EIA to move towards sustainability

---

- EIA is a foundation tool
- EIA is a tried and tested process
- EIA is a legal requirement in many countries
- EIA is an integrative tool already
- EIA is well positioned for the next steps
- EIA is suited to capacity building

---

## Using SEA to move toward sustainability

---

- SEA adds value to foundation tool
- SEA complements and extends EIA
- SEA being adopted by more countries
- SEA addresses major alternatives
- SEA is step toward comprehensive options assessment

---

## Current realities

---

- EIA basics need strengthening in many developing countries
- SEA still used primarily by developed countries
- EIA and SEA yet to realise their full potential
- limited consideration of global, large scale changes
- current practice provides minimal level of 'sustainability assurance'

---

## Emerging challenges

---

- new challenges imposed by globalisation
- environmental impacts becoming larger, more complex
- increasingly difficult to predict and mitigate
- shift toward adaptive and integrative assessment
- emphasis on precautionary rather than predictive approach
- use of best estimate science to identify safe margins
- backed by monitoring, auditing and other checks

---

## Considering future directions step by step

---

- Step 1: What ideally should happen?

Identify needed changes from national sustainability agenda

- Step 2: What realistically is likely to happen?

Consider development aims and trends that apply locally

- Step 3: What probably could happen with capacity building?

Reach conclusions based on strategies in place or pending

---

## Key trends and imperatives for sustainable development

---

- ♦ *impacts* –  
rate and scale of global change  
unparalleled
- ♦ *drivers* –  
population growth, increasing  
consumption and technology
- ♦ *response* –  
linkages must be assessed  
systematically and holistically
- ♦ *sustainability* –  
reconciling environmental, economic  
and social aims

---

## Two main directions for EIA and SEA

---

- 'upstream' toward sustainability appraisal
  - integrating EIA and SEA with other impact assessment tools
- 'downstream' toward environmental management
  - combining assessment, accounting and auditing tools



---

## Aspects and issues of sustainability appraisal

---

- full cost analysis of development proposals
- equated with integrated impact assessment
- identifies economic, environmental, and social effects
- incorporates sustainability aims, principles, criteria
- clarifies trade-offs and facilitates balanced decision-making

---

## Aspects and issues of sustainability appraisal (continued)

---

- ♦ triple bottom line must be met at minimum level
- ♦ new approach to decision-making needed
- ♦ examples of applications include:
  - sustainability assessment of trade framework for environmental assurance and assessment
  - core values and criteria for decision-making

---

## Aspects and issues of integrated environmental management (IEM)

---

- focus on environmental impacts of all development actions
- particular attention given to business and industrial operations
- EMS certified to ISO 14001 cover larger enterprises
- many activities and enterprises not subject to control

---

# Aspects and issues of integrated environmental management (IEM)

(continued)

---

- ♦ lack of IEM framework and tools
- ♦ building blocks of IEM system include:
  - environmental accounting to cost depletion and damage
  - environmental assessment to provide sustainability assurance
  - environmental auditing to verify compliance and performance

---

## Interim measures to improve EIA and SEA practice

---

- ♦ move toward integrated approach step by step
- ♦ getting there will take time
- ♦ progress will vary from country to country
- ♦ use TNA to identify priority requirements
- ♦ identify improvements that can be made now
- ♦ identify improvements that could be made in near term
- ♦ identify improvements that could achieve sustainability appraisal over medium term