

PREFACE

This document is one of the series of guidelines provided by the Federal Ministry of Environment under the EIA Act 2017. This is in recognition of the fact that the EIA Act is for project level decision making process. SEA is to help in achieving the goals of sustainable development as it is a continuous and iterative process geared on strengthening institutions and governance. It is an environmental tool for seeking effectiveness in a system that requires capacity building for a strong institutions and environmental management systems.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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1.1 Introduction

This Guideline is presented in the context of an emerging framework on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act 2017. Section 59 of the Act makes provision for the requirement of an SEA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) originated after Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), with inputs from biophysical planning and policy analysis. The overall purpose of SEA is to ensure that environmental issues shall be adequately considered at early stages of development policy-making and planning.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) means a proactive environmental management tool that provides decision-makers and stakeholders with information on the environmental implications of a **Policy, Plan or Programme** before major alternatives are chosen and decisions taken. A Strategic Environmental Assessment is the systematic and comprehensive process of examining environmental effects, significant economic and social effects for the purpose of promoting integrated decision making.

Fundamentally, while the EIA is a tool for managing the environmental effects of implementing a project, the significant effects will often have been determined by decisions that have been made at higher levels in the decision making hierarchy. SEA provides a mechanism to not only manage the negative effects of policy or plan proposals, but to pro-actively identify the best environmental solution. SEA is also better positioned to address the cumulative effects that result from government policies and plans. The primary aim of SEA is to attain environmental sustainability. The purpose of this guideline is to provide clear and concise information to all stakeholders (Proponents, Consultants, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Members of the Public, Expert in relevant disciplines and interested groups, the organized private sector, non-governmental organizations, professional bodies, host and project affected communities) on how to strengthen the development of policies, plans and/ or programmes. This guideline will also assist stakeholders to identify the environmental issues, mitigation measures and alternatives that need to be assessed and considered during SEA study.

1.2 Policies, plans and programmes (PPP)

Policies and plans are part of decision-making leading from strategic high level policy decisions to the specific decisions taken at the project level. It is often difficult to understand the differences between a policy, plan or programme as different countries or even institutions within the same country have their own interpretations of the terms. The term ‘plan’ and ‘programme’ are sometimes interchangeable, but for the purpose of this guideline definitions are as follows

- **Policy-** guiding intent, defined goals, objectives and priorities, actual or proposed direction; or The overall direction that provides inspiration and guidance for decision making and action.
- **Plan** - strategy or design to carry out a general or particular course of action, incorporating policy ends, options, and ways and means to implement; or; Set of coordinated linked time-bound actions with objectives to implement policy.
- **Programme** - schedule of proposed commitments, activities or instruments to be implemented within or by a particular sector or area of policy; or; A set of projects or activities in a particular area.

1.3 The Importance of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- Promotes and helps to understand sustainability challenges, incorporating an integrated perspective earlier in policy-making and planning processes;
- Supports strategic decision-making, setting enabling development conditions;
- Facilitates identification and discussion of development options and provides guidelines to help development to follow sustainability trajectories;
- Informs planners, decision makers and affected public on the sustainability of strategic decisions, ensuring a democratic decision making process, enhancing the credibility of decisions;
- Encourages political willingness, stimulates changes to mentalities and create a culture of strategic decision-making.

1.4 Benefits of SEA

- Provides the framework for influencing decision making at an earlier stage when plans and programme which give rise to individual projects are being developed.
- Leads to more sustainable development through the systematic appraisal of policy options.
- Plays an important role in addressing the cumulative impacts of individual projects.
- SEA is not a replacement of EIA, so it does not prevent the need for project environmental assessment.
- Improves the quality of the plan-making process by facilitating the identification and appraisal of alternative plan strategies, raising awareness of the environmental impacts of plans and encouraging the inclusion of measurable targets and indicators.
- Facilitates trans-boundary corporation.

1.5 Who Should Carry Out SEA

- (i) The regulatory authority(ies) who produce plans and programme subject to SEA;
- (ii) The corporate bodies who undertake public-private-partnership programme with environmental responsibilities;
- (iii) Other government bodies, including those with roles in oversight of plans or programme;
- (iv) Private organisations with developments and projects transcending across states and regions;
- (v) All those who may be affected by or have an interest in plans or programmes, including members of the public, non-government organisations, businesses and developers.

1.6 SEA and Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria

The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future

generations. The importance and benefits of SEA as discussed above promotes sustainable development. SEA supports the betterment of natural resources. SEA can be applied to sectors for the creation of strategic initiatives within plans and programme for the development of local and regional areas of the country. SEA can be applied to sectors listed below;

- agriculture;
- energy;
- power generation
- forestry;
- fisheries;
- manufacturing industry;
- land use;
- transport;
- telecommunications;
- tourism;
- urban and regional planning;
- solid waste management;
- water management
- civil aviation;

1.7 Principles of SEA

Below are some common guiding principles for a good practice SEA. The SEA should be;

- fit for purpose, the SEA process should be customized to the context and characteristic of policy and plan making;
- objective led to identify environmental goals and priorities;
- sustainability driven ensuring proposal promotes sustainable development;
- comprehensive in scope to cover all aspects policies, plans and programme
- decision relevant with focus on issues that matter
- integrated with considerations for social, health and other effects as appropriate and necessary
- transparent with a clear, easy to understand requirements and procedures

- participative to provide for public information and involvement
- accountable and carried out fairly, impartially and professionally having regard for standards and subject to independent oversight and review
- cost-effective whilst meeting objectives within time and budget, limits of available policy, information and resources.

1.8 SEA – EIA Linkage and Relationship

SEA does not replace EIA but broadly follows basic principles of EIA.

- SEA have much larger boundaries than EIA in terms of time, space and subject coverage;
- SEA is driven by the analysis, comparison and assessment of major strategic options with visions and concepts.
- SEA mainly focuses on critical decision moments along the decision processes.
- SEA proffers alternatives in terms of spatial balance of location, technologies, fiscal measures, economic, social or physical strategies and
- SEA can recommend;
 - (i) changes within the proposed plans or programme
 - (ii) improvements in coordination among regulatory authorities
 - (iii) new cross-sectoral interventions
 - (iv) suggestions for EIA of future projects and improve their quality including alternatives to locations, design, construction and operation.

2.0 Justification of SEA

In justifying the rationale for SEA, the proposal should;

- Elucidate the PPP goals, objectives, and targets with integration of existing policies and planning;
- Analyze the potential effects and risks of the proposal and its alternatives against a framework of sustainability objectives, principles, and criteria;
- Provide explicit justifications for the selection of the preferred options and or significant trade-offs;
- Address the linkages and trade-offs between environmental, social, and economic considerations;
- Involve key stakeholders and encourage public involvement;
- Be transparent with communication of results;
- Be cost-effective, encourage synergies, and avoid duplication of efforts;
- Provide opportunities for capacity building;
- Include an effective, formal, independent, quality-assurance, review, and performance-evaluation system;
- create a system to Monitor the PPP outputs;
- Encourage formal evaluation of the SEA process after PPP implementation.

SEA can be applied to policies, plans and programme at the Federal, State and Local government levels to translate into;

1. Poverty reduction;
2. Privatisation;
3. Sustainable development;
4. Five year plans;
5. Millennium Development Goals based policies;
6. Budgets;
7. Grants;
8. Subsidies;
9. Regional plans;
10. Master plans;

3.0 Procedure for Conducting SEA

This section provides a step by step detail on the procedure and stages of a SEA process. The steps are for all plans and programmes to which SEA shall apply as contained in the EIA Act 2017, sectors listed in section 1.6 of this guideline and on the directive of the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv).

3.1 Forms of SEA

- 1) Policy level SEA – applies to highest level proposals but has constraints due to often political and bureaucratic resistance.
- 2) Plan and programme level SEA – applies to proposals for specific sector. It is the most developed form of SEA and mostly applied to World Bank financed programme. This SEA is mainly applied to establish a framework for EIA of sub-projects with major potential impacts and evaluation of major alternatives.
- 3) Spatial plan and regional level SEA – applies to land use proposals for particular region, land use plans for designated areas, it is mostly promoted by World Bank, it applies to a group of sub-projects for a geographic area, provides a framework for analysing cumulative effects.

3.2 The SEA Process

3.2.1 Policy, Plan and Programme Proposal

The decision to subject a policy, plan or programme to SEA lies with FMEnv based on scale and nature of the policy, plan and or programme in question.

As soon as a stakeholder decides to embark on any of the three forms of SEA above, the ministry be informed in by writing a letter of intent. The stakeholder shall develop a proposal, in line with the Ministry’s model. Upon which the letter of intent shall be submitted with the proposal and a duly completed “strategic environmental assessment notification form” which will be made available to the stakeholder by the Ministry upon the payment of an application fee as prescribed by the Ministry. The proposal shall provide relevant information about the proposed PPP. All proposals and accompanying documents shall be addressed to the Honourable Minister Federal Ministry of Environment Mabushi Abuja.

3.2.2 Submission and registration of Terms of Reference (ToR)

The SEA shall be conducted by a FMEnv accredited environmental consultant. The consultant is expected to understand the form of SEA to which a terms of reference (ToR) be developed and submitted to the environmental assessment department of FMEnv through the office of the honourable minister of environment. The ToR shall include the scope and justification of the proposal submitted, its linkage to programme-project level and a list of regulators for involvement and consultation. The ToR and supplementary documents shall be addressed to the Honourable Minister Federal Ministry of Environment Mabushi Abuja.

The Ministry shall officially register the ToR, issue a registration number and acknowledge receipt within one (1) week. Thereafter, the Ministry shall appoint a team to act on the ToR and proceed to the next step of screening. The consultant shall ensure all the necessary documentation, general guidance, contacts, and any other available support is provided for a smooth process.

3.2.3 Screening

Following submission of a ToR the first line of action for the ministry is to screen. Screening is to decide whether an SEA is appropriate and relevant in relation to the development of a PPP in the sector under consideration. Integral to the screening process will be for the ministry to establish the objectives of the SEA, how it intends to improve the planning process, also, the nature, the location and sensitivity of the area, the potential impacts associated with the particular type/sector of development shall be considered. The overall cost on the environment and its associated elements shall also be considered by the Ministry during screening. An SEA shall be appropriate where;

- (a) the proposed plan and programme is likely to result in significant environmental effects, taking into account the magnitude, duration and spatial extent of effects;
- (b) the proposed plan and programme is likely to be politically or publicly contentious;
- (c) the cumulative effects (individual, additive and synergistic effects) are likely to be significant;
- (d) trans-boundary effects could be foreseen (likely to affect other villages, towns, cities, states, regions and countries);

- (e) Uncertainties and low confidence level surround the effects of the proposed plan and programme;
- (f) high risk to health, safety and/or the integrity of social or ecological systems are anticipated;
- (g) there will be high vulnerability to the social and ecological systems to the activities of the proposed plan and programme;
- (h) the existing levels of environmental quality are close to the permissible limits prescribed, for which the proposed plan and programme will contribute to the lowering of the environmental quality;
- (i) the proposed PPP could negatively impact on: (i). valued natural or cultural elements (e.g. threatened biodiversity, sacred areas); and (ii). recognized national, state or local conservation status e.g. nature reserves, heritage sites, wetlands of international importance and
- (j) the proposed plan and programme is likely to result in major changes in actions, behaviours or decisions by individuals, businesses, NGOs or government, that could lead to:
 - (i) the stimulation of development of infrastructure or other changes in urban or rural land use;
 - (ii) an increase in the transformation and development of natural habitat or areas important to nature conservation;
 - (iii) major changes in the pattern of settlement and/or demographics in an area;
 - (iv) major changes in the development or use of technology, that could have negative implications for health and/or safety;
 - (v) the introduction of alien and potentially invasive organisms;
 - (vi) changes in society's consumption of energy and in particular fossil fuels, and therefore, in emissions of greenhouse gases; and
 - (vii) changes in the rate of society's consumption of, and/or demand on natural resources, including water.

The decision of the Ministry after the screening process shall be communicated to the stakeholder.

3.2.4 Scoping

If SEA is required; the next step is to continuing with the scoping process. Scoping in SEA is to determine the coverage, extent and level of detail of the PPP. The scoping activities should establish the focus and content of the SEA as well as the relevant criteria for assessment. The assessment of environmental impact of the PPP and issues of concern that emanate from screening should be considered during scoping. Scoping during SEA will actively identify interested and affected stakeholders of the PPP and plan their involvement stages.

It is imperative that the process of scoping should be open, strategic, systematic and pragmatic.

Features of activities during scoping include;

- Identification of interested and affected stakeholders and determine the procedures and stages of involvement and participation of PPP stakeholders
- Establish communication channel
- Define the level/tier at which the SEA will take place;
- Define the boundaries of any required further assessment in terms of time, space, and subject matter; Inform potentially affected stakeholders about the PPP;
- Organize, focus and communicate potential impacts and concerns;
- Understand the values held by stakeholders about the quality of the environment that might be affected by the PPP;
- Identify analytical methods and data needs.
- Identify which other sectors PPP covers and possible integration of existing PPP;
- Identify the possible effects of the PPP on the environment;
- Identify the possible effects on people due to environmental changes;
- Identify important issues that will need to be studied in detail;
- Filter out issues that are less important;
- Search for alternatives;
- Develop and compare alternatives that are economical and sustainable;
- Alternatives can mean; Alternative objectives, activities in relation to technologies, alternative location and alternative conditions of implementation.

- Assess the negative and positive impact of the PPP from both temporal and spatial angles.
- Assess the magnitude of the impact as well as the geographical area that will be affected by the PPP using the necessary techniques.

3.2.4.1 Collection of Baseline data and information

The collection of baseline data in SEA is more encompassing than that of EIA. The consultant must have a thorough understanding of the potentially affected environment and social systems. In a strategic form, it is not just making an inventory like in EIA but salient features of the ecological systems and services, their resilience and vulnerability, and significance for human well-being are being studied and processed using methods and techniques such as overlays, GIS etc. Existing environmental protection measures and/or objectives set out in international or national guidelines which Nigeria is a signatory to would also be reviewed.

For plan and programme level SEA, the baseline will depend on the main type of environmental impacts anticipated, and appropriate indicators can be selected.

For spatial and regional level SEA plans, the baseline can include the data of natural assets including sensitive areas, critical habitats, and ecosystem components.

The baseline study conducted in SEA shall contain the data on;

- The existing method of protecting the environment against environmental degradation at local, state, national and international level;
- The aspect of physical Environment e.g. soil, geology, noise, topography, water resources, air quality, climate;
- The biological environment which includes ecology, conservation of natural resources (endangered species, protected ecosystems, habitats, species of commercial importance, invasive species);
- Socio-cultural environment such as cultural heritage, archaeology, landscape. It is noteworthy that Nigeria is a multicultural country and most citizens of the country are culturally sensitive;
- Socio-economic condition of the environment such as the infrastructure, use of resources, transportation, agricultural development and tourism;
- Aspect of human health.

3.2.5 Impact Assessment of the Proposal

Identifying the potential impact (direct, indirect, unintended) in any form of SEA is more difficult than in the case of specific projects as in EIA most especially indirect and cumulative impacts. For SEA, there is no single best method for impact analysis. Approaches should be selected that are appropriate to the impacts as it relates to the issues surrounding the plan and programme. The identification and evaluation of suitable options may be assisted by future “scenario building” and “back-casting methodologies”.

During impact assessment, it is important to establish the linkages of the plan and programme with key economic and social goals using a wide analytical framework. The linkages should show the consequences of the impacts on environmental components.

Identifying the size and magnitude of the impacts including trade-offs, and options or alternatives in their order of significance is important. The potential cumulative impact of the plan and programme in relation with other existing similar or dissimilar plan and programme inclusive of any trans-boundary impacts.

Other critical tools such environmental risk assessment, life cycle assessment, sustainability indicator for environmental media with targets and objectives,

3.2.6 Mitigation of Adverse Impact and opportunity enhancement

The goal of undertaking an SEA is the wealth of opportunities in achieving sustainable development goals and master or regional challenges, so, every plan and programme should be focused on realistic pragmatic opportunities in minimising negative impacts and risks.

Mitigation measures in SEA shall follow the same procedure of mitigation hierarchy (see table 1) with particular reference to the environment. cumulative and residual impacts can be evaluated after necessary mitigation measures fit a proposal. Caution should be taken in proffering mitigation measures for the forms of SEA as plan level SEA are mostly to avoid or reduce or offset significant impacts while mitigation measure for programme level SEA can be related to a project level mitigation measure which are recognized in the typical sector or industry practice. This shall be achieved by putting in place a mitigation measures.

Table 1: Hierarchy of Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures
Avoidance - totally avoid or prevent effects and impacts by going with an alternative;
Reduction - reduce the magnitude, probability, severity or extent of the activities and impacts;
Remediation - repair, rehabilitate, or restore to its original state the effects or impact of activities on the environment;
Compensation - compensate for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones. This could be in creating environments elsewhere similar to those affected. For social impacts, it can mean providing land, money, or buildings elsewhere. Compensation measures are usually negotiated with affected parties.

Where the impact assessment indicates a potential for major, irreversible, negative impacts on the environment, a less risky alternative shall be considered. Otherwise, standard mitigation measures shall be used to minimize adverse impacts to “as-low-as-reasonably-practicable” (ALARP) level.

3.2.6.1 Checking for Strategic Alternatives

Alternatives shall be considered for a proposed policy, plan or programme (PPP) at the earliest possible stage, that is, during the formulation stage. An impact evaluation of a wide range of alternatives shall be conducted before any decision is made. Alternatives shall be identified by analysing the objectives, policy context, the existing and predicted environmental and sustainability problems, scenario testing, suggestions by key stakeholders and from previously completed assessment plans. The scale of preference of the alternatives shall also be considered. Expert judgment, authority requirements, and key stakeholder inputs shall be combined to formulate reasonable alternatives. The early consideration of alternatives shall reduce the need for remedial measures at later stages in the development-planning process.

3.2.7 Stakeholders Consultation and Involvement in SEA

The input of all relevant stakeholders in any SEA process is vital for proper participatory decision making process. A proposal should detail the stakeholders of a plan or program right from the screening stage of the SEA and the extent or stage of participation of each stakeholder should be established

Following the submission of a draft SEA report, relevant stakeholders' shall be allowed to make comments on the draft report for during public review and comments, observations and recommendations shall be integrated into the final SEA report.

3.2.8 Monitoring in SEA

A proposal owner must ensure monitoring is included into the system of its plans and programme. The effects of implementation of the plans and/or programmes must be monitored. The monitoring must refer to the significant impacts on the environment; positive, negative, adverse; beneficial. Not only direct effects, but also indirect, synergic and cumulative effects must be monitored.

The monitoring period and frequency of monitoring depends on the specific issues that require attention, so it must be specific to target using indicators.

4.0 SEA Report

4.1 Draft SEA Report

The draft SEA report shall be a key output of any plan and programme, presenting information on the impacts of the public consultation on the proposed plan or programme. The report shall go through public consultation, and as such, shall be of interest to a wide group of readers including decision-makers, other plan/programme-making authorities, consultants, experts, non-government organisations, and members of the public, and therefore shall be prepared with this range of users in mind. It shall include a non-technical summary. A Quality Assurance checklist is thus provided in the annex section of this guideline to help ensure that the quality of the report is sufficient to meet the requirements.

4.2 Review of the SEA Report

Upon receipt of the draft SEA report from the proposal owner/stakeholder, the Ministry shall review the draft SEA report. The review can be conducted through:

- i. An In-House Review;
- ii. An expert committee or
- iii. By Public Review.

This shall include a public display of the report at the Local Government Area, State Ministry of Environment or at the Headquarters of the Federal Ministry of Environment. The public shall be invited to witness the review process. The Ministry, in deciding which expert committee is relevant, shall consider the tier and geographic scope of the SEA. Such expert committee shall include:

- A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the review of Plan and Programme level SEA;
- Technical Advisory Committee and an appointed international expert for the review of plan and or programme with trans-boundary impacts.

The Ministry shall inform the proposal owner of the selected review method(s) upon the receipt of the draft report.

The selected review method shall be implemented and the related comments furnished within a minimum period of one (1) month after the review process.

4.3 Final SEA Report

The final SEA report shall incorporate all issues raised during the review process and solutions proffered, including any amendments to the report of the SEA.

5.0 Decision Making

The Ministry, under the supervision of the Minister, is the decision making body on approval or disapproval of SEA report. Upon receipt of satisfactory comments from the review process, and an acceptable final SEA report is submitted, the ministry shall consider and approve the issuance a certificate of satisfaction.

5.1 Criteria for Approval

Following the submission of a satisfactory final SEA report, the Ministry, may in consultation with the proposal owner set a number of conditions. Such conditions may provide for the establishment of a follow-up programme (mitigation compliance and monitoring plan) with specified tasks to be undertaken in the implementation of the plan and or programme. By mutual agreement, a monitoring strategy and audit procedure may also be determined at this early stage. Penalties as

stipulated in the EIA Act, 1992 may also be invoked for failure to adhere to the conditions of approval.

5.2 Criteria for Disapproval

The criteria for disapproval shall include non-compliance with the provisions of this guideline, other relevant national guidelines and regulations as well as the environmental unsustainability of the project.

5.3 Stages of Disapproval

Stage I: If the comments from the review process are not favourable, the comments shall be addressed and a revised SEA report submitted to the ministry.

Stage II: In the event of the receipt of an unsatisfactory final report, a “No Proposal” option decision may be taken by the Ministry and such decision shall be communicated to the proposal owner.

6.0 Certification

Upon receipt of the approved final SEA report, the Minister shall issue a certificate.

ANNEXES
ANNEX A
FORMAT OF A SEA REPORT

TITLE OF THE REPORT

Summary

- Non-technical summary
- the need for the SEA

Chapter 1: Introduction

- Provide a general overview of the developmental challenges of the focal area, SEA process, policies, plans and programmes, Areas and sectors affected, Proposed activities for plans and programmes, Implementation plan and time scale

Chapter 2: SEA Objectives

- Links to other international, national, regional and local plans and programmes, and relevant Strategic environmental objectives including how these have been taken into account

Chapter 3: Methodology

- Approach adopted in the SEA
- Who was consulted
- Purpose of the SEA and relevant specific plans or programmes objectives

Chapter 4: Collection of Baseline Data and Context

- Description of baseline characteristics and predicted future baseline
- Environmental issues and problems
- Difficulties in collecting information, limitations of the data, assumptions made etc.
- SEA objectives, targets and indicators

Chapter 5: Policies Plan and Programme

- Relevant specific policies, plan or programme
- Overview of consultation and participation
- Main strategic alternatives considered and how they were identified
- Relevant legislative framework and related PPP documents
- Comparison of the significant environmental effects of the alternatives

Chapter 6: Issues, Constraints and Alternatives

- How environmental issues were considered in choosing the preferred strategic alternatives
- Other alternatives considered and why they were rejected
- Proposed mitigation measures
- Significant environmental effects of the policies and proposals
- How environmental problems were considered in developing the policies and proposals
- Proposed mitigation measures and uncertainties and risks

Chapter 7: Conclusion

- Links to other tiers of plans and programmes and the project level (environmental impact assessment, design guidance etc.)
- Monitoring plan with indicators, research and sustainable development focal areas

Chapter 8: Recommendation

- Recommended PPP changes (Recommended mitigation measures and Recommended alternative) *Relevant technical appendices such as stakeholders' meetings referred to in the assessment*

The following will also be included:

- a. Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EM&MP)
- b. Decision Support Tools (DSTs) such as Thematic maps, GIS MAPS
- c. Quality assurance check list
- d. Any other relevant data format (graphs, pictures etc.) that may not fit in the main text

ANNEX B

A SUMMARY OF A QUALITY ASSURANCE CHECKLIST

1. Objectives and context

- Specific policies, plans or programme's purpose and objectives made clear
- Environmental issues and constraints, including those on international, regional, national, regional and local levels covered
- Objectives considered in developing alternatives and targets
- SEA objectives, used, clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where relevant
- Links with other related plans, programmes and policies identified and explained

2. Consultation and Procedure

- Consultation process conducted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the SEA report.
- The assessment focuses on significant issues
- Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered discussed; assumptions and uncertainties made explicit
- Reasons given for eliminating issues from further consideration

3. Alternatives

- Realistic alternatives considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them documented
- Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant
- The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative identified and compared
- Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant specific plans, programmes or policies identified and explained
- Reasons given for selection or elimination of alternatives

4. Baseline information

- Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the implementation of specific policies, plans or programmes described
- Environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected described
- Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods explained
- Prediction and evaluation of likely significant effects explained
- Effects identified such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape as well as all relevant and other likely effects covered
- Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or Long-term) addressed
- Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects identified where practicable
Inter-relationships between effects considered where practicable
- Relevant predictions and evaluation of effects used accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds
- Methods used to evaluate the effects described

5. Mitigation measures

- Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan or programme indicated
- Issues to be taken into account in project consents identified

6. The environmental report

- Clear and concise in its layout and presentation
- Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms
- Used maps and other illustrations where appropriate
- Explains the methodology used
- Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation used
- Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion
- Contains a non-technical summary covering the overall approach to the SEA, the objectives of the plan, the main options considered, and any changes to the plan resulting from the SEA

7. Consultation

- All stakeholders and the public likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the plan or programme consulted in ways and at times which gave them an early and

effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft SEA report

8. Decision-making and information on the decision

- The SEA report and the opinions of those consulted taken into account in finalising and adopting specific policies, plans or programmes
- An explanation given of how they have been taken into account
- Reasons given for choosing specific plan or programme as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered

9. Monitoring measures

- Measures proposed for monitoring clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SEA.
- During implementation of specific plan or programme, monitoring is used where appropriate to make good deficiencies in baseline information
- Monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects identified at an early stage
- Proposals made for action in response to significant adverse effects.

ANNEX D

PREPARATORY TASK FOR SCOPING

Various strategic tasks shall be carried out before scoping. The following tasks shall be considered to ensure a successful SEA.

- (i) The proposal owner shall assign an environmental consultant to liaise with other selected stakeholders to form a committee to oversee the execution of the SEA.
- (ii) The consultant shall initiate the planning process and ensure stakeholders' consultation or participation as part of the committee in conceptualizing the problems, objectives, impact and alternative measures for good quality of the environment.
- (iii) The SEA committee shall determine if the objectives of the plan and or programme are in line with existing objectives of the three tiers of government.
- (iv) The SEA committee shall source information on other similar plans or programmes within institutions and if any relevance.
- (v) If any progress in (iv) above, a joint process with such institution shall be initiated.
- (vi) The SEA committee shall set a time frame for the proposal.
- (vii) Terms of Reference for the proposal shall be produced based on the principles of SEA in Nigeria.

Annex C
SEA Process in Nigeria

