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Integrating Environment into Policy and Planning

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What is SEA?

- **A process to evaluate environmental impacts of plans, programs, and policies**
- **Conducted before projects are implemented**
- **Focuses on strategic-level decisions**

Why is SEA Important?

- Promotes sustainability in decision-making
- Identifies potential environmental risks early
- Supports transparency and public involvement

SEA vs. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- SEA: Applies to policies, plans, and programs
- EIA: Applies to individual projects
- SEA is broader and earlier in the planning process

Key Principles of SEA

- Integration with policy and planning processes
- Participation and transparency
- Focus on sustainability and long-term impacts
- Iterative and adaptive process

SEA Process Overview

- 1. Screening – Is SEA needed?
- 2. Scoping – What should be assessed?
- 3. Assessment – Analyze environmental impacts
- 4. Reporting – Prepare Environmental Report
- 5. Consultation – Engage public and stakeholders
- 6. Decision-making – Integrate SEA findings
- 7. Monitoring – Track impacts over time

Benefits of SEA

- Improves environmental outcomes
- Reduces risks and conflicts
- Informs better decisions
- Builds stakeholder trust and engagement

Challenges in SEA

- Limited political will or institutional capacity
- Poor integration with planning
- Lack of data and expertise
- Stakeholder fatigue or resistance

Examples of SEA in Practice

- European Union SEA Directive – Required for member states
- Vietnam's SEA in national energy planning
- South Africa's integration of SEA in regional development

SEA and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Supports goals on climate action, life on land, clean water
- Integrates environmental considerations across sectors
- Encourages long-term planning and intergenerational equity

Conclusion

- SEA is essential for informed, sustainable policy-making
- Enables early identification of risks and opportunities
- Helps ensure environmentally responsible governance



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Thank you for your attention!