



Netherlands Commission for  
Environmental Assessment

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*IAIA 2015*

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# Building Capacity Together: a participatory approach for EIA in Central Africa

## A Joint Approach





# Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA)

- Created by Dutch Environmental Law in 1987
- Secretariat: expert groups provide tailor-made advice on EIA/SEA (scoping and review)
- Independent, Expertise, Transparent
- Since 1993 also in international cooperation
  - Independent advice
  - Capacity development
  - Knowledge centre & Helpdesk: [www.eia.nl](http://www.eia.nl)

## NCEA principles to CD

- Every approach to capacity development in a country or region is tailor-made
- Focus has shifted with time and growing experience
- Used to be: EA procedure
- Starting point today: the country's own, specific EA system
- System: all relevant actors and functions

# Environmental Assessment system (seven functions)

Provide regulatory  
framework for EA

Provide advise on EA  
procedure & practice

Monitoring implementation  
of EA instrument

Enable professional  
exchange on EA

Raise awareness &  
committment for EA

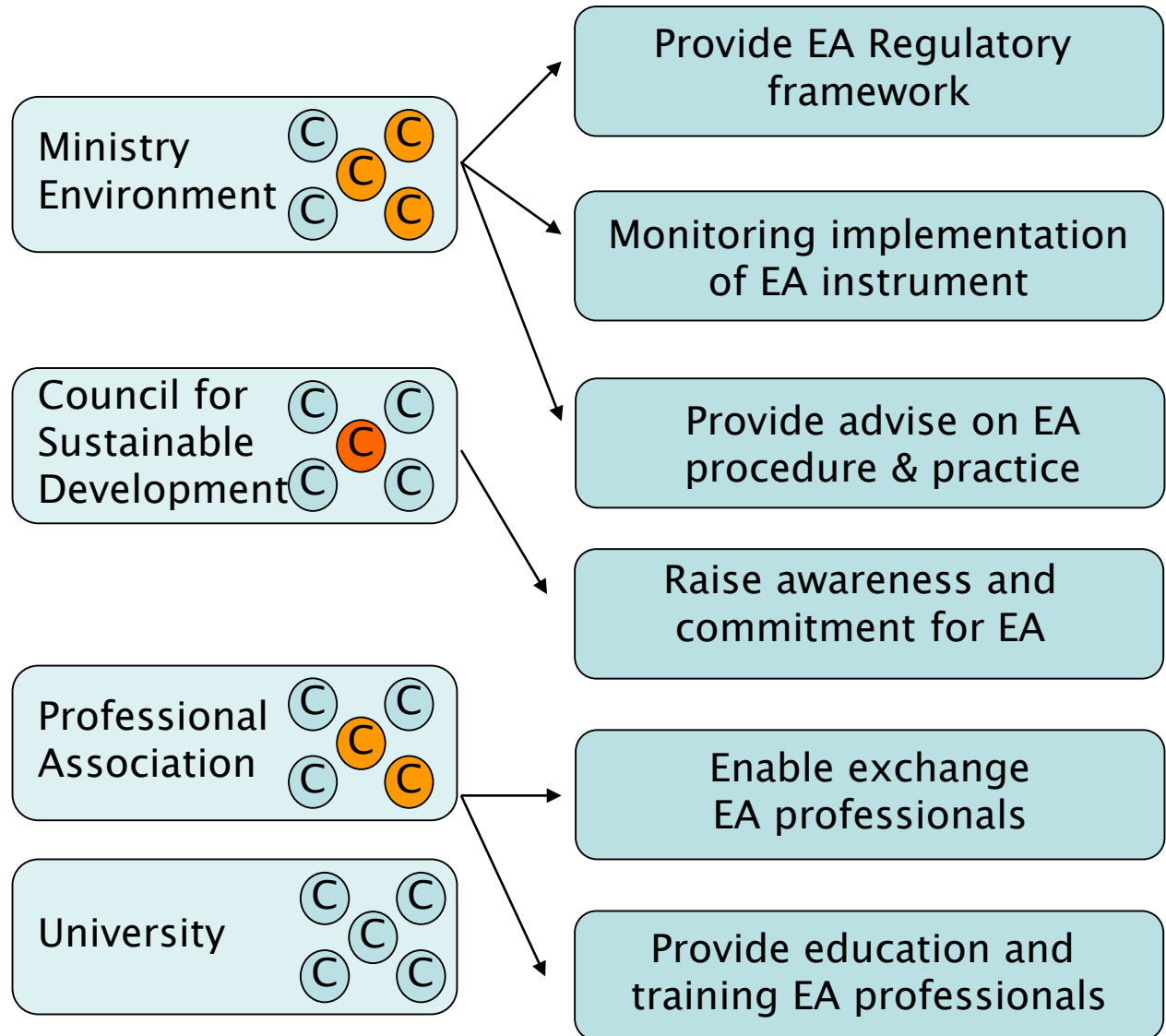
Provide EA education  
& training

Deliver good practice EIAs/SEAs

# Different organisations relate to different functions in the system

## Organisations (5C)

## EA system (functions)





# From request to approach

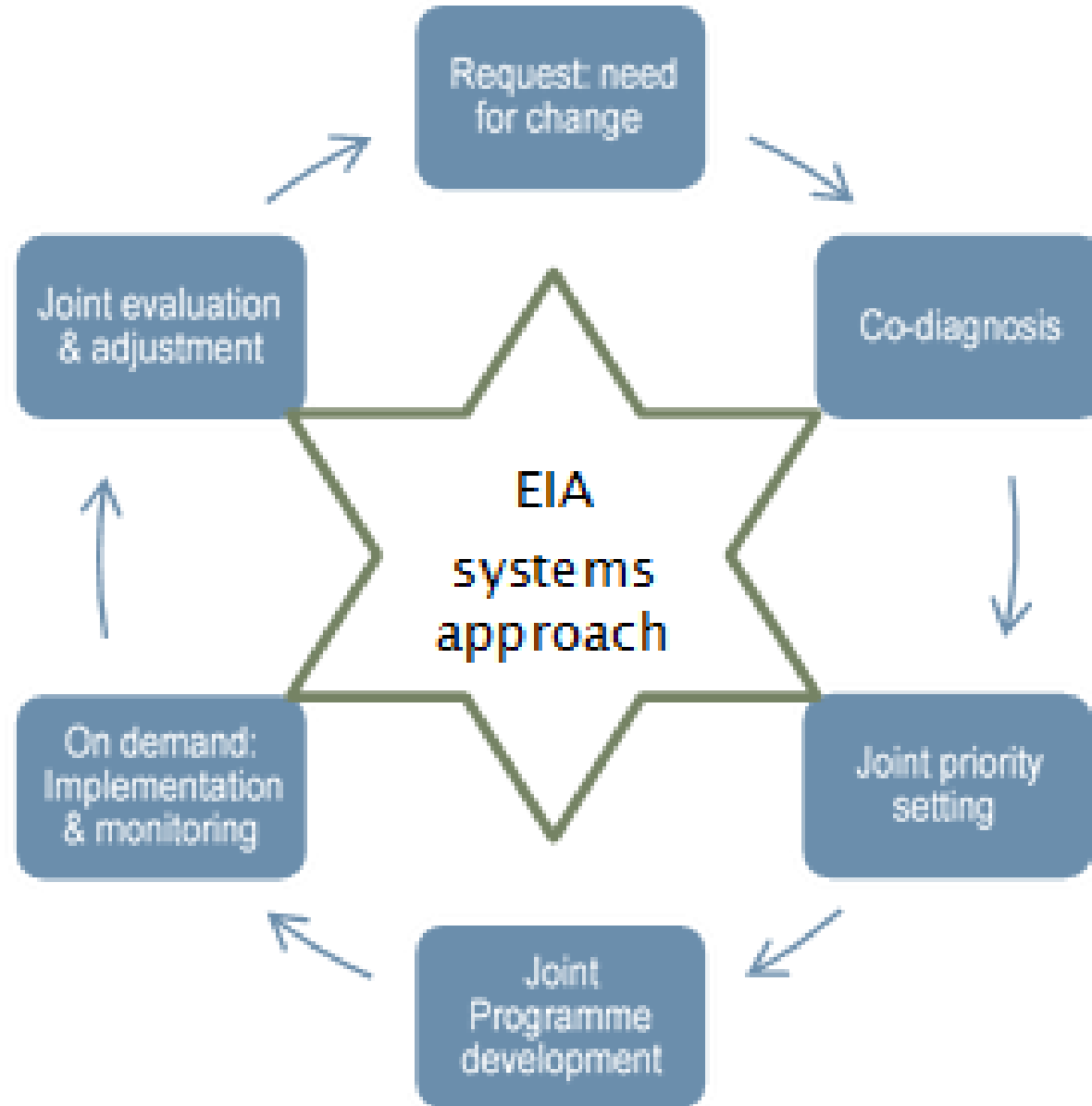
We (usually) don't work on all functions at the same time.

Our capacity development approach depends on:

- the system and its functions
- the requesting actor and its role in relation to these functions

Together, we analyse the request to come to an approach, as follows:

# Capacity development cycle



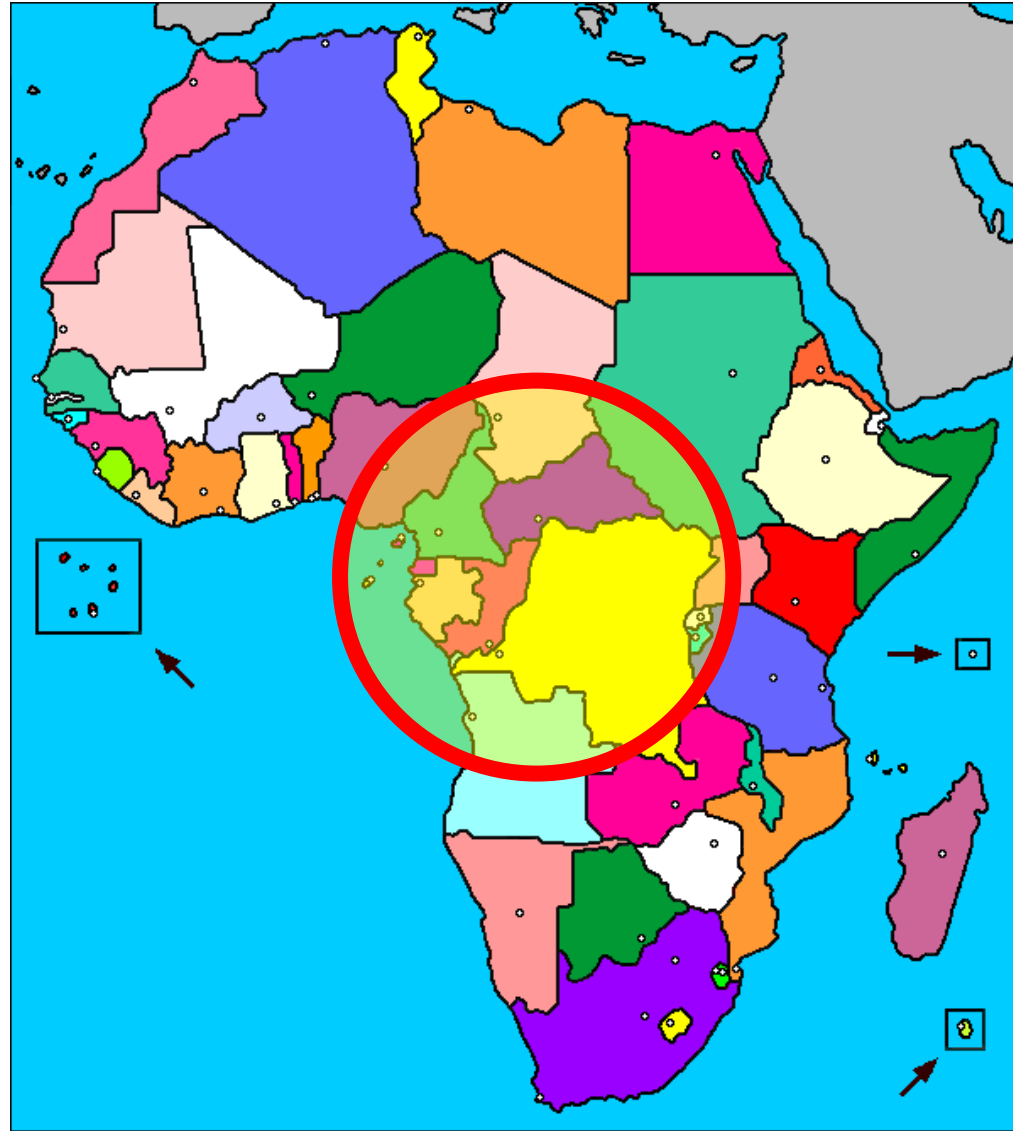
## Objective of the Central Africa Programme:

to improve the technical and administrative capacity for EIA in Central Africa

In 7 participating countries:  
**Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Congo B., Gabon, RDC, Rwanda**

## Requesting parties:

- National EA Associations
- Regional umbrella SEEAC

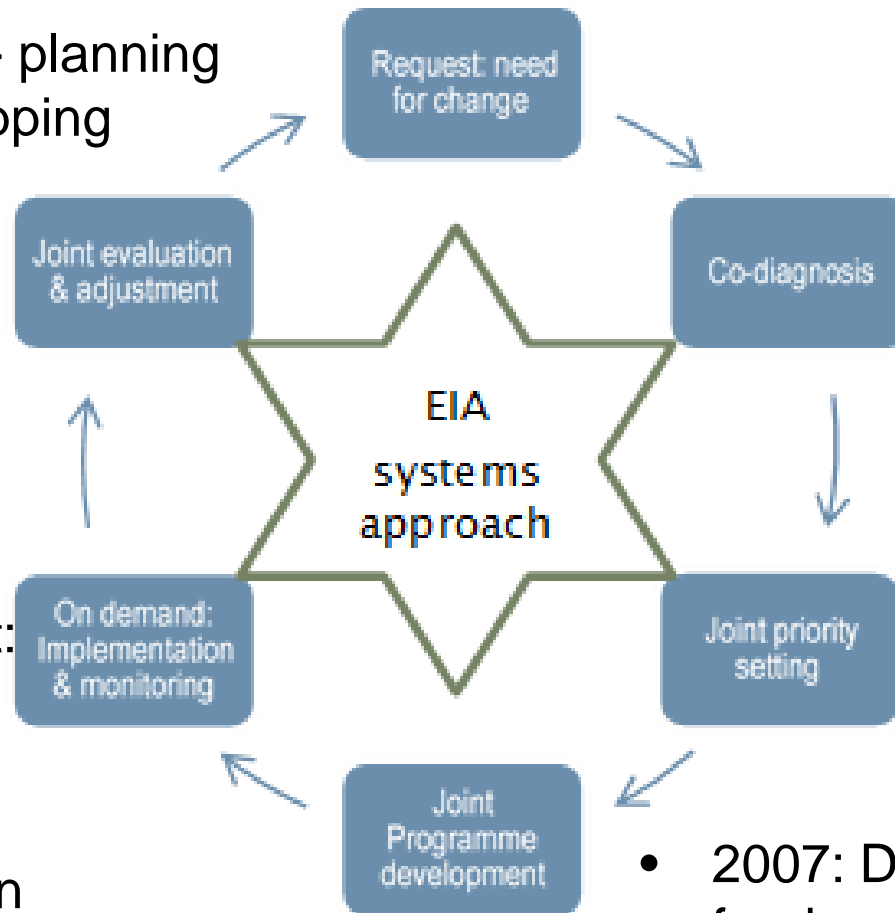




# Approach

- 1998: EA professionals organise themselves in national associations
- 2003: umbrella SEEAC requests DGIS funding and NCEA support
- Required: proper needs analysis

- Annual M&E + planning
- 2013: EIA mapping repeated



- 2008-2013
- Activities upon request: different in each country
- Some with administration

- 2005/6: NCEA developpes EIA mapping tool, application in 7 countries
- On basis of mapping results; regional & country-specific

- 2007: DGIS decides to fund programme with NCEA as Technical partner



# Co-diagnosis & programme development: EIA Mapping



# Monitoring and Coaching





# Training of Trainers



Handwritten notes and posters are pinned to the wall. Visible titles include:

- POINTS FORTS
- CONGO
- POINTS FAIBLES
- SUGGERIONS
- RIWANDA
- BURUNDI
- AGENCES



A large board is pinned to the wall, featuring a 6-day schedule and various notes. The schedule is as follows:

	Jour 0	Jour 1	Jour 2	Jour 3	Jour 4	Jour 5	Jour 6
Intro	Le contexte	Le cadrage	L'EIE	L'Examen	Pratique		
L'objectif	Cadrage	Pratique de l'EIE	Pratique de l'Examen	Pratique de l'Examen	Pratique de l'Examen	Pratique de l'Examen	Pratique de l'Examen
Evaluation	Pratique de l'Examen	Pratique de l'Examen	Pratique de l'Examen	Pratique de l'Examen	Pratique de l'Examen	Pratique de l'Examen	Pratique de l'Examen
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Other notes on the board include:

- Objectif de la formation: Améliorer les capacités techniques et managériales en EIE dans huit pays de l'Afrique Centrale par un appui aux Associations Nationales en EIE dans ces pays.
- Après la formation, les capacités facilitatrices sur des thèmes: cadrage, EIE, Examen.
- AGENCES
- PROCESSEUS DE FORMATION





# Training sessions and workshops



SOUS LE HAUT PATRONAGE DU MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT DE LA PROTECTION  
DE LA NATURE ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DU CAMEROUN

**(MINEPDED)**

# **(Séminaire International du SEEAC)**

Thème : **Evolution des systèmes d'Evaluation Environnementale en Afrique Centrale :**

**Contribution du Programme d'Appui aux Associations Nationales pour l'Evaluation Environnementale d'Afrique Centrale (PAANEEAC)**

**SAWA Hôtel, Douala du 03 au 04 Octobre 2013**



**International Seminars**



# Administrations and Associations work side by side





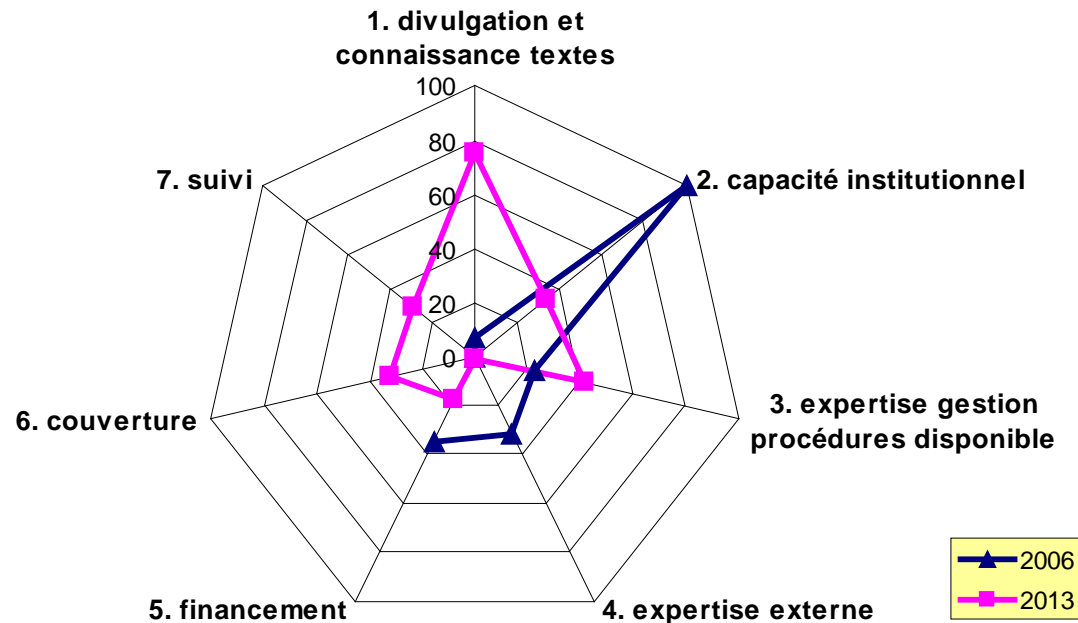


**Knowledge centre and facilitator of debate**



- Legal framework EIA
- EIA Practice
- Information system
- Associations: centres of knowledge and debate
- true networks of professionals
- Recognition of associations by government

### EIE (PRATIQUE)



## Some are challenged:

- RCA: context
- Gabon: no longer active
- Rwanda: major overhaul: revived

## Others remains strong:

- Cameroon
- Burundi
- Congo
- SEEAC



## what worked well in this approach?

- ownership: upon request + joint approach at all levels
- flexibility: of TA (demand-driven)
- strong connect with reality and (changing) needs
- financing mode: upon request, with conditions, and adequate but limited
- strong stimulus cooperation administrations with associations



# what will we do differently next time?

- management capacity of associations lower than expected
- as a result, technical programme delayed. Did go very well though!
- working towards financial autonomy also delayed, not (yet) realised
- programme too short: 2 x5 years would be realistic if aim is sustainable professionalism
- working with 100% volunteers is not possible, basic permanent staff needs to be guaranteed

# Outcome at each function, depending on country

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Today, we still work together:

- regionally, SEEAC & NCEA
- bilateral programmes with Burundi and Rwanda
- no more financing of activities: needs to come from themselves
- coaching and in-kind technical support

- Key Sheet: NCEA Capacity Development Approach (2015)
- Views & Experiences 2015: two articles on NCEA's experiences with CD in Burundi and Central Africa
- A systems approach on EIA/SEA effectiveness (2014)
- Evolution of EIA systems in Central Africa – the role of national associations of professionals (SEEAC/NCEA, 2014)

**Available at the NCEA booth at IAIA2015!**

*[www.eia.nl](http://www.eia.nl)*

Questions?

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Thank you!

Merci bien!

