

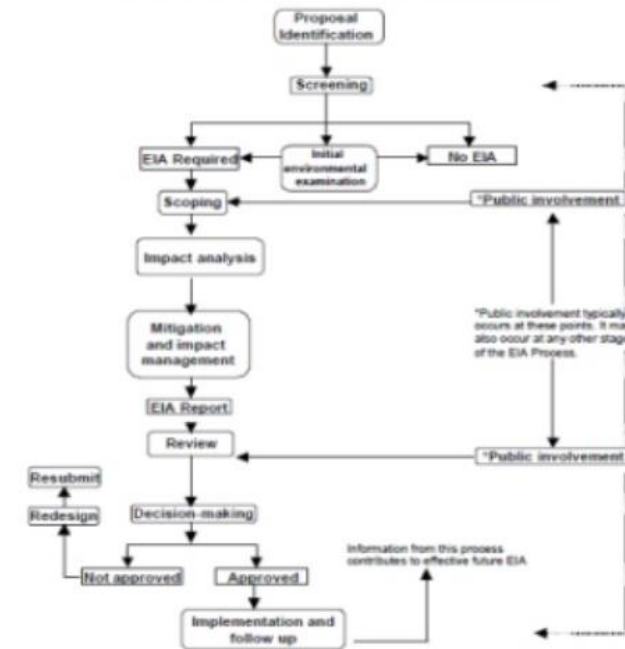
COMPARISON OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- 17 Goals and 169 Targets
- Shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future
- Stimulate action for transformation to sustainable development
- More than environmental, social and economic outcomes: includes peace, inclusive society, and participation in decision making

Note: proactive and outcome-focused



CONCEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Initiated by decision to undertake a proposed action
- Making information available about the environmental consequences of proposed actions
- Process for taking account of environmental consequences of proposed action
- Initial focus on avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects

Note: reactive process to proposed action, effects-based

BASIC STEPS IN IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- **Screening:** identifying aspects of a project that could have an adverse effect on an issue of concern
- **Action description:** describing the actions within a project that can potentially cause an adverse effect
- **Existing environment:** describing the baseline condition of the issue of concern
- **Impact prediction:** predicting the effect of the action on the issue of concern
- **Impact mitigation:** assessing the significance of the effects and incorporating measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects
- **Conditions of approval:** setting conditions on project approval to undertake actions to mitigate adverse effects

Note: these steps can be applied to a wide range of actions and issues

EVOLUTION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Increasing coverage of the range of impacts, e.g. social, health (not just biophysical impacts)
- Strategic assessment of programs and policies (not just projects)
- Environmental objectives identified for environmental factors (not just significance of adverse effects)
- Cumulative effects exceeding sustainability limits: neutral or beneficial effect (rather than keeping adverse effects to a minimum)
- Greater community involvement in IA process (not just submitters to a formal process)

Sustainable Development Goals	Biophysical		Plus Social		Plus IAIA19 Topics	
1 No poverty		0000000	●	000XX00	●	000XXoX
2 Zero Hunger		00000000	●	00000000	●	00000000
3 Good health and Well-Being	●	00000000X000X	●	00000000X000X	●	0000000XX000X
4 Quality Education		0000000000		0000000000		0000000000
5 Gender Equity		0000000000		0000000000	●	00000000X
6 Clean Water and Sanitation	●	00X00X00	●	00X00X00	●	00X00X00
7 Affordable and Clean Energy		00000		00000	●	00000
8 Decent Work and Economic Growth		000000000000	●	000000000000	●	0000000X0000
9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure		00000000		X0000000		X0000000
10 Reduced Inequalities		0000000000		0000000000		000X000000
11 Sustainable Cities and Communities		00000X0000		000XXXX000		000XXX000
12 Responsible Production and Consumption		000000000000		000000000000		000000X00000
13 Climate Action		00000		00000	●	00000
14 Life Below Water	●	XX00000000	●	XX00000000	●	XX00000000
15 Life On Land	●	XoXXX0000000	●	XoXXX0000000	●	XoXXX0000000
16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions		000000000000		000000X00000		0000XoX00000
17 Partnerships for the Goals		00000000000000000000		00000000000000000000		00000000000000000000

Original Impact Assessment	Evolved Impact Assessment	Sustainable Development Goals
<i>PURPOSE</i>		
Process for considering environmental factors in development decisions	Define environmental objectives to be achieved by development	Set targets for proactive development to achieve sustainable outcomes
<i>FOCUS</i>		
Primary focus on adverse effects on the biophysical environment	Expansion to include social, health and other impacts of development	Sustainable development with social, economic and environmental outcomes
<i>APPLICATION</i>		
Application to proposed development projects	Strategic assessment of policies, plans and programs	Agenda for transformational change
<i>TIMING</i>		
Timelines set by proposed development schedule and assessment process	Timelines set by program or project schedule and assessment process	Targets and timelines set by sustainable development agenda
<i>COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION</i>		
Formal process of submission on EIS, and, appeals on decision and conditions	Community consultation in impact assessment	Goal of inclusive society and participation in decision making
<i>OUTCOME</i>		
Avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects of projects	Neutral or beneficial effect where cumulative effects exceed sustainability limits	Actions to achieve targets for social and economic goals, and, environmental improvement and restoration

IA CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS

- Minsk Declaration (2017)
 - EIA and SEA are cross cutting tools to prevent and mitigate adverse environmental health effects of economic activities
- Espoo Convention on EIA (1991) and SEA Protocol (2003)
 - role of EA and SEA in supporting sustainable development
- OECD Policy (2006)
 - use of SEA in development assistance programs

Note: potential broader use of impact assessment methodology in SD action – can be used to assess impacts on other SD Goals and Targets e.g. employment impact assessment (Target 8.5) for a biodiversity restoration project (Goal 15)

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

- Conceptual Difference
 - IA: effects-based management
 - SDG: outcomes-based management
- Concept of impact assessment can be applied to many issues
 - screening/action description/existing baseline/impact prediction/
impact mitigation/approval conditions
- Complementary but subsidiary role for IA in SDG
 - SDG: proactive approach to achieve a particular SD target
 - IA: assessment of implications for other SD targets