



The Aalborg Lessons: Available Guidance and Practice in Using SEA for Climate Issues in Developing Countries

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Abstract: The Netherlands has several years of practice experience in using EIA for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The presentation will discuss key lessons learned and will present, for both mitigation and adaptation, a 3 step approach to get the required information for informed decision making. However, EIA mechanisms for dialogue and enforcement are equally important to make this information influential in decision making.

In mitigation the 3 steps are: first, give insight in greenhouse gas emissions of the project and possible mitigation measures. Then describe options to increase energy efficiency and feasibility of linking different functions. Finally present the contribution of the project to national and local mitigation goals. Focus EIA on climate change mitigation only where it matters. The NCEA suggests a role for EIA, particularly when deciding on industrial activities, power stations, infrastructure projects, agricultural projects, greenhouse horticulture projects, housing projects and waste processing projects. In adaptation, the 3 steps are: first screen whether adaptation to climate change is relevant, then analyze & present adaptation options in 3 categories, and finally, analyze how to cope with uncertainties by considering different climate scenarios, identify 'no-regret' measures, and define 'back up' measures – what to do in worst case?

The above approaches are the ideal situation. It's fair to say that EIA practice in The Netherlands is not yet there. In mitigation there are good EIA examples for power stations and industrial installations, with a focus on CO₂ reduction. In the other sectors, EIA practice is growing. For adaptation there are now a couple of dozens examples of EIAs looking at adaptation, although typically including only elements of the above described approaches.

Summary: The Netherlands has had several years of using EIA for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The presentation will discuss the key lessons learned, and present a 3 step approach to obtain information for informed decision making. EIA mechanisms for dialogue and enforcement are equally important to make this information influential.