

I. NCEIA

*Effective EIA review and EMP
implementation and follow-up in
Central Africa*

Support to the action plan of national
associations

Background

- Need to contribute to Capacity building in EA in Central Africa countries and the Sub region
- Creation of national associations and of a Secretariat for EA in Central Africa
- Difficulties faced by the associations
- Request for assistance to the Ministry of Foreign affairs of the Netherlands

Nature of the application

Request for a basic (core) founding of about 10,000 Euros per year, for each national association for five years, to support the running cost of the associations including the recruitment of one permanent staff.

Feed back of the DGIS

Interested by the idea and Suggested:

- To insist on the relation between EA and Good governance;
- To draft accordingly a specific action plan for each country;
- That the NCEIA assists national association in this.

EIA - MAPPING

Development by the NCEIA of a framework for an EIA-mapping related to:

- The quality of legal and regulatory framework;
- The management of the procedure;
- Prescribed Decision making system;
- Decision making system in practice;

with criteria pertaining to robustness, transparency, public participation to decision making, responsibility and accountability

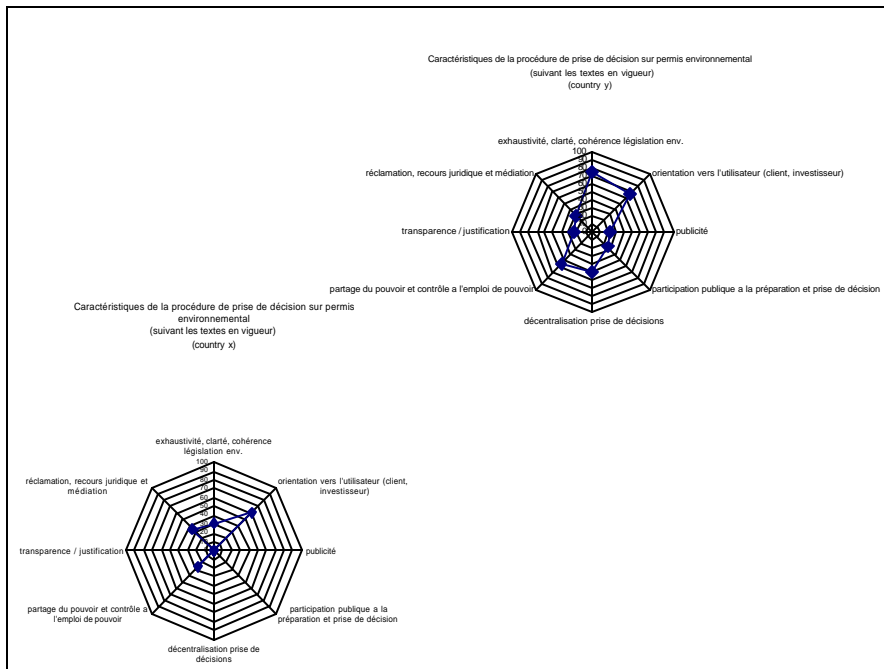
EIA-MAPPING

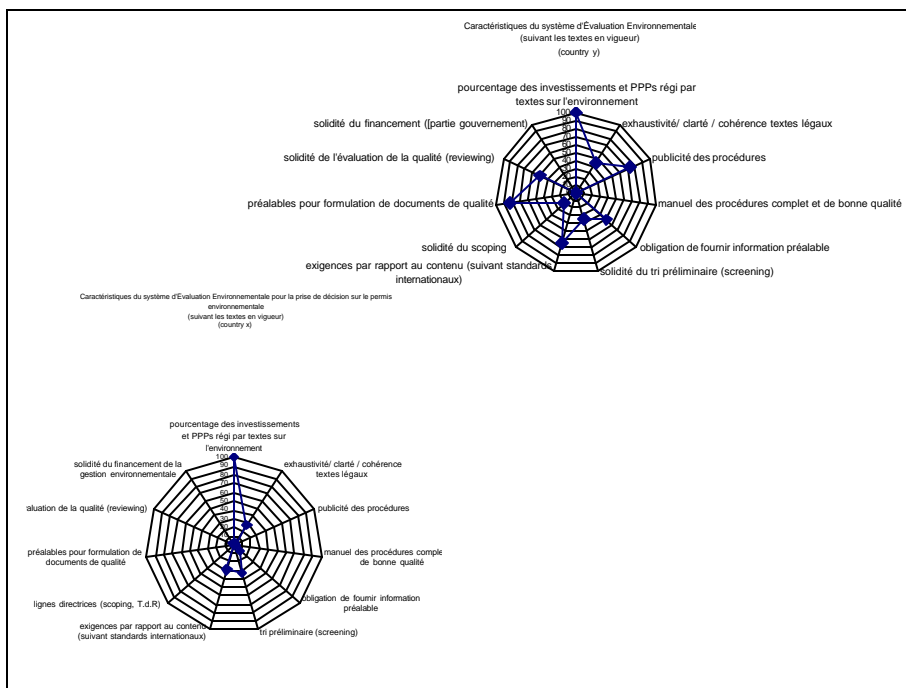
Organization of participative EIA-mapping in 8 of 10 SEACA countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Gabon, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo Republic, Rwanda, Chad

Findings

- Some strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are common to all countries, but others are quite specific to given countries

Je me dis qu'on peut pour illustration projeter quelques graphes pour les pays





Findings (continues)

The national agencies responsible for EIA found the exercise very helpful and drafted a list of aspirations for improvement of the procedure. Among those the need for capacities strengthening for EIA report approval, Environmental Management Plans implementation and follow up was prominent.

National Association action Plan

- Depending on the results of the EIA mapping, 5 years specific action plans were drafted for each country
- The action plans are to serve as the basis for the drafting of annual programs of action

mode of action of national associations

Based on:

- sensitization and information of all stakeholders;
- capacity building (organization, Best practices, ethics, deontology);
- collaboration with national administrations in charge of EIA ;
- Lobbying;
- Watch dog of the government;
- Professional debate

Role of the Central Africa node of CLEAA (SEACA)

Created at the initiative of national associations in 1998

- At the service of national associations and responds to mandates given by them
- Could evolve towards a Regional Center of Environmental Assessment with a global aim to support sub regional sustainable development and poverty alleviation efforts through the promotion of EA

Relation to our meeting

As rightly stated in the background paper *Effective EIA review and EMP implementation and follow-up. Both require a combination of sufficient capacity in terms of financial resources and expertise, and well performing institutional and regulatory mechanisms.*

Relation to our meeting (continues)

The actual process being followed by the Central Africa node of CLEAA with the support of DGIS and the NCEIA would surely contribute to ensure better EIA review and EMP implementation and follow up as it would:

- Enhance, the legal and institutional capacities as well as individual capacities of various stakeholders
- Have a critical mass of professionals and experts
- Raise the awareness and interest of the public in participating to all stages of the EIA process
- Promote transparency, responsibility and accountability throughout the EA process

State of the project

Still undergoing the screening process at the Netherlands Ministry of foreign affairs.