INTRODUCING CLEAA

Capacity Development and Linkages for Environmental Assessment in Africa

" Your Strategic partner in promoting and building Africa's Capacity in Environmental Impact Assessment for Better Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development"

Capacity Challenges for Environmental Assessment in Africa

CLEAA is recognised as a lead Pan African Region Network facilitating development of Environmental Assessment in Africa. Its main mission is to promote the use of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as key policy instruments and analytical tools for improving the sustainability of development of programs and projects in Africa through working with African Countries to establish their own working systems adapted to their own needs and capacities.

EIA/SEA is identified as important guiding tool for effective environmental governance and sustainable development through promoting balanced review of economic, social and environmental impacts in design of development activities.

African governments have made significant efforts, to implement EIA/SEA requirements in national policy, law and environmental governance structures. In many African countries, however, the existence of EIA/SEA systems and procedures has not guaranteed effectiveness of EIA/SEA application as a process for integration of environmental issues in development. This is partly due to the fact that the capacity to administer, guide and review EIA/SEA systems is generally inadequate. There is no capacity to monitor and follow up Environmental Management Plans. The existing capacity gap is compounded by the ever increasing demands placed upon the authorities by new development investments, various donors and development agencies requirements, more complex environmental issues and increasingly civil society lobby. As a consequence of the weak capacity for effective environmental governance in Africa, projects and programmes have been implemented with less heed on their environmental and social consequences.
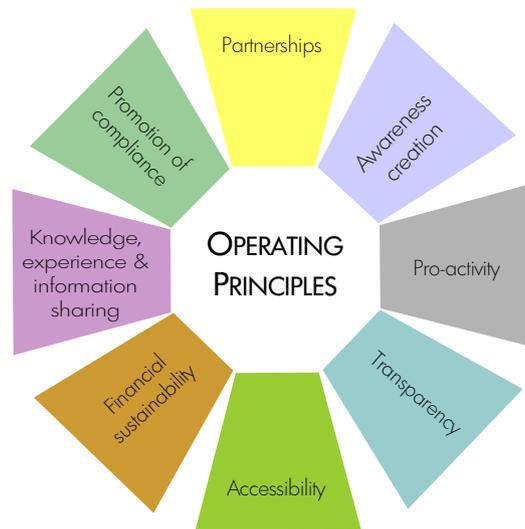
There is a strong and urgent need to build the capacity of the region. It is CLEAA's priority objectives to see that EIA/SEA capacity building is done in a systematic way that builds on existing, indigenous initiatives and networks that are established at sub-regional and national levels.

CLEAA Operating Principles and Main Services

Key Service 1:
Capacity building and Human Resource Department

This program stresses the need for needs-based, practical training. Courses that are already available include, for example, project level EIA, strategic EA (SEA), follow up and post-implementation monitoring, EA and public participation, integrating HIV/AIDS issues in EA processes, integrating biodiversity issues in EA processes, managing EA processes, and quality control (reviewing) EAs.

Here, capacity is taken to be the result of sound training plus experience. Existing hands-on programmes provide opportunities for professionals to enhance their skills and experience through on-the-job exposure.

Key Service 2:
Policy Development

CLEAA supports African countries to strengthen their legal and regulatory frameworks where needed and institutional arrangements, procedures and tools, to more effectively employ EIA and SEA in planning and achieving environmentally sustainable development. It is primarily demand-driven in response to expressed country and regional needs for policy and institutional development.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES — Partnerships, Awareness creation, Pro-activity, Transparency, Accessibility, Financial sustainability, Knowledge, experience & information sharing, Promotion of compliance

Key Service 3:
Awareness and Constituency Building

CLEAA tries to build government and civil society awareness of the value of EIA/SEA and demand for the effective application of sustainable development tools in the planning, approval and implementation of development initiatives. Increased awareness and demand is essential to building the political commitment to EIA/SEA and thus a "market" for EIA/SEA services. Effective local demand for these services is vital to sustained capacity development, both within governments to develop and manage their systems, and within the private sector to apply EIA/SEA in project and programme preparation and to supply expertise. The lack of local demand is a key reason why so much capacity building over the past decade has failed to take root and flourish into an effective contribution to sustainable development. There must be a combination of "push-pull" factors in order to ensure that demand is strong and sustained; push requires that governments and even the African Union (AU) and AMCEN, promote the use of EA as a planning tool, while pull will be achieved if it can be shown that EA helps proponents and governments to address African development issues. For both push and pull, an informed and active civil society needs to be in place. To achieve this, there is a need to cultivate champions and to build capacity at many levels. The sub-regional nodes are key to this multi-faceted capacity building process.

CURRENT CLEAA PROJECT PROPOSALS SEEKING PARTNERSHIP FOR IMPLEMENTATION

African Professional Development Programme: Provides hands-on, practical experience to 200 emerging African EA professional over the next 5 years

Professional Register: Investigate the viability and appropriateness of establishing a register (and an accompanying certification system) that could be used to screen EA practitioners

Case Study book: Produce a collection of "good news" case studies that show how EAs contributed towards the promotion of sustainable development in Africa. The book will be useful in training courses and it will improve perceptions about EA amongst decision makers.

Financial resources, mechanisms and expertise for EA review and follow through: Public policy guidance and assistance for effective EA systems: Creation of a technical assistance mechanism via which CLEAA would provide technical assistance to interested states on a cost-share basis. The expected results are more effective, more financially sustainable national EIA systems. The results of this on-the-ground experience would be synthesized in a practical guidance document. Both the technical assistance itself and guidance document will build on and advance the findings and recommendations of UNECA's study on Review of the Application of Environmental Impact Assessment in Selected African Countries (2005). For details visit www.saiea.org or www. ira-eaaia.org

CLEAA SUB-REGIONAL NODES

Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA): SAIEA was the first node and is today the most developed of the sub-regional institutions. It has offices in Windhoek, Namibia and Cape Town, South Africa. Its strength is represented by a network of highly qualified professionals from all over SADC region., www.saiea.org; Contact email: Peter.Tarr@saiea.com

Eastern Africa Association for Impact Assessment (EAAIA): EAAIA, established in 2001 is registered in Kenya as a non profit making membership organization. Its' membership is drawn from 10 countries covering East Africa, Horn of Africa, Rwanda and Burundi. Apart from membership services, networking and information sharing, EAAIA plays a key role in organizing and implementing a Professional Development Fellowship Program, www.ira-eaaia.org; Contact email: issa@iucn.or.tz

West African Association for Environmental Assessment (WAAEA): WAAEA was after several years of consultations finally established in October 2002. The secretariat is at the Benin Environmental Protection Agency in Cotonou, Benin, and it is a bilingual (French/English) Association with members from 14 of the 16 West African countries. It has developed a very strong set of Association Statutes and has a very vocal and interested membership promoting EA capacity building throughout their region. Contact email: aoaee.waaea@hotmail.com

Indian Ocean Islands Association for Environmental Assessment (IOAEA): IOAEA is relatively new being established in April 2002. The secretariat is in the Ministry of Environment in Mauritius, but it has members from both private and government institutions in Mauritius, Madagascar, and the Seychelles. It also plans to develop contacts in the Comoros, Reunion and Zanzibar. Contact email: menv@mail.gov.mu

Secretariat for the Environmental Assessment in Central Africa (SEACA): The Central Africa Node was established in 1998 and is based in Yaoundé, Cameroon, where it is hosted by the Agency for Development of Environmental Information (ADIE). Membership consists of Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Rwanda, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome & Principe and Central African Republic. Each member country has national associations, which the Node provides for strategic support. Contact email: bitondo@hotmail.com

Community Based Impact Assessment Network for Eastern Africa (CIANEA): CIANEA is a network that seeks to understand and assess the environmental impacts of community driven development projects. The network provides a venue for researchers, community groups, government agencies, donors and individuals to share their research, find out about new developments and studies concerning community based EIA, dissemination and exchange of information and working in partnership with other stakeholders. CIANEA also provides capacity building on community based EIA through the training of trainers, and community participation. Contact email: jawimbo@pactke.org

Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET) for supporting North Africa sub-region: The North African Node is a promising emerging node, with the Tunis International Center for Environmental Technologies (CITET) playing a key role in its establishment. Its present members are drawn from Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco, however membership will be extended to the French and Arabic speaking countries in the region. Contact email: rnafti@gnet.tn

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