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African Development Bank: Implementing SESA

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What role for SESA? (1)

- Promoting sustainability and incorporating environmental and social considerations into the policy, sector and program level decision-making at the national/regional level: Moving beyond initial focus on avoiding potential harm.
- Providing a mechanism for public accountability related to environmental, social and climate change impacts of policy and investment decisions.
- Allowing for early integration of environmental and social issues in the conceptual or planning stages of the plan or program.
- Focus on broader environmental and social issues rather than on site-specific impacts

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Status and Issues with ESA in Africa

- Too much focus on project-level assessments
- No real impact at macro-economic level / policy and program levels
- Lack of prescriptive requirements for transboundary / regional assessments

Basis for SESA

- AfDB has been implementing SESA in Africa for more than a decade.
 - The Environmental & Social Assessment Procedures of 2001 covers when to use SESA and provides guiding principles & an approach to the conduct of SESA
 - Strategic Impact Assessment guidelines prepared in 2003 provides a stepwise guide for conducting SESA and provides guidance and checklists for mainstreaming in Country Strategy Papers and in Regional Integration Strategy Papers
 - Buttressed in the 2004 Environmental Policy for program, planning and policy level environmental/social analysis.

More recently

- The Bank's Integrated Safeguards System makes SESA a mandatory tool to address the environmental and social issues arising from “upstream” operations and PBOs.
- Climate Screening tool to support screening of investments in sectors deemed most vulnerable to climate change.
- Elevates assessment of impacts and risks in the overall economic and social development planning and decision making process – in terms of both priority and timing

Why the increased emphasis on SEA?

- Vulnerability of most sectors the Bank supports to climate change: Climate Change adds a layer of complexity that needs to be internalized in appraisal.
- Current heavy inclination to EIAs yet the Bank is increasingly supporting large regional integration programs with wider regional Environmental & social footprint.
- Super-imposing AfDB's infrastructure development mandate over the current natural resources trends and their regional impacts (Development under situation of increasing bio-capacity deficit).

Lessons learned

- **Country Ownership:** SESA needs to be country-owned. Although the borrowers develop and implement the SESA, this is largely to fulfil Bank's requirements and consequently remains a donor-driven exercise.
- **Limited Technical and Institutional Capacity:** There is a generally low level of awareness and knowledge as to why, how, and when to use it; as well as a lack of local capacity to develop and prepare the assessments.
- **Stakeholder Engagements:** Developing a SESA is not an event but a process and so stakeholder consultation is required all through the process. This is difficult and expensive to implement in practice.

Challenges

- Who is responsible for implementing SESA interventions and with what resources?
- Demystifying the “additional layer” perception
- Realizing / demonstrating the added value of SESA.
- Making SESA one of the ways of doing business, beyond just being a safeguards tool.

AfDB's Interventions

- AfDB is implementing a comprehensive program to raise awareness about SESA as an effective tool to foster sustainable development.
- Working on progressively building institutional capacities of country safeguards systems in Africa.
- Facilitating knowledge transfer and technical skills development on the use of SESAs among local EA practitioners in the Region.

Examples of SESA application at AfDB



1. SEA for Morocco Green Plan



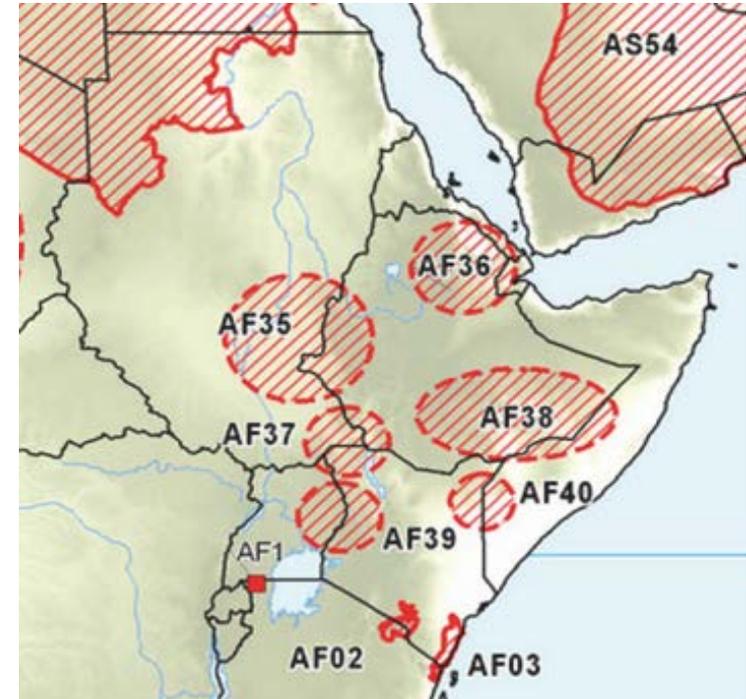
Challenges

- Conservation and valuing of underground Water;
- Energy efficiency in agriculture
- Countering climate change;
- Promote gender equality,
- Foster cross-sectoral collaboration
- Coordination of financial and technical partners
- Cooperation and synergy within AfDB

Response

- Governance, Management and Planning of Agric Water
- Integration of climate and environment in irrigation
- Monitoring underground water abstraction, IWRM;
- AgWater demand management and user performance;
- Integration of energy dimension in agriculture for better linkage of rationale water usage with energy issues
- Protection of natural resources in local territories;
- Gender mainstreaming in Agriculture
- Government capacity development in Environmental Management

2. Drought Resilience & Sustainable Livelihoods Program in the Horn of Africa



Created by Arab Atlas 

Challenges

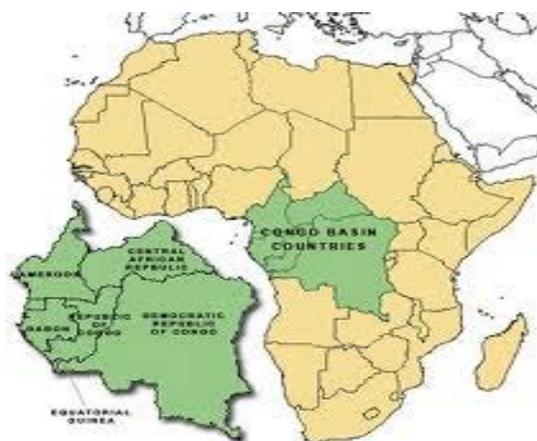
- **Vulnerability to the climate change** water, drought, natural resources (soil, vegetation, crops, etc.) overgrazing, flooding, drying out of water wells
- **Conflicts** over land and water resources
- Watershed management to reduce erosion, protection of water points by protective structures (dikes and drain protections), Select the site based on risk of flooding:

Response

- Mitigation related to overgrazing: transboundary rangeland management
- Health impacts on people and livestock: Integrated Pest Management
- Improve access of vulnerable groups to project resources and benefits
 - a. marketing of animals and agricultural products
 - b. remunerated employment in urban or rural areas
 - c. women in trade of dairy products, fruits, fish, thrift stores, salt,
- Adaptation to climate change:
 - a. Developing Agro-pastoralism
 - b. water conservation in large underground tanks
 - c. changing to more drought resistant animals (camel and goat)
 - d. movement of populations to less dry and urban areas

4. Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Program

- 32 Million UA; 10 Countries of COMIFAC
 - Building Capacity for COMIFAC and Treaties
 - Sustainable Biodiversity Mgmt /Climate Change
 - Promotion of livelihoods for people living around protected areas



Key Issues

- Conservation of second largest tropical Forest
- Responses to the continued forest degradation and climate change
- Better understanding of carbon markets, environmental monitoring, and Local Development Fund (LDF).

SEA focus

- Preservation of Ecosystems, rehabilitation of highly important ecological “hot spot” zones from gradual degradation
- Promotion of Regional Public Goods and contribution to regional integration
- Mitigation and adaptation to climate change, management of landscapes, reduce poverty and improve living conditions

Thank you

