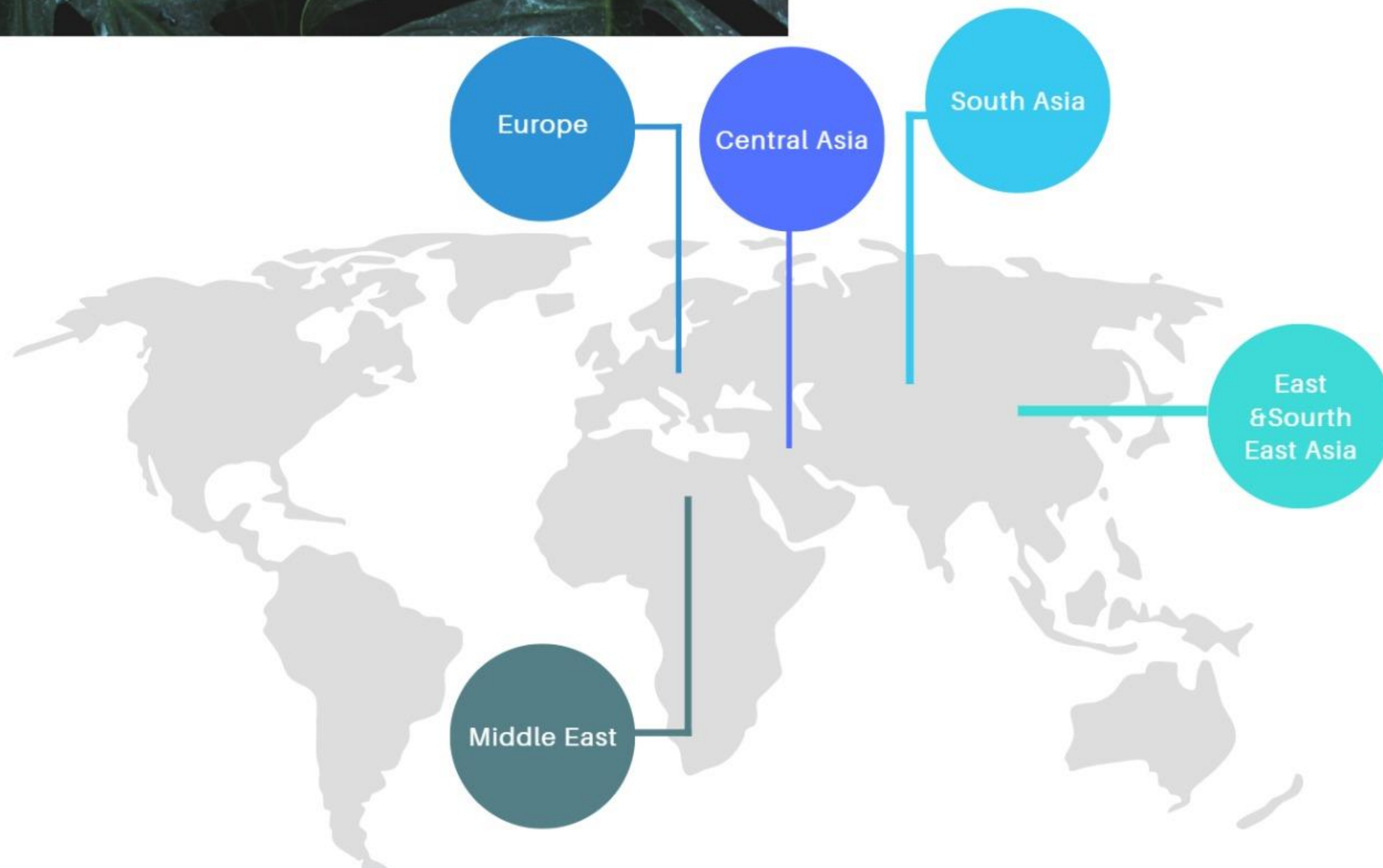




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Differences in EIA across BRI and their compatibility with Chinese EIA

EIA System Effectiveness across BRI



Content



EIA System Effectiveness across BRI



Key challenges and good practice pointers



Integrating EIA with BRI project approval



Guidance and Competency



Is there any relationship between EIA and economic growth?



EIA System Effectiveness across BRI

Country	Legislation	Administration	Procedure	Decision-making	Administrative support
East and South East Asia	✓ Legal Framework	✓ screening/scoping monitoring	✓ EIA guidelines ● Reporting	✓ EIA involvement ● transparency	? Resources ● Skill/government ● Training
South Asia	✓ Legal Framework	✓ screening/scoping monitoring ● public participation	✓ EIA guidelines ● Reporting	✓ EIA involvement ● transparency	? Resources/Skill ● Training
Central Asia	✓ Legal Framework	✓ screening/scoping monitoring	● Reporting EIA guideline/review	✓ EIA involvement ● transparency	● Resources/skill/ government/Training
Europe	✓ Legal Framework	✓ screening/scoping EMP, PP, alternatives monitoring	✓ EIA guidelines ● Reporting	✓ EIA involvement/ explanation ● transparency	✓ Resources/skill/government, training, private sector
Middle East	✓ Legal Framework	✓ screening/scoping monitoring	● Reporting EIA guideline/review	● transparency	✓ Resources ● Training



East&Southeast Asia

Problem

- lower-income countries in the region fall behind China in resource allocation, EIA expertise and the incorporation of EIA into project approval decisions.
- Fragility, conflict and violence
- Anti-china sentiments

Existing Best Practices

- Regional Collaborations to continue to improve EIA standards
- International donor organizations' aids in resources, capacity and technical expertise.

Recommendation

- Improving the environmental standards and requirements to China's level.
- Collaboration with China in improving resource capacity and monitoring of BRI projects' EIA.

Key Deficiency

- EIA in decision making
- Transparency
- Public Participation
- Resource capacity
- publicly available EIA reports

Compatibility

- China received the highest performance.
- Practical implementation of EIA is late compared to China.
- Resource capacity is much lower.
- China's EIA administration, procedure and government support are better.

Economic Concept

- Generally, higher GDP achieved higher scores.
- Singapore perform well among SEA.

Advantage

- EIA systems in the region are still evolving.
- Having close tie with China for most of the countries.
- The existence of donor organizations in most of the countries.

Channels

- Ministry of Environments in both countries
- ASEAN-China environmental collaboration
- Ministry of investment

Countries

China, Mongolia, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam

Current Collaborations

- The belt and road ecological and environmental cooperation plan, 2017.
- ASEAN-China environmental collaboration
- Digital BRI
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)



South Asia

Problem

- the lack of strict compliance with different provisions, the result of EIA in decision-making and the administrative support for the EIA.
- International aid disproportionately focused on India

Existing Best Practices

- remarkable progress in acquiring systematic EIA legislation in recent years,

Recommendation

- prioritize improving EIA legislation and legal frameworks, administrative systems, decision-making process and, technical and human capabilities before the initiation of the BRI projects.

Key Deficiency

- SEA
- Transboundary EIA
- Ambiguous EIA guidelines
- Government support

Compatibility

- Low compatibility with Chinese EIA
- need substantial assistance from China to support and improve local EIA capacities

Economic Concept

- Generally, higher GDP achieved higher scores.
- Bhutan perform well regardless of economic performance

Advantage

- Large human resources and capacity especially in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan
- The existence of donor organizations in most of the countries.

Channels


- high level government commitments from China and the specific host countries

Countries

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri-Lanka

Collaborations

- The belt and road ecological and environmental cooperation plan, 2017.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- Much more earnest cooperation between China and India will be vital.



Central Asia

Problem

- considerable gap between the law and enforcement
- the lack of SEA, public consultation and disclosure, oversight of the EIA enforcement and inadequate resources
- absence of screening, scoping, and EMPs
- have a relatively weak economy compared to China

Existing Best Practices

Some countries are drafting Screening and Scoping requirements

Recommendation

environmental assessment and monitoring practices for BRI projects in these regions should be context specific while ensuring the essential elements of EIA are not lower than China.

Key Deficiency

- SEA
- Transboundary EIA
- Transparency in decision making

Compatibility

- Mostly Low compatibility with Chinese EIA
- China uses a much more comprehensive and legally binding EIA implementation criterion;
- the Chinese EIA system rigorously monitors and follows-up in EIA
- countries' EIA systems are based on the state ecological expertise review system (SEE) established under the former Soviet Union

Advantage

The World Bank actively monitor EIA process and provides financial, technical and human resources for improving legislation and implementation

Channels

Greening the Belt and Road Projects in Central Asia

Countries

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Collaborations

The belt and road ecological and environmental cooperation plan, 2017.
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)



Middle-east

Problem

- Most countries in the region developed EIA only in the late 1990s
- non-compliance of a SEA
- absence of public consultation in the decision making process
- lack of comprehensive follow-up system and the administration supports
- lower income countries in the region have weak regulation
- lack of regional collaboration

Existing Best Practices

The assistance of international donor agencies in developing EIA policies.

Recommendation

- China's support in improving the weak areas in the existing EIA system
- the collaboration effort have to be tailored to each country's financial and human resources capabilities and the institutional structures.

Key Deficiency

- SEA
- public participation
- follow-up
- support
- absence of screening in many countries

Compatibility

- The Chinese EIA system has been established more than a decade prior to the EIAs in the Middle East
- The first two countries are Oman and Israel in 1982
- Chinese EIA is generally stronger than EIAs in the Middle East

Economic Concept

Generally, higher GDP achieved higher scores.

Advantage

Donor organizations in lower-income countries

Channels

- "green" finance in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Countries

Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Syria, UAE, Yemen

Collaborations

The belt and road ecological and environmental cooperation plan, 2017.



Europe

Problem

Some countries are newly independent states (NIS)
These countries have weak EIA implementation and no requirement for SEA

Existing Best Practices

- compliance with EU EIA directives
- Transboundary EIA

Recommendation

- synchronize their EIA system with the Chinese EIA, other safeguard policies and sectoral requirements
- innovative EIA approaches and technological advances
- Lower-income countries will require assistance to improve EIA administrative systems and technical and human capabilities.

Key Deficiency

- incorporation of the results of EIA in decision making appears weak
- lack of transparency in decision-making processes

Compatibility

- overall EIA effectiveness score of European countries is comparatively high
- China perform better in EIA guidelines, sectoral authorities' responsibility and EIS submission, monitoring, auditing and follow-up of compliance

Economic Concept

Strong relationship between GDP and EIA

Advantage

- Financial, technical and human capacity in most of the countries
- strong regional collaboration

Channels

political commitment of both host and home countries

Countries

Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bosnia, Belarus, Croatia, Bulgaria, Czech, Georgia, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Russia, Romania, Ukraine, Slovenia, Slovakia, Serbia, Turkey.

Collaborations

- The belt and road ecological and environmental cooperation plan, 2017.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

CONCLUSION

- Challenges in authorization of large-scale projects
- EIA creates additional challenges for both China and host country
- Need to ensure complying with national legal provision and China's foreign investor's environmental legislation
- EU directives, World Bank environmental legislation and the Espoo Conventions may be consulted
- an integrated and harmonized EIA framework can be vital for strengthening international cooperation
- ensure public involvement and a transparent decision-making process and increase environmental consideration.
- China's weaknesses in transboundary impact assessment and opaque decision-making process can be a severe concern for BRI countries

BRI project approval process.

