What can the HIA field learn from evaluation activity in other impact assessment areas

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Background

- Need to support HIA practitioners in evaluating their HIAs:
    - provides evidence base for the approach

- Origins of HIA in other impact assessment areas

- Over thirty years experience to draw on

Research Objectives

- Identify, map and describe basic principles, elements and stages

- Analyse and document the evaluation activities

- Comment on importance of evaluation activities

- Make recommendations for improving HIA evaluation activity

- Illustrate practice with case studies
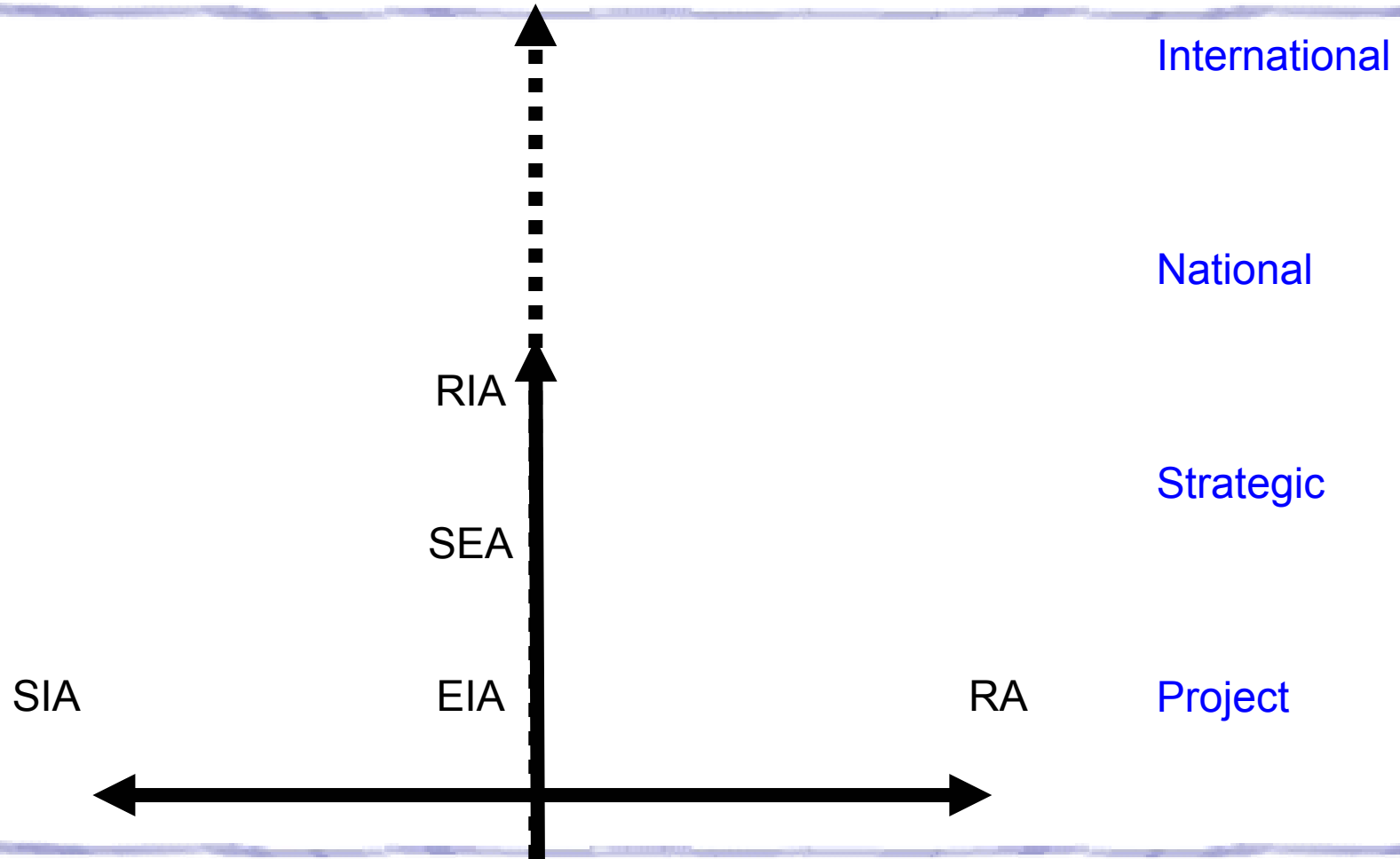
- Identify toolkits, if appropriate

Approach

- Database search
- Identification of impact assessment activity to focus analysis
- Identification of evaluation criteria used
  - Process
  - Outcome
- Email survey to identify practice based on criteria
- Telephone follow-up necessary

Database search

- Multiple databases covering social and environmental sciences
  - Science Direct, Geobase, Biome, Web of Knowledge, UEA Catalogue, Medline
- Many databases not used
- Focussed range of search terms used – many synonyms not used
- 34 types of impact assessment identified

Analysis framework

International

National

RIA

Strategic

SEA

SIA   EIA   RA   Project

Sub-project

Process Criteria

- Vary depending on impact assessment process.

- Shared between all:
  - Stages of the process completed
  - Comprehensiveness of individual components
  - Implementation and adequacy of Government guidance
  - Transparency
  - Accountability
  - Expertise of participants
  - Motivation of participants
  - Accuracy
  - Communication (production of report)
  - Focus

Process criteria

- **EIA, SEA and SIA**
  - Participative and inclusive
  - Iterative
- **EIA and RA**
  - Type and size of project
- **SEA and RA**
  - Cost of preparation
- **SEA**
  - Integration
  - Sustainability-led

Outcome Criteria

- EIA and SEA only:
    - Number of modifications
    - Influence

Who evaluates?

- Consultants
  - Internal sign off
  - Pay for IEMA review for registered status
- Developers
  - Internal
  - External peer review/review package
- Planners/Decision makers
  - Review packages
  - Pay for IEMA review

Survey

- Questionnaires designed for:
  - EIA, SIA, SEA, RA, RIA
- Questionnaire sent to:
  - Planners (EIA x 446; SEA x 446)
  - Environmental Health (RA x 305)
  - Consultants (SIA x 1(?),EIA x 106)
  - Environment Agency (EIA x 2; RA x ?)
  - Government Departments (RIA x 2)

Preliminary conclusions

- Lots of process evaluation
  - Dependent on review criteria packages/guidance
  - Dependent on peer review
- Hardly any outcome evaluation
- Confusion over what is meant by evaluation
- Politics influences evaluation activity

Potential opportunities

- Appropriate criteria-based process review packages

- Management Systems (e.g., ISO9001/14001)

- Awareness raising / institutionalisation?