

IAIA

IMPROVING DECISION-MAKING FOR ACHIEVING THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Guidance of using Strategic Environmental Assessment

September 2024

Guidance for Chapter peer reviewers

Thanks

IAIA is very grateful that you are willing to provide review comments on one or more chapters of the draft SEA guidance for the energy transition. In this note, we provide suggestions on how you should prepare your comments.

Background

Climate change is a major driver of the need for an energy transition away from fossil fuels to renewable sources. Recognizing that the necessary shift towards renewable energy (RE) can be greatly assisted by the use of strategic environmental assessment (SEA), IAIA launched a multi-phase initiative in 2022. It aims to:

- Develop guidance for SEA for renewable energy
- Promote use of the guidance for SEAs undertaken for policies, plans and programmes that support the transition towards for renewable energy with low carbon future.

Barry Dalal-Clayton and Miles Scott-Brown have been engaged by IAIA to lead this important initiative and act as co-authors/compilers of the guidance.

Box 1: Three phases of the initiative

A: Launch Phase (January - December 2022):

- Outline of the scope/contents of guidance, inventory of existing SEA guidelines
- Establish oversight through a 'Partners Council' and 'Technical Advisory Committee'
- Establish a Reference Group
- Inception report on how to proceed in Phase B and C.

B: Development Phase (January – December 2023)

- Preparation of preliminary draft and presentation of preliminary draft at IAIA'23, Kuching, Malaysia
- Comments, suggestions and edits to preliminary draft by IAIA members and other reviewers and technical experts
- Peer review of full draft
- Revision and submission to IAIA of working draft
- Approval of working draft by IAIA
- Engaging with partners for moving to implementation in Phase C

C: Implementation/roll-out (2024 – 2027 onwards)

- Dissemination of guidance
- Converting guidance to an online, searchable resource
- Regional and other workshops for training and capacity building

- Promoting voluntary application of the guidance in various countries and developing case studies

Structure of the guidance

The guidance is set out in several parts as shown in Box 2. Part A covers the why, what and how of SEA. This is generic information that will be common to all SEAs undertaken in the renewable energy sector. It is not repeated in the individual chapters concerned with renewable energy sub-sectors. Parts B and C deals with basic information key issues associated with different renewable energy sub-sectors.

Box 2: TABLE OF CONTENTS

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About IAIA	
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The IAIA SEA guidance for renewable energy initiative	
Aim of the guidance	
PART A:	<u>GENERIC ISSUES</u>
Chapter 1	Background to SEA
Chapter 2	Legal requirements and commitments to applying SEA
Chapter 3	Stages and steps for undertaking SEA
PART B:	<u>SUB-SECTOR SPECIFIC ISSUES</u>
Chapter 4	National and sub-national energy PPPs, and the use of SEA
Chapter 5	Key issues for SEA in the hydropower sub-sector
Chapter 6	Key issues for SEA in the wind power sub-sector
Chapter 7	Key issues for SEA in the solar power sub-sector
Chapter 8	Key issues for SEA in the bioenergy sub-sector
Chapter 9	Key issues for SEA in the geothermal energy sector
Chapter 10	Key issues for SEA in the tidal energy sector
Chapter 11	Key issues for SEA in retirement of coal-fired power stations and associated mine closures
PART C:	<u>OTHER ISSUES</u>
Chapter 12	Guidance for institutions
Chapter 13	Infrastructure associated with renewable energy
Chapter 14	Key issues for SEA in the production of green hydrogen and ammonia
References	
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Repetition

There is repetition in different chapters. This is deliberate as it is assumed that not many users will be likely to read the whole guidance, chapter by chapter. Rather, it is anticipated that users will instead read those chapters that are of particular interest or relevance to them, consistent with their particular areas of expertise or roles in SEA. Therefore, we have endeavoured to ensure that, in each RE sub-sector chapter, important information is repeated (usually in summary form with a cross-reference to where the matter is dealt with in

detail) to ensure the user does not miss it. This is also consistent with the aim that the guidance will be converted to an online, searchable and rolling resource (revised, updated and expanded as needed), with searchable cross-links.

How we would appreciate to receive you review comments

It would greatly assist the consultants if you could frame your responses in the following manner:

- **Scan chapters 1 and 3.** Even if you are reviewing a specific chapter, it would be useful if you could also scan Chapters 1 and 3 as these chapters contain guidance of the nature, modalities and role of SEA which is common to all applications. This 'methodological' material is not repeated in the subsequent chapters covering specific renewable energy types. We are not asking you to make comments on these chapters but rather that you read them for context.
- **General comments** on the guidance are, of course, most welcome. But we would ask you to refrain from general comments in the text. You are most welcome to summarize those at the front of the section. What we ask you instead is to make suggestions directly into the text as described below.
- **Accuracy of information** – while we have written the document sometimes with our opinions and at other times citing specific references, we ask that you verify these statements made to assure their veracity. This may mean correcting us, where needed. If doing so, we of course would ask you to provide the supporting references.
- **Specific suggestions:** We would prefer it, and it would be particularly helpful to our work on revising chapters, if you could provide your specific suggestions directly into the text either as an edit or as additional material. It is always difficult to interpret what a reviewer particularly has in mind by a general suggestion such as “the guidance would benefit from more on XX or YY”. If you can, it would help if you could insert an edit or new text expanding on “XX” or “YY”.
- **Track change:** Please use track change mode to help us quickly locate and fully understand your suggested changes or additions.
- We have included **examples** throughout the text (usually in boxes) to exemplify practice or to illustrate key points. But there may be better examples or ones that are more specific to renewable energy or examples from other countries. We would welcome your suggestions (as box inserts) in this regard.
- **Insertions and references:** For any insertions you make (i.e. new text) - and particularly where you cite data or provide an example, figure, table, box, image, etc. - please provide a **full reference** [insert the citation in the text – we will collate it into the reference section ourselves] and a **working url** where appropriate.

- **Copyright:** You will see that we have sought **copyright permission** for all images used. But for some, we have not yet been successful in securing permission (getting to the right person can be difficult for images we have found on the internet). So, if you have alternative images that we can use and for which you can provide permission to use or would be free of any copyright requirements, this would be most welcome. for **images** you might provide, we will need **copyright permission** to use – so please indicate the source (url, otherwise or yourself) – and indicate if we have permission to use the image.
- If you have **examples of SEAs** applied to renewable energy in other languages, please also provide them to us.
- If you have any questions, please email us as bdalalclay@aol.com and miles@cieragroup.cpm

Thank you again for your valuable contributions to the integrity and value of this document to readers. We very much look forward to receiving your comments.