



Policy Instruments for Chinese Sustainable Future:
Environmental Policy Integration and
Strategic Environmental Assessment
for the Energy and Transport Sectors

An Action under the
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CHINA-EPI-SEA Paper No. 6_EN

**Proposal for the contents of the
Energy SEA Report**

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Project outline

Policy Instruments for Chinese Sustainable Future focuses on the integration of the environment into transport and energy planning in China, both at the policy level and in terms of concrete measures for the two administrative levels of provinces and municipalities. The implementation of this project will help to build transportation and energy-use systems that are environmentally sound and capable of achieving sustainable development in China. As part of the Asia Pro Eco II Programme the project contributes to the programme's main themes for China: energy savings, improved air quality and reduced emissions of GHGs.

At the heart of this project are two closely related mechanisms that are central to the EU efforts to promote sustainability: Environmental Policy Integration (EPI) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The action targets the inadequate reflection on environmental policy objectives and the weakness of the environment as a cross-sectoral priority and the need for information and knowledge of technical/practical solutions that can lead to immediate improvements in the development of sectoral plans. The 30 months Action consists of four work packages and multiple activities.

For further information please look at:

http://www.epi-in-china.com/project_information/summary.html

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Purpose of this report

Following our meeting in Amsterdam, and subsequent email exchanges amongst the partners, SEI has agreed to make an initial proposal for a table of contents of the future SEA report for the energy case study.

The main idea was to:

- Suggest a table of contents which reflects good international practice
- Ensure that the resulting report would meet the requirements of the European project, as per agreements signed by the partners (deliverable for WP III.4)
- Ensure that the report to be produced for the European project is consistent with the requirements of the existing Chinese law, so as to minimise complexity for the Chinese partners. This however, needs to be balanced with the overall aim of our project to advance SEA practice and provide guidance based on international good practice.

Key concepts

Our proposal for an SEA report is based on the overarching idea that the Report is a document that illustrates the **quality of the SEA process**, as well as providing an **overview of the likely effects** of a plan on the environment and sustainability.

The following principles apply:

- Clarity of language
- Balance between:
 - o The use of the main body of the text to deliver the main messages for decision-makers and the public/stakeholders, and
 - o The Annexes for the more technical data
- Evidence of the quality of the SEA process, including:
 - o Process design (in the scoping report)
 - o Consultation, cooperation amongst administrations and key actors
 - o Public participation
 - o Strengths and weaknesses of the SEA
- Evidence of the range of likely effects, including uncertainties and how to deal with them.

Current proposals from the Chinese colleagues

This report is based on two useful inputs from documents by the Chinese colleagues:

- A) contents for the Energy SEA report
- B) draft SEA process.

I reproduce these below.

A) Proposed SEA report contents:

1 General Principles

- 1.1 Origins of the Task
- 1.2 Scope of the Assessment
- 1.3 Proposed Year for Assessment
- 1.4 Environmental Impact Identification
- 1.5 Environment Protection Objectives and Targets
- 1.6 Assessment Indicator System
- 1.7 Assessment Methodology
- 1.8 Assessment Procedures

2. Profile and Analysis of the Proposed Plan

- 2.1 Necessity of the Proposed Plan
- 2.2 Objectives of the Proposed Plan
- 2.3 Task of the Proposed Plan
- 2.4 Principles for the Proposed Plan
- 2.5 Brief Introduction to the Proposed Plan
- 2.6 Analysis of the Proposed Plan

3 Environmental Setting

- 3.1 Environmental Setting
- 3.2 Environmental Quality Status Quo and Changing Trends
- 3.3 Environmental Constraint Factor Analysis

4 Environmental Impact Prediction Assessment

- 4.1 Atmospheric Environmental Impact Prediction
- 4.2 Surface Water Environmental Impact Prediction
- 4.3 Ecological Environmental Impact Prediction
- 4.4 Social Environmental Impact Prediction
- 4.5 Comprehensive Assessment to the Proposed Plan

5 Environmental Feasible Schemes and Mitigation Measures

6 Monitoring and Follow-up Assessment Plan

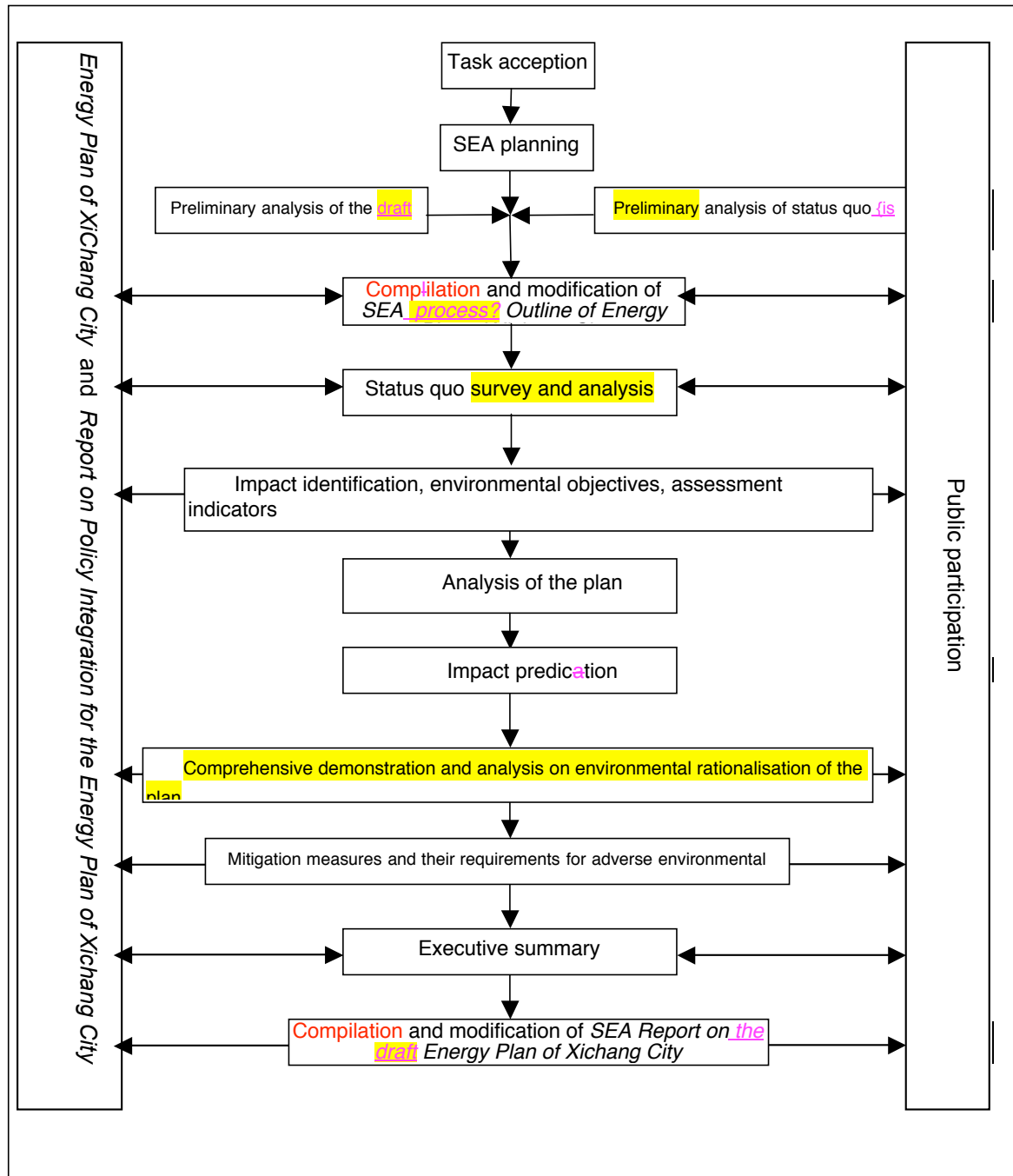
7 Environmental Investment Budget

8 Public Participation

9 Difficulties and Uncertainties

10 Executive Summary

B) SEA process - from the draft Scoping report:



Energy SEA Report – a proposal

The contents list below is based on the concepts proposed above, and seeks to combine these with the material produced by our Chinese partners. You will find in **yellow** items from the Chinese proposal.

Comments and questions are placed in [...]

We welcome comments and suggestions on how to refine this proposal.

ABBREVIATIONS

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

[equivalent to our 'Background' sections]

1.1 Origins of the Task

1.2 Purpose of the Assessment

[see our Scoping report]

1.3 Scope of the Assessment

[see Scoping report. What is included and what is excluded? Including a geographical coverage? Suggestion: include a table with the key Chinese legal requirements and how these were met in this study]

1.4 Proposed Year for the Assessment

[is this essentially a timetable?]

2. THE PROPOSED PLAN

[includes elements of the Scoping report]

2.1 Introducing the energy plan

Origins of the proposed plan [the **need for the plan**, in the Chinese version]

2.2 Links with the institutional and policy context

2.3 Proposed **plan objectives**

2.4 Principal elements of the Proposed Plan [**tasks of the plan**, in the Chinese version]

2.5 **Principles of the Proposed Plan**

2.6 Scenarios, alternatives

2.7 Conclusions

3. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

[combines elements from 'Baseline Information' in the Scoping report]

3.1 Introduction - the use of indicators and targets

3.2 Xichang baseline

- **Environmental quality status quo**
- **Changing trends**
- **Environmental constraint Factor Analysis**

3.3 Key messages from the baseline [environmental setting] review

3.4 Conclusions

4. THE SEA: OBJECTIVES, PROCESS AND METHODS

[includes elements from the Scoping report, and covers elements under 'General Principles' in the Chinese proposal, and may be similar to Assessment procedures]

4.1 Objectives

- Environmental and sustainability issues [Environmental Impact Identification]
- Environmental and sustainability objectives and targets
 - o List of environmental and sustainability objectives
 - o Compatibility analysis

4.2 SEA process

- Integrating planning and assessment processes [see CHINA-EPI-SEA Report no. 7_EN]
- Actors and responsibilities
 - o Key actors
 - o Consultation, collaboration and public participation
 - o Contacts

4.3 SEA methods [Assessment Methodology]

- Assessment Indicator System
- Other

4.4 Consulting on the objectives, process and methodology proposed for the SEA.

4.5 Conclusions

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE DRAFT ENERGY PLAN

4.1 Introduction

4.2 Main findings, Energy plan chapter by chapter

[this section will depend very much on how the plan is developed and whether there are scenarios, and alternative sets of options being proposed and assessed. The following set of impact prediction categories should be presented in summary only, with the detail in annexes]

- Atmospheric Environmental Impact Prediction
- Surface Water Environmental Impact Prediction
- Ecological Environmental Impact Prediction
- Social Environmental Impact Prediction
- Comprehensive Assessment to the Proposed Plan

4.3 Cumulative impacts

4.4 Regionally significant projects and links to project EIAs [if any!]

4.5 Impacts on nature conservation sites and reference to additional supporting assessment [where appropriate]

4.6 Trans-boundary impacts [into other provinces?]

4.7 Difficulties and uncertainties

4.8 Conclusions

5. KEY ISSUES AND OPTIONS – THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVE

5.1 Introduction

5.2 Urban sector

5.3 Rural sector

5.4 Industrial sector

5.5 Climate change

5.6 Water

5.7 Other ???

5.7 Conclusions

6. ENVIRONMENTALLY FEASIBLE SCHEMES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

6.1 Including Environmental Investment Budget [?]

7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 Commenting on this report and documentation of the decisions
- Consultation with other Government authorities
 - **Public Participation** [details of methods, timing and scope]
- 7.2 **Monitoring and follow-up** measures envisaged

9. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

[similar to the 'executive summary'? normally this is placed at the beginning of an SEA report, but here it is at the end, following the Chinese example.

Ideally could include:

- list of environmental objectives,
- a summary matrix of the assessment (or other diagram, maps),
- a table summarising how each main proposal/measure/project is likely to affect the objectives
- public participation (it is assumed that this Report will be presented to the public, therefore it is not possible here to summarise the results of such event. This will have to be recorded in a separate document)
- next steps]

APPENDICES (in separate files)

- A. SEA expert group
- B. Scoping report
- C. Sustainability drivers and data for sub-areas
- D. Review of other policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives
- E. Cumulative impact identification and mitigation
- F. SEA Process
- G. Documents supporting changes to the Plan in response to assessment
- H. Assessment of draft Plan (details)
- I. Changes made to draft Plan