



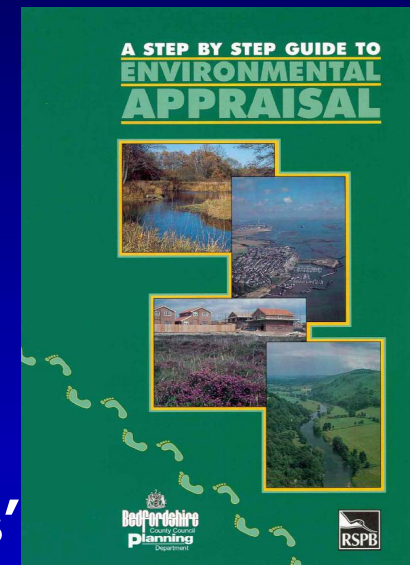
Sustainability Appraisal: Tips for good practice

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for birds • for people • for ever

Why RSPB and SEA / SA?

- Working on SEA Directive during negotiation
- Extensive experience of SEA policy and practice over 15 years
- Non-statutory consultee
- Public plans should tackle the 'big issues' eg climate change, biodiversity loss



Current issues

- Lack of time
- Outsourcing
- Evidence base
- Focus on procedure and producing a report rather than assessment quality and outcomes - actually improving the plan



Tips: Preparation

- Focus on objectives of SEA Directive
- Start early
- Select the right team
- Early stages – focus on 'why' you are collecting the baseline info



Tips: Assessment

- Regular contact between SA and plan teams
- Seek additional consultation / advice where appropriate
- Assess preferred option and alternatives
- 'Positive planning', SA practitioners as sustainability 'champions'



Tips: Reporting

- Document the assessment process and results
- Communication
- Summary of changes / recommendations and action taken – outcomes
- Impartial and open style
- Quality control
- Timing



Enhancement opportunities

Minerals DPDs: contribute to UK BAP targets – habitat enhancement

'Making space for wildlife'

Minerals Restoration Potential Project

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/policy/planningpolicy/minerals.asp>



Summary

- **Start early**
- **Involve the public, including NGOs**
- **Focus on outcomes eg improvements not just documentation**
- **Use SEA as opportunity for better plan-making NOT a procedural hurdle**



So you've got it right...?

- RSPB publication to showcase good practice
- Particularly where 'value-added' benefits
- Please send examples to lisa.palframan@rspb.org.uk

'SEA & Biodiversity: guidance for practitioners' –
available from
www.rspb.org.uk/policy/planningpolicy

