



## Screening for SEA (Annex 3 of the Environment Integration Handbook)

The SEA Screening is used to decide if an SEA is required for the formulation of an SPSP. It consists firstly of applying a screening list and selectively a questionnaire.

### SEA screening list for focal areas

An SEA of Sector Programmes in “environmentally sensitive”<sup>1</sup> EC focal areas is required when considered for support through an SPSP. The following EC focal areas are considered as “environmentally sensitive”:

- Infrastructure and transport
- Water and Energy
- Rural development, land management, agriculture, food security (including forestry, fisheries)
- Environment and sustainable management of natural resources (including forestry, fisheries, waste management).

SPSPs in other focal areas usually do not require an SEA:

- Governance (economic and institutional reforms<sup>2</sup>)
- Trade and regional integration
- Social cohesion and employment
- Human and social development
- Conflict prevention and State fragility

However some programmes in these focal areas might have significant environmental impacts, in which case an SEA should be prepared. The SEA screening questionnaire below should be used to decide if an SEA is required in a non-environmentally sensitive focal area.

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<sup>1</sup> There are other “environmentally sensitive” sectors requiring an SEA, but these are not focal areas in EC co-operation: town and country planning; land use planning; tourism; mining; industry and telecommunications.

<sup>2</sup> For “Economic and institutional reforms” see Chapter 5 on GBS.



## SEA screening questionnaire

The following questionnaire should be used to screen Sectors Programmes to aid decisions on the requirement for an SEA.

SEA Screening Questions	NO	YES	?
<b>1. Does the Sector Programme provide opportunities to significantly enhance the environment and/or contribute to environmental objectives, which would require further studies to define?</b> Use the checklist of “Entry points” provided in Annex 1 in order to identify those opportunities.			
<b>2. Is the Sector Programme likely to result in Category A projects or in several Category B projects</b> (see Annex 7)? Are these likely to interact such that they will produce cumulative environmental impacts?			
<b>3. Will the Sector Programme have a direct influence in activities of an environmentally-sensitive sector?</b> (e.g. an Education Programme can include a component on Agricultural Training, that may have an impact on agricultural practice).			
<b>4. Does the Sector Programme have a close relationship to key environmental problems in the country, such as those identified in the CEP?</b>			
<b>5. Is the Sector Programme of high relevance for the implementation of environmental legislation?</b> (e.g. linked to waste management and water protection).			
<b>6. Is the Sector Programme likely to affect areas or landscapes with a recognised national or international protection status (protected areas)?</b>			
<b>7. Is the Sector Programme likely to significantly affect valuable or vulnerable areas?</b> (e.g. Protected Areas, areas with cultural heritage, areas under environmental stress).			
<b>8. Does the Sector Programme significantly increase the risks to human health or the environment?</b> (e.g. increased vulnerability to natural disasters, significant exposure to hazardous materials).			
<b>9. Can we identify at this stage particular environmental impacts of the Sector Programme implementation that are likely to be significant?</b> (The likely environmental impacts of Sector Programme implementation can be identified using the tables of Annex 1 as checklists and should be seen in light of their characteristics e.g. probability, duration, frequency, reversibility, cumulative nature, magnitude and the affected area or population, in order to decide their likely significance.)			
<b>Interpreting the answers</b>			
a. If the answer to all questions is “No” then based on the information available it is unlikely that significant environmental impacts will result and an SEA is not required... b. If the answer to one or more of the questions is “Yes” then significant environmental impacts are anticipated and an SEA is required. c. If there are no “Yes” answers and one or more “?” more information should be collected to be able to respond to the questions. The support of environmental services (in-house or in the country) should be requested in order to get clearer answers (Yes or No). If one or more “?” remain, it will usually be reasonable to incorporate the questions into the ToR of the formulation study.			