



Managing complex issues

The challenges of SEAs and the O&G activities in Mauritania

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ESIA, SEA or CIA?



“aiming to ensure that environmental and other sustainability aspects are considered effectively in policy, plan and programme making.”

EU SEA Directive

Environmental and Social Impacts Assessment (ESIA)

- Applies to the potential impacts of a particular development proposal
- Done in the context of a well-defined development proposal for which the construction and operational details of the development alternatives are known
- May include an assessment of the project’s contribution to a well-known accumulated impact and propose standard mitigation measures (e.g., greenhouse gas emissions, airshed pollution, depletion of wild fish stocks)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)²¹

- Relates to potential impacts of governmentwide or sectorwide policies, plans, or programs
- Anticipates how instruments such as policies that are not specifically tied to a particular physical development may result in a variety of impacts at different times and places

Regional or Sectoral Impact Assessment

- Assesses the impacts of the potential developmental future of a geographic region or of an overall sector or industry (sometimes referred to as regional or sectoral SEA)

Cumulative Impact Assessment and Management (CIA)

- Assesses the ecological and social impacts that determine the status of environmental components and affected communities (VECs)
- Requires consideration of past, present, and future projects and natural drivers that affect them
- Assessment reflects the geographical and temporal context in which the effects are aggregating and interacting (e.g., airshed, river catchment, town, landscape)

Mauritania

- Mauritania has experienced more than 30 years of persistent drought.
- Threats of desertification and increasing deforestation (c0.5% pa), agricultural sector only able to product 40% of demand and depleted fishing stock. Fishing and iron ore represent c50% GDP.
- EU – Mauritania fisheries agreement - allows 200+ EU vessels to fish various species in Mauritanian water (30 percent over-harvesting).

World Bank report (2011):

- Preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is one tool to help ensure that oil and gas development will proceed in a sustainable manner...
- ..there is a lack of coordination and capacity for the implementation of effective EIA processes & incomplete legal framework.

SEA landscape in Mauritania & Senegal

