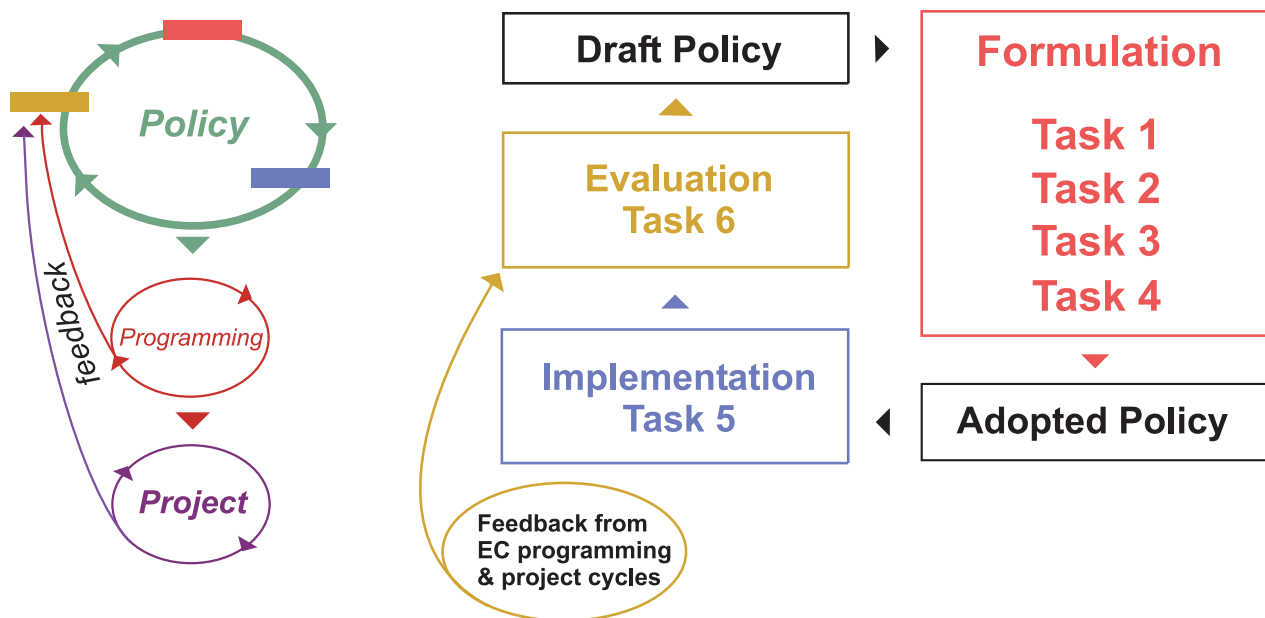




Procedures

Policy

*Integrating environment into EC development cooperation **policy***



It is widely recognised that addressing environmental issues at policy formulation is the most effective way of ensuring that projects and programmes are environmentally sound. The Amsterdam Treaty, for example, contains commitments to address environmental issues in policy formulation and implementation.

An environmentally sound policy framework can lead to significant time-saving, by reducing the need to search for alternatives during project formulation. Conversely, policies formulated without due consideration to environmental implications can have far-reaching adverse effects, often in contradiction to environmental commitments made in other forums.

You need to follow the procedures set out here to ensure that environmental considerations are fully integrated into the process of formulating EC cooperation policies. If you are dealing with programmes or projects supporting policy formulation in partner countries, go to integrating environment in “**Projects**” .



Who is responsible

While ultimate responsibility for development and economic cooperation policy rests with the College of Commissioners and the various EU institutions. Task Managers in the **External Relations DGs** carry out the preparatory work of drafting and modifying legal and policy documents. Their task is to ensure that all relevant information, including the environment implications of the proposed policy, is available so that it can be taken into account in policy decision making.

The environmental implications of proposed policies are assessed by the Commission's environment services during the formal process of inter-service consultation. As this occurs at a relatively late stage in policy formulation, it is not always an effective way of integrating environmental concerns. Environmental aspects need to be considered as early as possible to take advantage of environmental opportunities and to prevent or reduce the need for later modifications. Therefore, Commission officials managing policy formulation, implementation and evaluation are responsible for ensuring that environmental considerations are fully integrated into this process. They are assisted in this task by the Commission's environmental services.



Which policy documents

The environment integration tasks in these procedures apply to those policy documents that undergo the formal process of inter-service consultation. these include:

Central and Eastern Europe, and accession countries

- Regulations governing regional or sectoral budget lines (such as, Phare, ISPA, and SAPARD programmes)
- Europe Agreements
- Trade agreements
- Communications on Regional and sectoral policies

Newly Independent States

- Regulations governing regional or sectoral budget lines (such as the Tacis programme)
- Partner Country Agreements
- Indicative Programmes
- Communications on Regional and Sectoral policies

Southern Mediterranean, Middle and Near East, Latin America, South and South-East Asia

- Regulations governing regional or sectoral budget lines (such as, ALA, MED, rehabilitation drugs)
- Trade/framework Agreements
- Communications on Regional and Sectoral policies

Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries

- Lomé Convention/ EC-ACP Partnership Agreement
- Cotonou Agreement
- Regulations governing sectoral budget lines
- Trade/Framework Agreements
- Communications on Regional and Sectoral policies



How to integrate environment

The Commission's environmental service will help to determine the environmental work to be done during policy preparation. In many cases, all that is needed is a brief review of the proposed document and perhaps the inclusion of a number of environmental safeguards. Some policies will need more extensive analysis of their environmental implications. For this purpose, a tool has been developed - **"Terms of Reference"** .

The analysis will highlight potential areas of impact and will provide recommendations to address those and to help to ensure that the proposed policy complies with EU environmental commitments. The recommendations may include modifications to the final policy document, as well as propose complementary mitigating actions to be carried out parallel with policy implementation. The assessment will also provide evaluation criteria for use later in verifying that the environmental directions have been effective.

Strategic Environmental Analysis for Policy

Strategic Environmental Analysis (SEA) for Policy provides a qualitative assessment of the environmental implications of a policy and its compliance with Community environmental objectives. An SEA involves:

- consultation of evaluation reports under previous policy directions of programmes and projects;
- identification and examination of potential policy alternatives;
- evaluation of potential significant impacts of the proposed policy compared to alternatives;
- analysis of compliance with EC environmental commitments and objectives;
- consideration of the environmental implications for programming and project activities;
- recommendations for mitigating measures, safeguards and conditions for inclusion in policy;
- recommendations for criteria for assessing policy performance relating to potential environmental impacts.



Tasks

The tasks listed below apply to all policy proposals and relate to specific stages of the policy cycle - formulation, implementation and evaluation. They are to be undertaken by the Commission official managing the specific phase of the policy cycle. In carrying out these tasks, the official can consult with and obtain assistance from the environmental services.

Policy Formulation

Task 1 Consult Commission environmental services on the need for strategic environmental work

As soon as policy work is being planned, you need to contact the environmental service to determine the scope of the work required on the environmental aspects. Together you need to identify the relevant environmental issues, and determine the likely level of resources and the timing required to address these adequately. The discussion may conclude that no further environmental work is required in which case, you should proceed to **“Task 4: Incorporate environmental recommendations into policy document”** .

Task 2. Ensure that the strategic environmental work is undertaken

If some strategic environmental work is required, it is your responsibility to ensure that this is undertaken. Depending on the requirements, the work can be carried out either internally by the environmental services or an external consultant.

Terms of Reference (ToR) for external consultants need to be prepared using the standard format for **“Terms of Reference”** . Environmental issues to be considered can be established from the sector-specific information in the **“The Sector Guides cover natural resource use, infrastructure, services, production, humanitarian assistance, and economic/trade related cooperation. They are are grouped under these broad headings below and are also listed in alphabetical order in the contents menu.”** .

The ToR needs to be prepared in consultation with the environmental service. Alternatively, the environmental service can prepare the ToR and assist in contracting an external consultant. If this is the case, then proceed directly to **“Task 4: Incorporate environmental recommendations into policy document”** .

Task 3. Review and approve the environment analysis report

It is necessary to ensure that environment analysis prepared by external consultants is reviewed and approved by the environment service. The review will help to verify that all relevant issues have been addressed adequately.



Task 4: Incorporate environmental recommendations into policy document

In consultation with the environmental service, you need to ensure that the environmental recommendations are incorporated in the proposed policy document. An explanatory statement needs to be included on how environmental issues were addressed during policy formulation. A copy of the completed and reviewed environment report should also be annexed to the policy proposal as additional information for the decision-makers.

Policy Implementation

Task 5. Implement environmental recommendations and monitor effectiveness

Development cooperation policies are generally implemented through the programming activities and the projects they identify. The tasks relating to environmental monitoring are outlined in “**Programming**” and “**Projects**” .

The environment services may take specific measures to monitor the environment aspects of the policy, for example, by initiating “**Environmental audit**” . They will ensure that the findings are fed back to those preparing or updating policies.

Policy Evaluation

Task 6. Evaluate the environmental implications of policy and the effectiveness of environmental measures and safeguards

Policies are generally implemented through the programming activities and projects identified in them. The tasks relating to environmental monitoring are outlined in “**Programming**” and “**Projects**” .

The environment service may take the initiative to conduct **ex-post evaluations** of the environment aspects of the policy and will ensure that the findings are fed back to those preparing or updating policies.