

Experiences by AIDEnvironment with:

- Integrated regional planning
- SEA of Poverty Reduction Strategy

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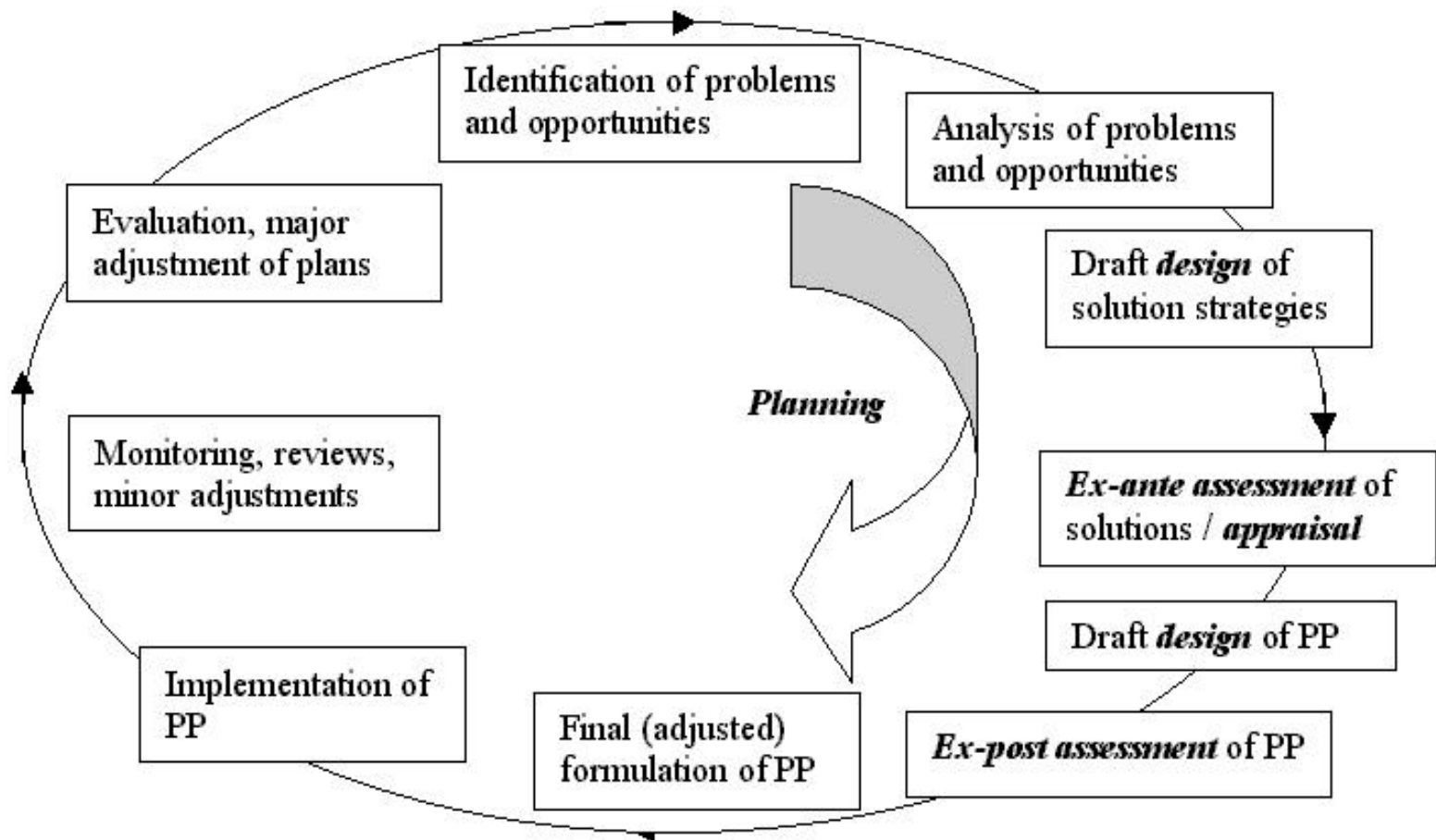
AIDEnvironment, Amsterdam

What is integrated assessment and planning for sustainability?

Integration in two ways:

- Integration of assessment in a planning process
- Integration of sustainable development dimensions: environment, social, economic

Assessment and Planning in Policy Cycle



What is Sustainability about?

- Integration of environmental, social and economic issues
- Addressing root causes
- Avoiding negative trade-off (unacceptable impacts) and finding positive policy linkages
- Avoiding negative spatial trade-off (here and there) and temporal trade-off (now and later)

Experiences by AIDEnvironment with integrated planning

- Support to regional or local administrations to develop a sustainable development strategy
- Experiences in various southern countries
- Methodology comprising of process principles and guidelines, and a framework for analysis and strategic planning - substance

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Outputs

- **Insight in critical environmental issues and interrelations with development / poverty issues**
- **Strategic plan, vision, early actions, operational plans, monitoring indicators**
- **Build up of trust, commitment, stakeholder platform, capacity building on strategic integrated planning**

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Context

- Rural / urban livelihoods largely dependent on natural resources for incomes and security
- Loss of livelihood resources due to external forces mainly, e.g. deforestation
- Increasing vulnerability due to environmental degradation, e.g. floods, drought, ...
- Decentralisation, lack of capacities
- Objective: capacity building through integrated planning for sustainable development

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The Process

- **Time required 3-6 months**
- **Demand driven, local / regional owner**
- **Build onto existing plans and planning processes**
- **As pro-active as possible, wait for right moment**
- **Participation, approaches to allow diverse inputs and improve equitability**
- **Qualitative focus first, details on key issues, use of existing data, setting of baseline**

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The Process

- **How to involve the business sector?**
Communication, partnerships, pressure groups
- **Transparency (priority setting, decision making)**
- **Limited external funding**
- **Critical role of a good facilitator**
- **Don't avoid conflicts**
- **Distance learning tools for exchange between countries and projects**

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The Substance - Steps

- **Analysis phase: stakeholder analysis, identification of trends (environmental and other), setting priorities, defining main problems, analysis of main problems, defining main opportunities**
- **Strategic planning: identification of solutions and win-win options, clarifying inter-sectoral linkages, defining a vision and strategic plan**
- **Operational planning: early actions and projects in line with the strategic plan, check with standards**
- **Establishment of a monitoring system**

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The Substance - critical issues

- **Administrative and ecological scales**
- **A good problem definition: whose problem?**
- **Identifying and addressing root causes of problems**
- **Difficult to address key actors**
- **Opportunity-orientedness, comparative advantages**
- **Set priorities based on insights**

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The Substance - critical issues

- **Strategic planning is difficult, maintain coherence with operational planning even more difficult, early actions**
- **Importance of monitoring, limited set of specific indicators**
- **Long-term focus: future generations!**

Experiences by AIDEnvironment SEA of PRSP Ghana

- **Poor understanding of what environment means, biased views by sectors, SEA as opportunity to build bridges**
- **Focus on positive linkages with environment**
- **Build up trust between sectors, use simple tools for inter-sectoral linkages**
- **But not limit to that, good analysis of root causes, assessment of policy linkages (synergies) and inter-sectoral trade-off (conflicts) (EIA --> SEA)**
- **Need to substantiate insights into concrete actions**

What benefits for decision-makers?

- It supports sustainable development
- It facilitates good governance and institution-building
- It saves time and money by avoiding negative impacts, stimulating inter-sectoral synergy and creating insights of long-term validity

Strategic Integrated Planning

General principles for process

- Robust and systematic
- Equitable and participatory
- Transparent and accountable

Principles for Integrated Assessment and Planning

1. Integration into existing planning process
2. Agreement on: purpose, scope, context
3. Ownership, motivated demand, scope for follow-up
4. Stimulate local funding
5. Involve multiple sectors and disciplines

Principles for Integrated Assessment and Planning

6. Broad participation, affected communities, future generations?
7. Efficient use of different information sources
8. Independency and objectivity
9. Transparent and equitable working modalities
10. Inform key actors
11. Facilitate an international learning network