

# **Introduction on Integrated Assessment guidance by UNEP**

**Building blocks for mainstreaming  
sustainability into policymaking**

---

# Aims

---

1. Document and share knowledge based on experiences, focused on practices to stimulate an integrated and proactive (ex-ante) assessment approach.
2. Make assessment less procedural and more flexible, tailored to different contexts and policy processes, by adopting a 'building-block' approach of conducting IA.
3. Support policymaking for sustainable development, with a view to embedding sustainability within policymaking processes (IA not implemented as an isolated exercise, but as an integral part of a policymaking process).

---

# Integrated Policy making

---

- See IA approach in close conjunction with the initiative on developing Integrated Policymaking for Sustainable Development. The aim is to improve decision-making.
- Since 2005, UNEP took steps to encourage Integrated Policymaking for sustainable development (IP) by increasingly placing IA tasks and activities within the overall policy cycle.
- While IA is to be closely linked to the policymaking process, policymaking processes can contribute to sustainable development by effective use of the IA building blocks.

---

# Four key features of the IA approach

---

- *Full sustainability / ESE integration* - full integration of the three sustainable development (economic, social, environmental) dimensions;
- *Integration in policymaking process* –the IA building blocks are to be integrated in the policymaking process, at an early stage and at a strategic level, in order to contribute to policy formulation;
- *Proactive and strategic approach* – a proactive approach will help develop policy options that generate sustainability outcomes and benefits – for instance by enhancing Green Economy strategy;
- *Flexibility by building blocks* – because policymaking processes are variable and largely unpredictable, building blocks are proposed to be used in variable sequence and intensity and tailored to different types of policymaking and planning processes.

---

# Building blocks – 3 categories

---

- *The process.* The organisation of the IA process in relation to the policymaking process.
- *The policy institutional context.* This refers to the institutional context of the policy, and the IA objective to bring about positive change.
- *The IA analytical contents.* This is the actual ‘technical’ part of the IA.

# 12 Building blocks

<b>A. Process</b>	<b>B. Policy institutional context</b>	<b>C. Analytical Contents</b>
A1: Process design and links	B1: Institutional analysis and change	C1: Strategic framework and identification of key sustainability issues
A2: Policymaking decision windows	B2: IA team organisational model	C2: Trends and scenarios
A3: Communication strategy	B3: Stakeholder engagement and strengthening civil society	C3: Identification of opportunities and formulating alternative policy options
	B4: Evaluation and learning	C4: Assessment of risks and benefits.
		C5: Monitoring and evaluation

---

# Building blocks - details

---

<b>Building block</b>	<b>Minimum requirements</b>
<i>A1: Process design and links</i>	Understanding of the policymaking process, and design of the IA process that fits the policy-making process and enhances linkages.
<i>A2: Policy decision windows</i>	Appropriate timing of inputs into the policymaking process and preparedness to make use of policy windows if and when these emerge; packaging of key messages and delivering these at the right moment to the right person/s.
<i>A3: Communication strategy</i>	Communication throughout the IA process with use of adequate communication tools (e.g. policy briefs, briefings, webpage), to timely and effectively inform key decision-makers.

---

# Building blocks - details

---

<b>Building block</b>	<b>Minimum requirements</b>
<i>B1: Institutional analysis and change</i>	Understanding institutional strengths and weaknesses responsible for unsustainable development patterns in the relevant sector/s and institutions; design of institutional changes.
<i>B2: IA team organisational model</i>	Adoption of an efficient organisational model of the IA team that has direct linkages with the policymaking process.
<i>B3: Stakeholder engagement and strengthening civil society</i>	Key stakeholders are identified and actively engaged in a transparent and functional manner, during the IA and policymaking processes. This will contribute to strengthening of civil society.
<i>B4: Evaluation and learning</i>	Effectiveness of the IA process in relation to its set purpose, and lessons are identified as part of an institutional learning and strengthening process.

---

# Building blocks - details

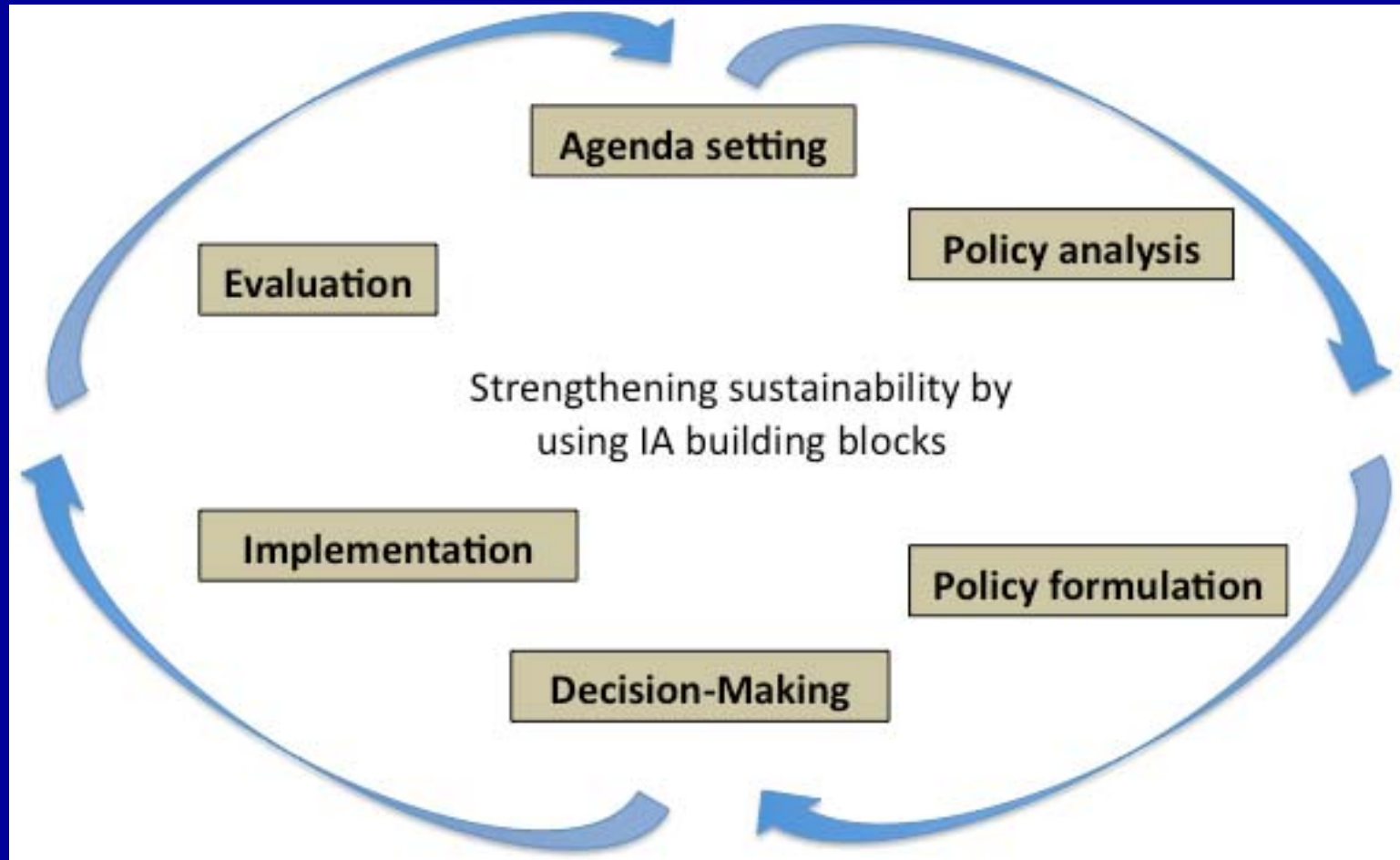
---

<b>Building block</b>	<b>Minimum requirements</b>
<i>C1: Strategic framework and identification of key sustainability issues</i>	Defining sustainability objectives, with associated policy objectives and indicators, and a simple analytical framework to demonstrate the main interrelations and causal relations.
<i>C2: Trends and scenarios</i>	Trends of key sustainability issues are established and linked to the policy process, design of at least two simple scenarios.
<i>C3: Identification of opportunities and formulating alternative policy options</i>	In a proactive way, opportunities are identified and alternative policy options are defined that enhance sustainability objectives; these demonstrate how these can help realise sustainability benefits.
<i>C4: Assessment of risks and benefits</i>	Proposed and alternative policy options are compared and assessed with respect to expected benefits and risks.
<i>C5: Monitoring and evaluation</i>	A record of performance is made throughout the policy cycle, using key sustainability indicators.

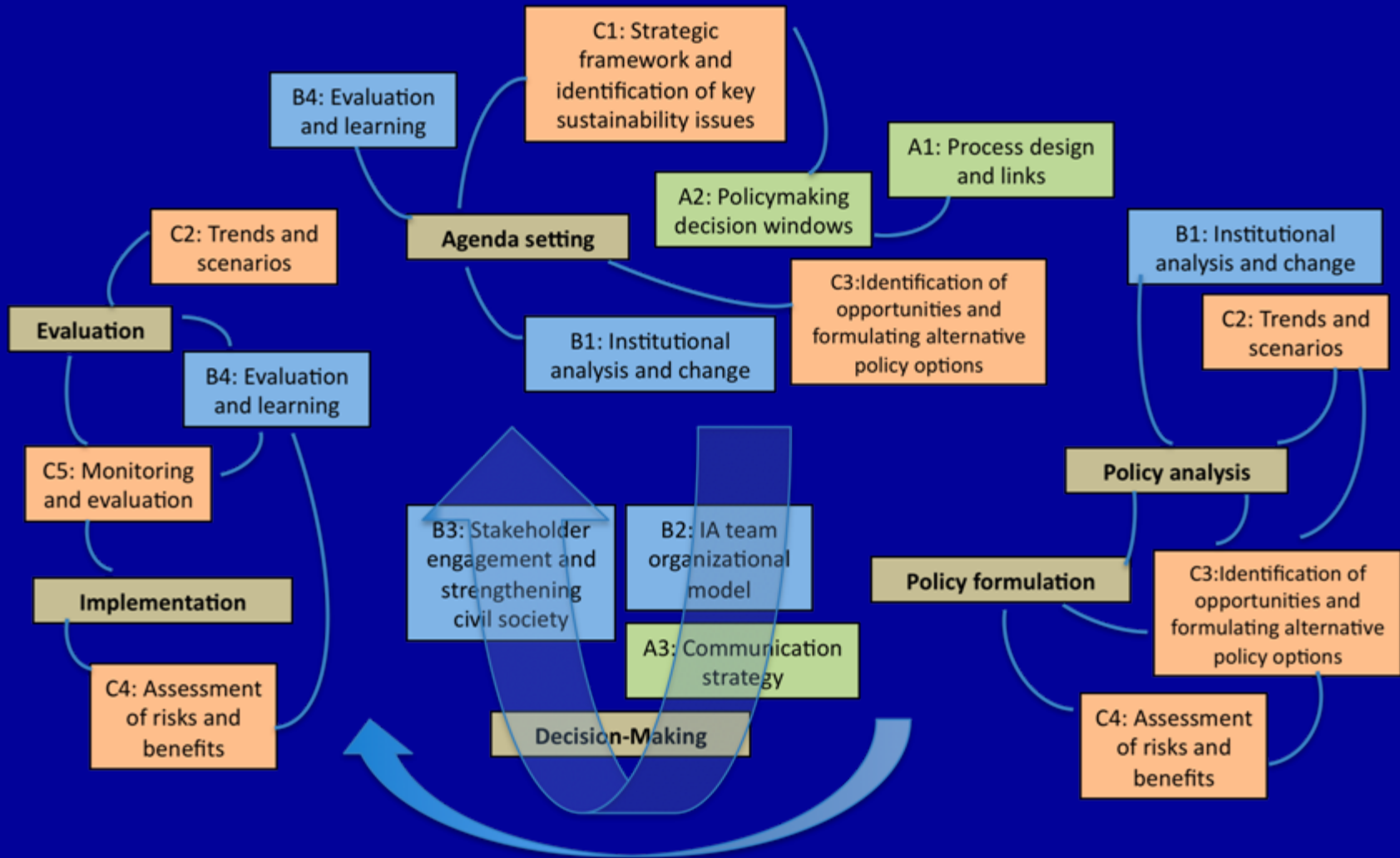
---

# Use in policymaking

---



# Use in policymaking



---

# Remaining sections

---

- Description of building blocks:
  - Purpose
  - Minimum requirements
  - Guidelines
  - References and tools
  - Examples
- Tools – from earlier UNEP work and international experience

# Linkages to Biodiversity Manual

Building block	Biodiversity M. Analytical steps	Biodiversity M. Process
A1: Process design and links	A1, A2, A4	
A2: Policy decision windows	A2?, B1?	(+)
A3: Communication strategy	D3?	(+)
B1: Institutional analysis and change		
B2: IA team organisational model		(+)
B3: Stakeholder engagement and strengthening civil society	A3	+
B4: Evaluation and learning		
C1: Strategic framework and identification of key sustainability issues	B2, B3, C1, C2	
C2: Trends and scenarios	C3	
C3: Identification of opportunities and formulating alternative policy options	C4	
C4: Assessment of risks and benefits	C5, D1, D2, E1	
C5: Monitoring and evaluation	E2, F1, F2	