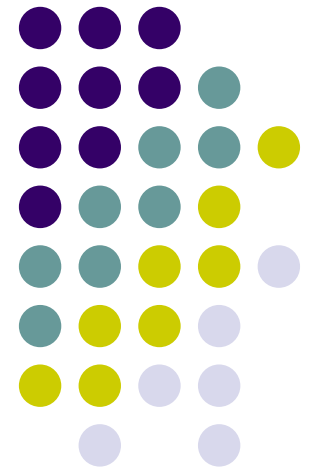


STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IN THE EU

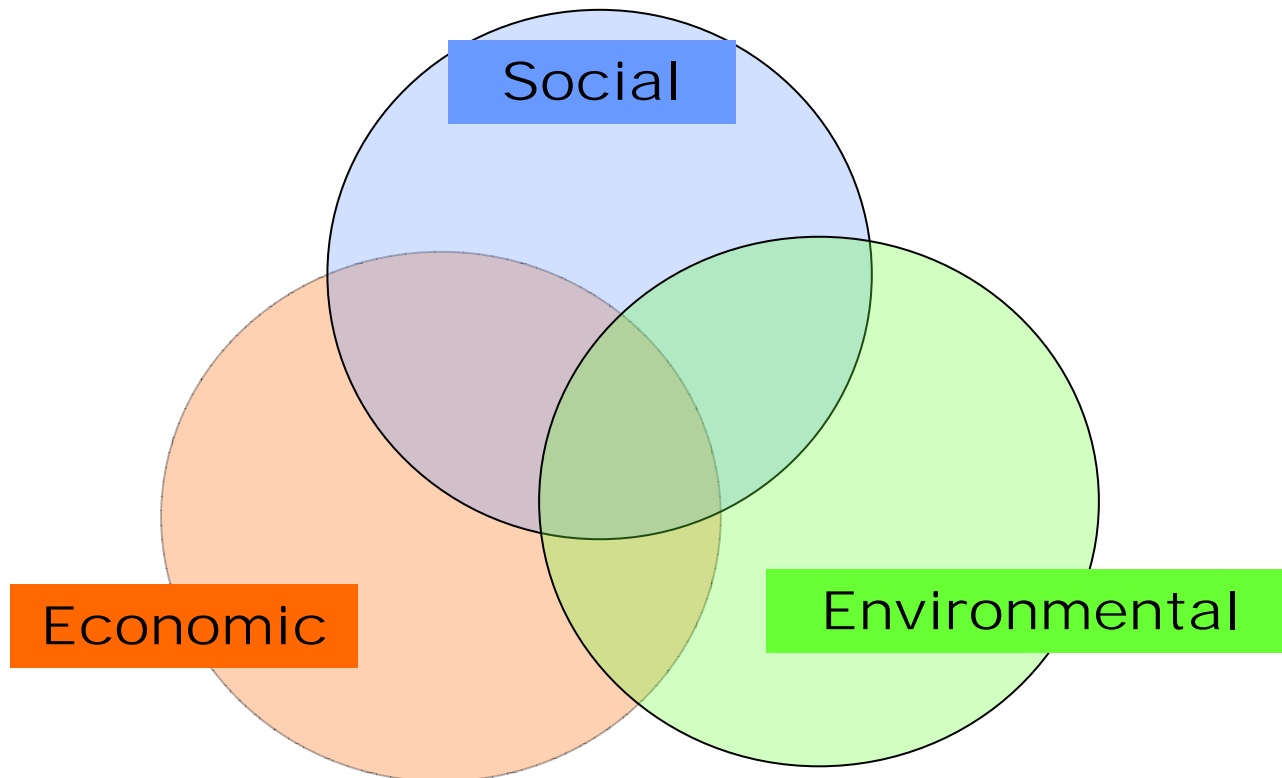
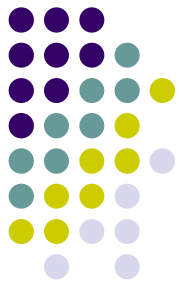
15 August, 2006

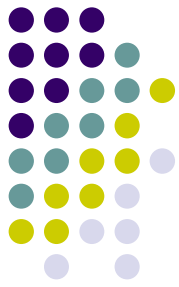
Mizuo KISHITA

Department of Environmental Systems
Meisei University, JAPAN



What is Sustainability?





Purpose of Presentation

- Recognition of importance of environmental consideration **at planning stage**
- **Identification of problem areas** in SEA system adoption through experiences of EU
- **Key points** in adoption of SEA

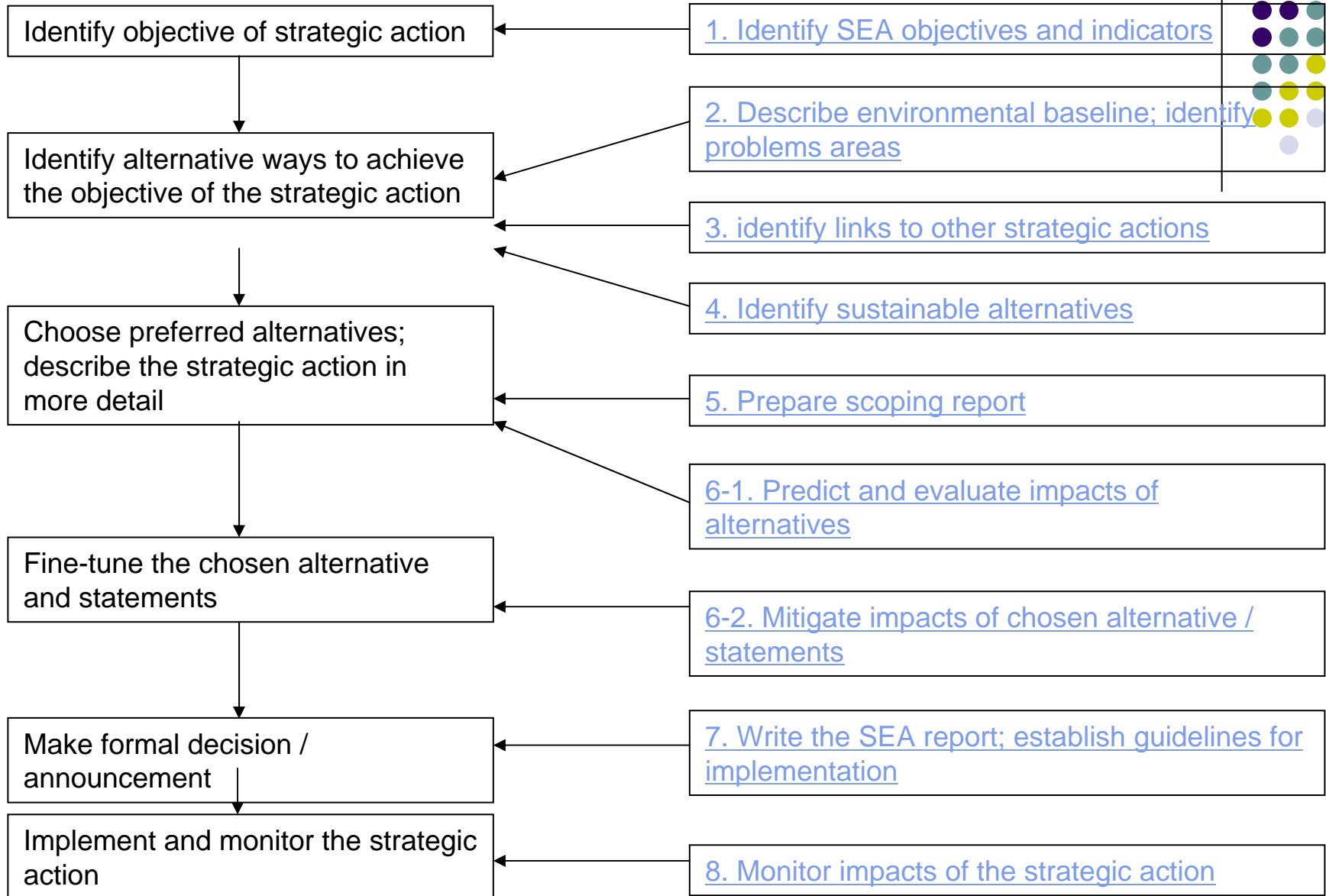
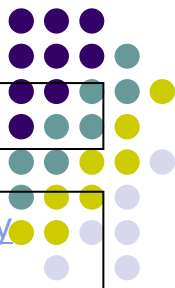
What is Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?



Systematic process which aims to **integrate environmental and sustainability considerations** at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making for policies, plans and programmes

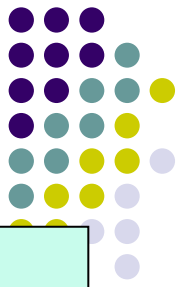
Strategic decision-making

Environmental / sustainability input (SEA)



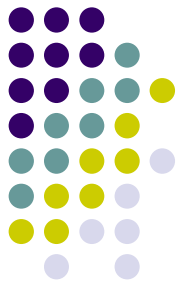
Traditional SEA

Structure of SEA Directive



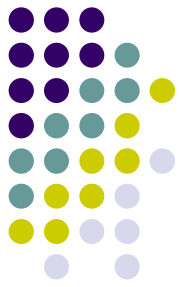
Preamble	Relation to EU Environmental Policy, Background, Objective, SEA Process
Articles	Definitions, Scope, General obligations, Environmental report, Consultations, Decision making, Information, Monitoring, etc.
Annexes	Information to be provided in Environmental report, Criteria for determining likely significance of effects on environment

History of EU SEA Directive



- US NEPA in 1969
- EU **EIA Directive** in 1985
- SEIA Decree in the Netherlands in 1987
- EU SEA Directive first proposed in 1990, only barely discussed;
- SEA Directive officially proposed in 1997 by EC Commission; followed by discussions by EU Council and European parliament in 1997-99.
- **SEA Directive** adopted by EU in 2001

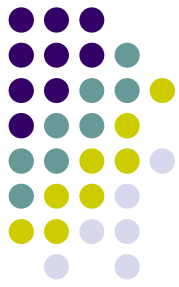
What happened in EU during set-up of SEA Directive?



Arguments on

- Principle of EU Environmental Policy,
- Scope,
- Environmental report,
- Consultation about screening, and
- Monitoring

Background information about Organizational Structure of EU

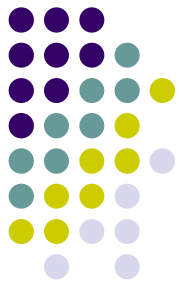


EU Council
(Council of Ministers)

European
Parliament

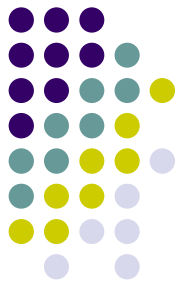
European
Commission
(Executive Body of EU)

European Parliament



- Directly elected by EU citizens,
 - Together with the Council, composes legislative branch of institutions of EU,
 - Cannot initiate legislation, but can amend or veto in many policy areas.
-
- Power increased by Maastricht Treaty (1992) & Amsterdam Treaty (1997)

Principle of EU Environmental Policy: Sustainable Development



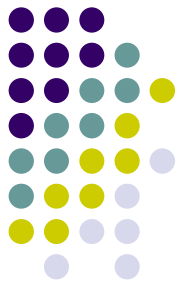
- Gained its currency with publication of “***Our Common Future***” (1987),
- Maintaining balance between socio-economic development and environmental protection,
- Stipulated in Maastricht Treaty (1992)
- **Not included in first official proposal** by EC Commission.
- EP demanded inclusion.

Scope



- Two major matters
- Inclusion of “policies” given up at early stage of consideration by EC Commission; “far-reaching proposal drafted by Commission; failed to be agreed within the Commission,
- EP demanded expansion of scope from town and country planning plans only to various sectors including transport, energy, and waste management.

Environmental report



EP demanded that:

- “zero option” and reasonable alternatives to be included, and
- Modifications and mitigations measures to be described

SEA Directive stipulates that:

- ER to be prepared when likely significant effects on environment of implementing PPs and reasonable alternatives are identified.

Consultation about screening



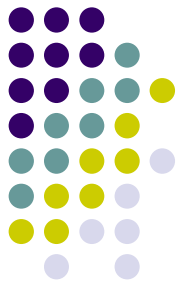
EP demanded that:

- Competent authority shall check significant environmental effects **through case-by-case basis**.

SEA Directive stipulates that:

- Check either through case-by-case basis or by specifying types of PPs.

Monitoring



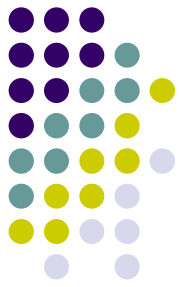
EP demanded that:

- **Monitoring implementation** of environmental protection measures to be done, and **new monitoring system** to be established.

SEA Directive stipulates that

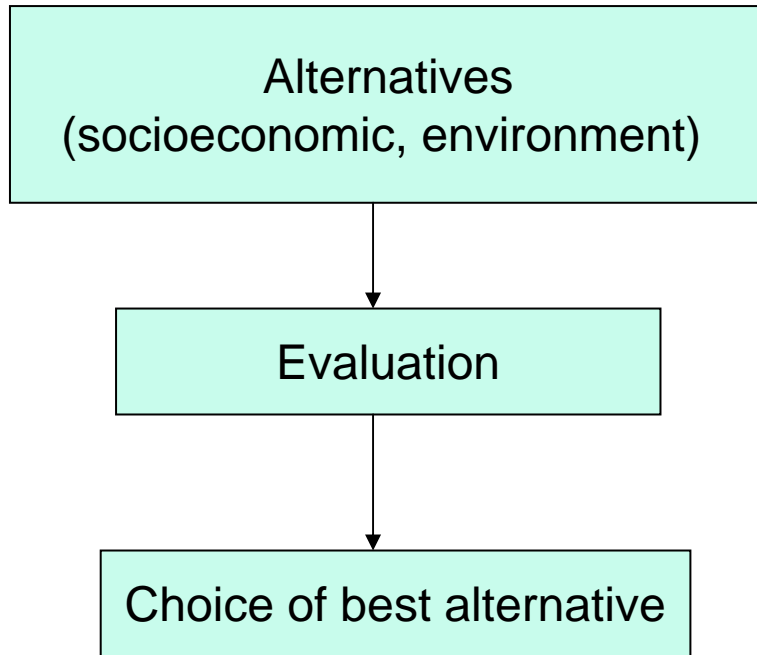
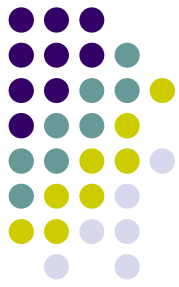
- Monitoring to be made, and
- Monitoring to be undertaken by existing monitoring arrangements.

Difference between EIA and SEA

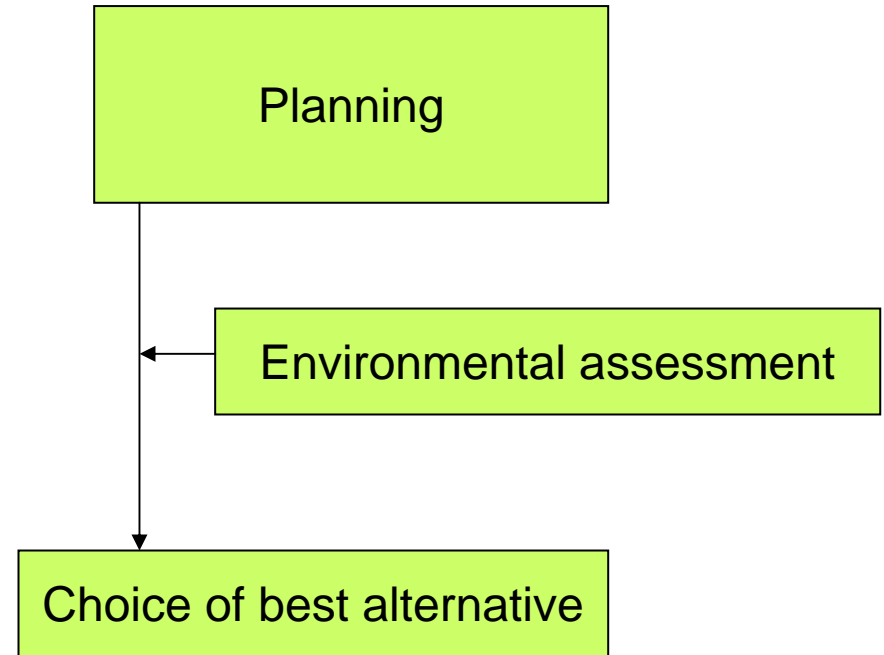


	EIA	SEA
Target	Projects	Plans/Programmes
Policy Principle	Prevention Mitigation	Sustainability & Precaution
Other Features		Alternatives Monitoring Public participation

SEA in England and Germany : Variety of types

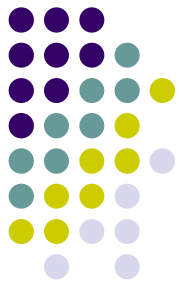


England



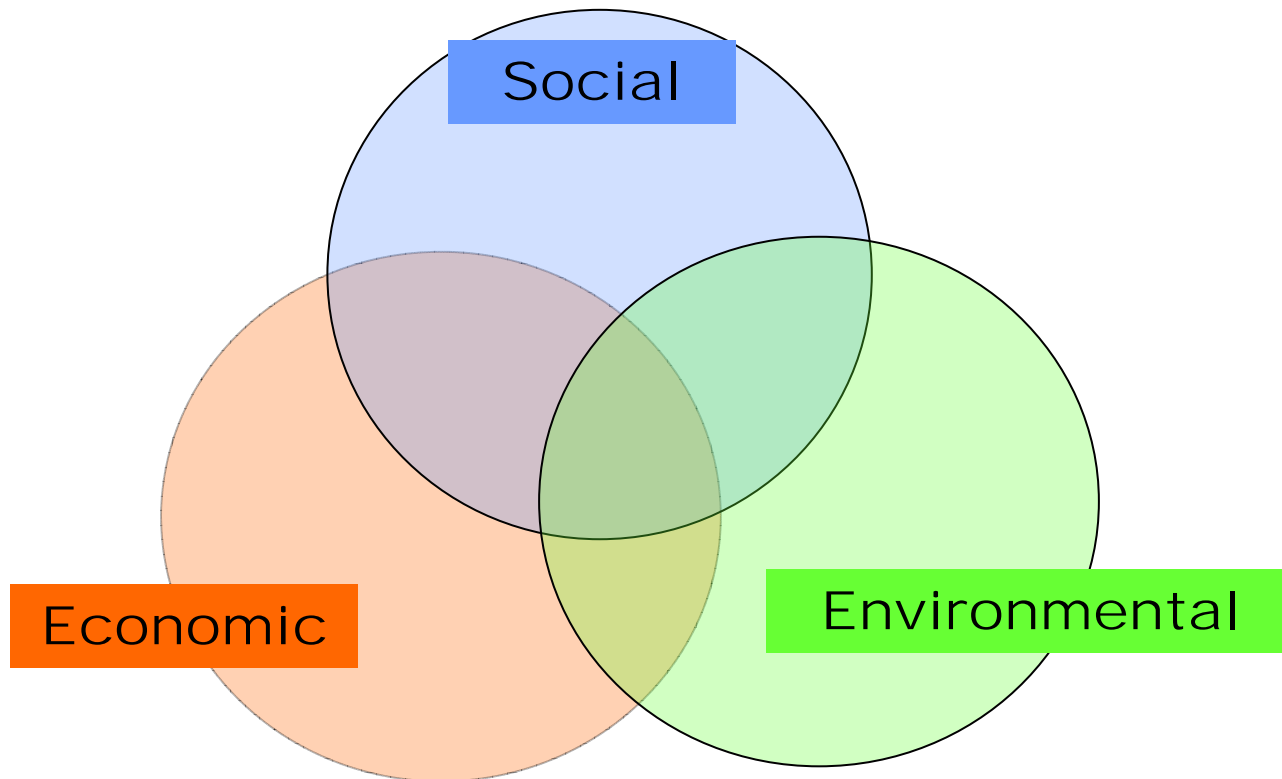
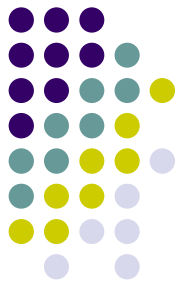
Germany

Reasons why Japan seems to hesitate application of SEA to urban planning



- Environment already included as key component in plan making,
- Land ownership, which protects land rights quite heavily,
- Economic stagnation,
- Inadequacy of environmental assessment methodology

What is Sustainability?





Time
to thinking of applying SEA
to urban planning