Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) for Road Transport Plans
---- Hubei Yiba Expressway Project

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Outline

- Yiba Expressway project introduction
- Hubei road network plan 2020
- The need for SEA in Hubei
- Objectives of the Hubei SEA
- Organization structure of Hubei SEA
- Scope of work
- Progress to date
Hubei Yiba Expressway Project (1)

- Approx. 173 Km Expressway fr. Yichang to Badong
- Expected Total Project Cost: $1.35 billion
  - Requested Bank Loan Amount: $200 million
- Last link for the planned Hurong (Shanghai-Chengdu) national trunk expressway
- Important component of the Chinese Western Development Strategy
- Traverse heavily mountainous terrain and require major bridges and long tunnels (66%)
  - 137 bridges, 53km combined length
  - 43 tunnels, 62km combined length
Hubei Yiba Expressway Project (2)

Location of Yiba Expressway within Planned National Expressway Network
Location of Yiba Project
Hubei Road Network Plan (2020)
Relationship b/w Yiba & Hubei SEA

- Hubei SEA is undertaken in parallel with Yiba Project, but it is not part of Yiba’s preparation
- SEA study targets on Hubei mid-term (2010) and long-term (2020) road network plan
- SEA study is expected to commence in April 2007 and complete by April 2008
- Institutional recommendations from SEA study will be applied to enhance env. Mgt. of Yiba project
The Need for Hubei SEA

• Hubei’s Ecosystem
  – Middle of reaches of the Yangtze River
  – Alluvial plain in the east, mountainous area in the west
  – Embraces biological and cultural diversity

• Hubei’s Road Transport Plans
  – Transport hub of China
  – 2010 & 2020 Road Transport Plans

• Issues with Sustainable Development
  – Lack of institutional coordination
  – Institutional capacity (effective reasoning and decision-making)

• Mandate of China’s 2003 EIA Law – Requires Plan EA
Road Network Plans (2010 & 2020) and Ecosystem Functions in Hubei

- Wuling Mountain semitropical broad-leaved forest sub-ecosystem
- Taiba Mountain semitropical broad-leaved forest ecosystem
- 2020 road network plan
- 2010 road network plan
- North-east hilly region forest ecosystem
- South-east hilly region forest ecosystem
- Mid-north hilly region agriculture ecosystem
- Yangtze River three gorges reservoir
- Yangtze River midstream plains agriculture ecosystem
Where does China stand on EAs under the mandate of the 2003 EIA law?

- EIA - licenses: All countries
- Sectoral/regional EAs: Some countries
- Strategic EA: Few countries
- Integration social-environmental-economic

Impact
- Localized /project
- Sectoral
- Policy/multisectoral policies

Complexity of themes
- minor
- major

- minor
- major
Where do we want China to be with the SEA exercise?

- Policy/multisectoral policies
- Sectoral
- Localized /project
- EIA - licenses
- Sectoral/ regional EAs
- Strategic EA
- Integration social-environmental-economic
  - Few countries
  - Some countries
  - All countries
  - All countries

Impact vs. Complexity of themes
Objectives of the Hubei SEA

- Identify significant environmental and social impacts of the proposed transport plan
- Identify and recommend mitigation measures and institutional adjustments
- Assess & build the capacity of the Hubei Provincial Communications Department (HPCD) to upstream env. and social considerations into mid- and long-term plans
- Immediate assistance to the HPCD to enhance the Env. Mgt. of the Yiba project
- Facilitating inter-institutional coordination among agencies
Organization of the SEA Study

World Bank

Steering Committee (HPCD, Env, Planning, & Technical Comm.)

International Consultants

Domestic Consultants
Scope of Work
– domestic consultants (1)

• Baseline Assessment
  – Collect & Review info on transport, environment and socio-economic issues pertaining to transport sector
  – Focus on 2010 and the 2020 Transport Plans
  – Develop Institutional Map of transport & environment capacity, capabilities, responsibilities, resources

• Stakeholder Analysis
  – Identify & assess key stakeholder interest & concerns for 2020 transport plan
Scope of Work
– domestic consultants (2)

• Env. & Social Priorities
  – Using valuation or other techniques, identify environmental & social priorities of Hubei

• Scenario Building
  – Develop different scenarios on transport development in Hubei for different policies, growth, demand, etc.

• Effects on Environmental & Social Priorities
  – Assess direct, cumulative and induced impacts & evaluate mitigation options
Scope of Work – domestic consultants (3)

- Institutional Capacity Assessment
  - Assess strength, weaknesses & ability of transport sector, social, env. & development institutions to address the impacts

- Action Plan to Implement SEA Recommendations
  - Formulate action plan & Institutional responsibilities to implement the SEA recommendations

- Formulate Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
- Inter-sectoral coordination
- Consultation and Training
Scope of Work – international consultants

- Inception Report
- Assist with Stakeholder Analysis and Workshop
- Assist with Social & Env Issues re transport
- Review International Experience in relation to Hubei
- Review of Reports/Inputs
- Final SEA report
- Lessons Learnt & Policy Note
What has been done?

- TORs for domestic and international consultants
- Procurement of consultants (ongoing)
- Kick-off Workshop in Hubei (Feb 12, 2007)
- Creation of a two-tier Steering Committee at Client’s request (ongoing)
  - HPCD, Hubei Development & Reform Committee (HDRC), Environmental Protection Bureau (EPB)
  - Technical committee (Land use, Forest, Agriculture, Water resources, etc.)
THANK YOU!