LESSONS LEARNED FROM EVALUATING THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT (SESA) OF THE MINING SECTOR IN SIERRA LEONE

Technical Workshop
Washington D.C.
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Lessons Learned from Evaluating the SESA

Main Issues

• First Pilot evaluated

• Application of the Conceptual Analysis and Evaluation Framework for Institution-Centered Environmental and Social Evaluation

• Contextual issues

• Fieldwork
Lessons Learned from Applying the *Evaluation Framework*

• Straightforward, practical guide that served as a key reference for evaluating the SESA

• A few suggestions to help refine the framework:
“The second part will focus on analyzing the factors that may explain the influence or lack of influence of the I-SEA pilot in the discrete intervention and broader institutional framework and political economy context. In doing so, the evaluator should discuss the contribution of the I-SEA process to policy, planning and institutional outcomes and how I-SEA methods and tools were applied in undertaking the pilot given the constraints and opportunities of the political, economic and sectoral context”.
The second part will contain a discussion of the context in which the I-SEA was undertaken, including historical, political, economic, social, and institutional factors that may explain the influence or lack of influence of the I-SEA pilot in the discrete intervention and broader institutional framework and political economy context. The evaluator should then discuss how I-SEA methods and tools were applied in undertaking the pilot, given the constraints and opportunities of the contextual factors.
“In the third part the evaluator should draw conclusions and recommendations for effective I-SEA discussing the strengths and limitations of the I-SEA pilot evaluated. The discussion should include an analysis of the interaction between the I-SEA process and its political, economic and sectoral context”.
Lessons Learned from Applying the Evaluation Framework

Suggested text:

In **the third part** the evaluator should draw conclusions and recommendations for effective I-SEA, discussing the overall strengths and limitations of the I-SEA pilot evaluated. The discussion should include an analysis of the interaction between the I-SEA process and its historical, political, economic, social and institutional context, including the contribution of the I-SEA process to policy, planning and institutional outcomes.
Lessons Learned from Applying the Evaluation Framework

Evaluation Questions/Evaluation Criteria

• Lengthy set of questions

• Hierarchy (A) and (a) was most useful

• Yes/No type of question less analytic

• “Was the approach used for priority setting in line with the I-SEA framework?”

“How was the approach used for priority setting in line with the I-SEA framework?”
Lessons Learned from Analyzing the Context

• Understanding the historical, political, economic, social and institutional context in which an I-SEA is performed is essential for the evaluation

• The expertise of the evaluator may play an important role in understanding the context

• The evaluator should produce a concise account of those issues that he/she considers may have influenced the I-SEA process
Lessons Learned from Analyzing the Context

Sierra Leone

- Patrimonialistic system and the importance of political and non-formal institutional factors
- Political atmosphere shaped by a constantly changing network of power relationships
- Powerful personal and group interests may flip the situation in a very short time effects on the I-SEA process.
- Political assessments that informed the Bank’s Country Assistance Strategy (CAS), for example, were especially helpful.
Lessons Learned from Fieldwork

- Interview protocol
- Interview agenda
- Coordination with Country Office
- Interview strategy