

3. When Should SEA be Conducted ?

To tie in with the Critical Juncture of Decision Making

To achieve sustainable environmental outcomes rather than being just an academic exercise, SEA should be carried out at the earliest possible stage and should tie in with the critical decision-making stages of PPPs being considered.

To collect appropriate environmental information and to provide timely environmental advice, it is necessary to understand the institutional arrangements of the jurisdiction under consideration, and more specifically the decision-making process of the relevant PPPs being formulated. If the findings are made available too late to make any changes to improve the environmental performance, the major decisions might have already been made. Timing is crucial.

Example - Territorial Development Strategy Review (TDSR)

http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/eia_planning/sea/territorial_dept.html

The SEA, as part of the review study, provides timely inputs to the main study to ensure environmental considerations are properly considered and integrated. To achieve this, the SEA was divided into different stages to tie in with the critical junctures of the decision-making processes. Below is a simplified flowchart showing the inter-relationship between the SEA and the main study (Figure 1).

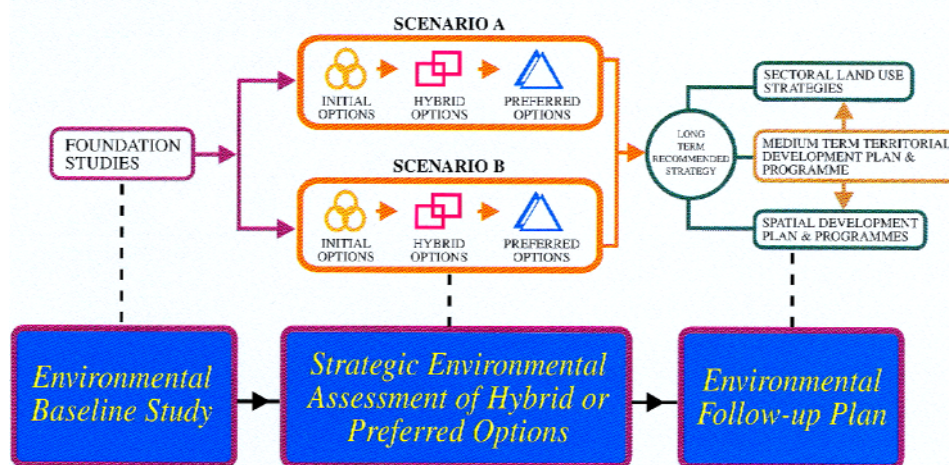


Figure 1 Strategic Environmental Assessment Process in Territorial Development Strategy Review