

# Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

4<sup>th</sup> DSM Training Workshop, 9-12  
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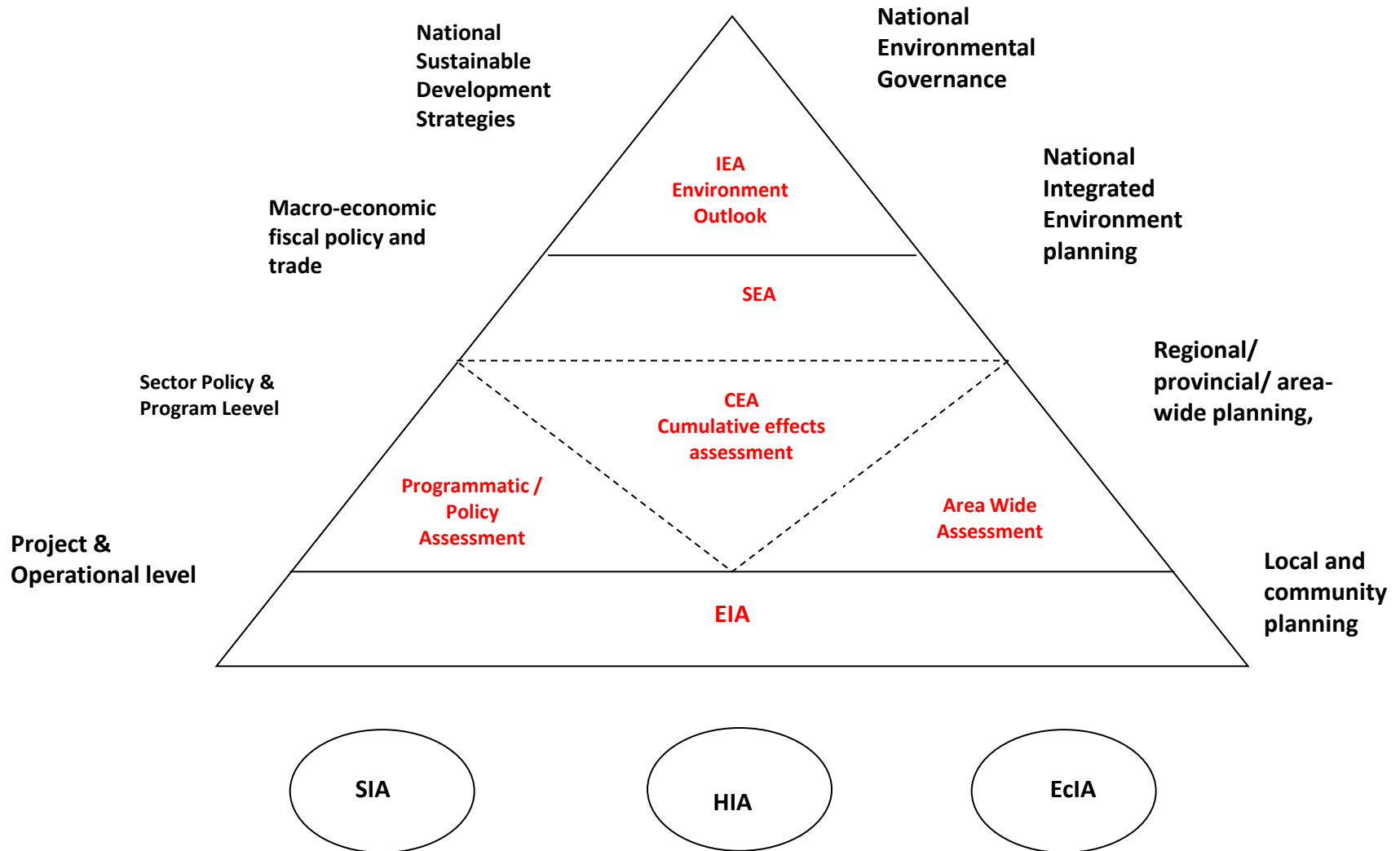
# Presentation Outline

1. SEA Rationale (What & Why)
2. SEA Approaches (How & When)
3. Relevant Pacific SEA Experience (Where)

# Definitions

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Strategic Impact Assessment (SIA)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) / Impact Assessment (IA)

# INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS



# What is SEA?

- ❑ systematic, transparent process
- ❑ instrument for decision-making
- ❑ addresses environmental effects of strategic proposals
- ❑ includes policy, plans and programme decisions
- ❑ undertaken when alternatives are still open
- ❑ applies EIA aims and principles
- ❑ flexible, diversified process

# Why is SEA important?

- ❑ EIA of projects insufficient by itself
- ❑ effects of strategic decisions not assessed
- ❑ SEA rounds out coverage to this level
- ❑ enables better identification of sources of environmental impacts
- ❑ responds to sustainable development agenda

# Key Aims & Objectives of SEA

- facilitate informed decision-making
- contribute to environmentally sound and sustainable development
- identify and address cumulative effects
- supplement and reinforce project-level EIA by:
  - clarification of scope and context
  - reducing the time and effort for review

# Policy & Institutional Benefits of SEA

- ❑ mainstreaming the environment
- ❑ incorporating sustainability principles into policy-making
- ❑ meeting international obligations
- ❑ 'sustainability assurance' of development proposals
- ❑ environmental accountability in sector-specific agencies
- ❑ greater transparency and openness in decision-making



# Main forms of SEA

- policy SEA – applies to highest level proposals
- sector plan and programme SEA – applies to proposals for specific sector
- spatial plan and regional SEA – applies to proposals for particular region

# SEA Categories

- Stand alone / “impact centred” SEA – impacts of a policy or plan
- Embedded – environmental considerations integrated into policies and plans

# Relevant SEA Experience

## □ Embedded SEA:

- ✓ National Environmental Management Strategies '90, National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS), etc.
- ✓ Environmental Component Action Plans – National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP), National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), etc,

## □ Stand Alone SEA:

- ✓ State of the Environment (SOE) Reviews
- ✓ Vulnerability to Climate Change Assessments

# Recent SEA Work

- ✓ Integrated Environmental Strategies, e.g. Kiribati's Integrated Environment Plan (KIEP 2012-2015) & Samoa's Environmental Sector Plan (NESP 2013-2018)
- ✓ FSM EIA Mainstreaming Guidelines
- ✓ State of the Environment (SOE) Reviews – Samoa & Fiji
- ✓ Marine Spatial Planning

# Regional SEA Support

- ❑ Updating & expanding regional impact assessment guidelines (SPREP & New Zealand's Association for Impact Assessment)
  - EIA,
  - SEA/SIA: Sector Specific Impact Assessment e.g. DSM, Tourism, etc.
  - IEA (SOE)
  - Country Case Studies & Learning Experience
- ❑ Impact Assessment Trainings (SPREP, SPC & Others)
- ❑ Impact Policy & Legislation (SPREP, SPC & Others, e.g. Nauru)
- ❑ Exercises – Framework & Resourcing