

A large, stylized white letter 'i' is positioned above the main title. The dot of the 'i' is a solid circle, and the stem is a thick vertical bar that curves at the top and bottom, resembling a stylized lowercase 'i'.

What are the problems and what can be done to management environmental impacts better?

- The Department of Environmental Affairs does not deny that there are problems with the Environmental Impact Assessment process
- The Department often engages in participatory processes, seldom dictates solutions without consulting widely

BUT

- In other circles, Environmental issues are often seen as the “spoilers”, and environmentalists as elitists
- The Department is often caught between extreme points of view, where reasoned arguments triumph over passionate appeals

AND

- Environment is not (yet) top of the agenda
- Environment is under-funded
- Skills and capacity are not optimal

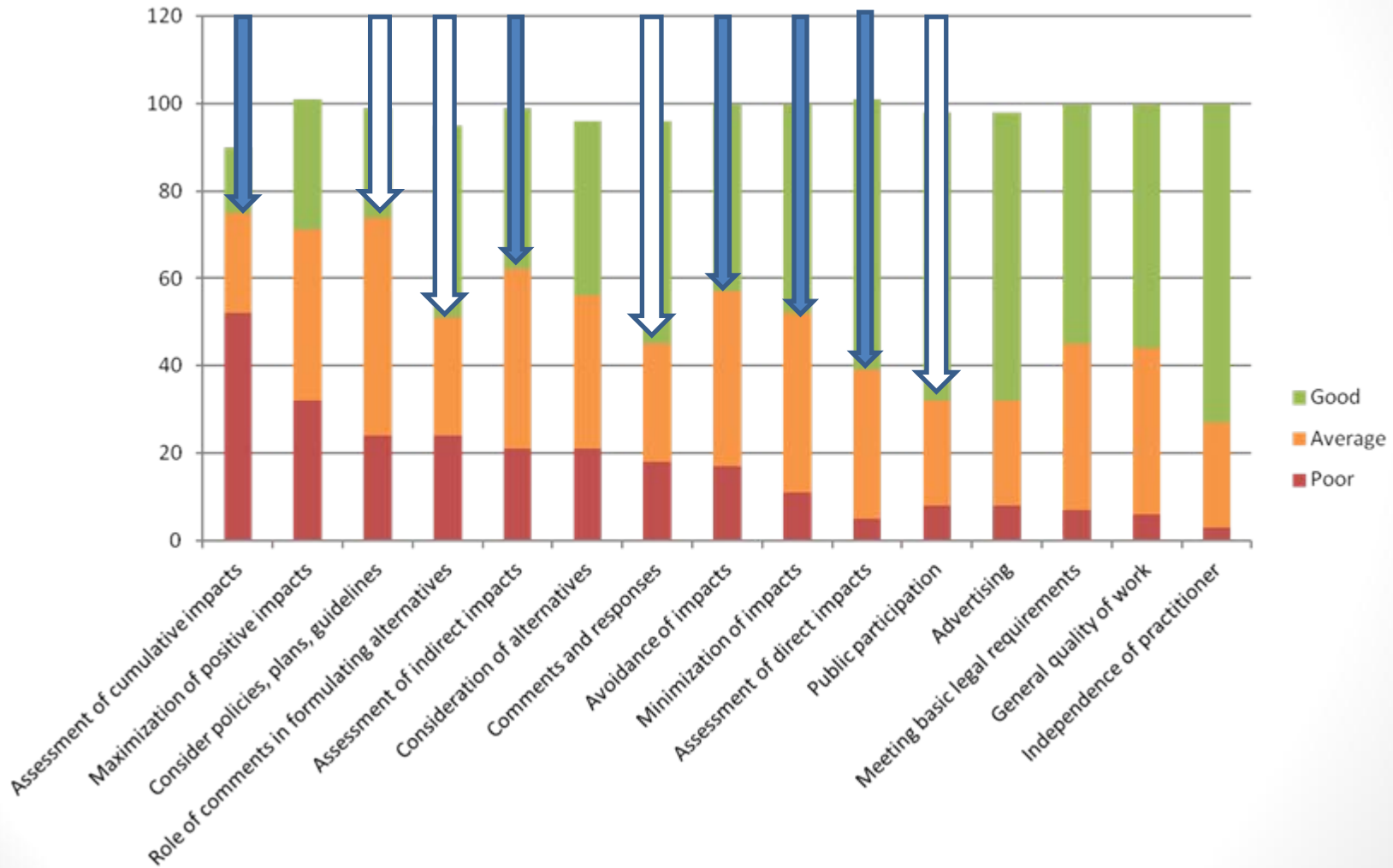
Assessing Environmental Impacts

How are we doing?

10 Year Review

- EFFECTIVENESS and EFFICIENCY of EIA
- EIA is overused
(don't confuse the tool with the process of impact assessment)
- The outcome? Not great!

Quality of the documents submitted



The response -

Strategy for Environmental Impact Assessment and Management





Theme	Finding
Procedures and Structures	Integrated decision making - FAIL Cooperative governance - POOR Decision making criteria and goals – INCONSISTENT The “ugly duckling “ in the story is the <u>local authority</u>
Cooperative Governance	Legal audit reveals grey areas/overlap e.g. MPRDA Insufficient personnel and resource to DO cooperative governance
Knowledge and Information	Problems with: Inadequate, incompatible systems Information - inadequate, fragmented, variable scales Baseline information Mapping skills/ GIS maintaining, reading and interpretation Custodians of information and cost of information
Monitoring and Enforcement	Ineffective/inadequate monitoring Poor enforcement Monitoring does not evaluate the degree to which predicted impacts differ from actual, and therefore adaptive management may not follow


Theme	Finding
Quality Assurance and Independence of EAPs	EAPASA seen to be the solution to many Quality problems; Independence unresolved?
Skills of EAPs and Government Officials	EAPASA, courses, skill shortage – Green jobs rely on getting this right. Poaching of officials will continue.
Representative Demographics	This strategy cannot bring about representative demographics on its own. But, this point does highlight a gap.

Theme	Finding
Existing and new Environmental Impact Management Tools	A mountain of tools, and so few used The right tool for the circumstance More strategic tools Screening? No-go zones?
Quality Management	Problems with Consistency Compliance with regulations and implementation of guidelines poor! The most appropriate tool not always used
Public Participation AND Empowerment of marginalised communities	The most over-used word = empowerment Marginalisation occurs everywhere, and in unexpected ways - people are marginalised when they have no power Public Participation fails to meet objectives

Define performance expectation (for EIA)


Improve EMPs


  Set Outcomes and report against these criteria


 Improve reporting to the regulating authority

  Self-regulation

Reduce EIA and bureaucracy around EIA

 Improve quality of authorisation

 Create mechanism to highlight political interference

 Create mechanism to review performance reports and for specific compliance monitoring

 Improve capacity


 Create performance expectations for compliance and monitoring

 Regulation for mining

 Publicise environmental laws

Civil and administrative penalties


 Make monitoring data public

 Use incentives

Monitoring and enforcement

 Screening

Select tool to address uncertainty

 Shift focus to monitoring , reporting and corrective action

Establish sustainability objectives

Align process and decision making frameworks

Allow a throughflow of information , data and knowledge

SEA for all programmes, plans and policies

Tools



Outcomes based, objectives led



A management cycle - plan, do, check, act, improve

Service standard - tools are fit for purpose

Product Standard - tools are for for use



Screening tool

Structure and procedures

Information

Decision making - consistency

Public Participation Plan

Monitoring

Compliance

Resources - Quality management

EAPS

Review

Biodiversity


Offsets


Awareness



Cooperative Governance

Quality of tools



Cooperative Governance

 A "one stop" process for all licensing and permitting

 Mining


  Aligning environment departments with development departments is problematic

 Cooperation relies on a Champion




  Strategic level projects e.g EMF will exclude ordinary citizens


 Self regulation should not stop monitoring by the State



  Cooperative agreements can include non-state parties  Compensation for volunteers



 Including local knowledge, specifically traditional leaders

  Sort out conflicting mandates

  EIA is not always the right tool and becomes burdensome 

 MoU should be improved on


  Political will is needed



  Higher level strategic approach is needed to achieve effective environmental management


  For monitoring, "good neighbour" agreements should be implemented

Professionals to mediate conflict in monitoring phase


 Re-introduce environmental court


 Refuse applications which cannot demonstrate a contribution to national strategic objective (law reform needed)

  Environment and planning in one department



 Provincial environmental forum to be established - ensure alignment with sustainability targets and to include NGOs


 Flexible cooperative approach is preferable to repeated amendments of NEMA and the EIA regulations



 Capacity building programme to focus on sustainability targets

 Public awareness campaign









 Reports are poor and EAPASA should improve capacity

  Advisory officers (qualified EAPS doing community service) should assist small businesses

 EMF, as example, must allow for EIA to be streamlined - much capacity building needed


  Stakeholder representation on implementation of EMP

Structure and Procedures

-  Better use of MOUs
-  Prioritise and coordinate Guidelines
-  Increase alignment between Planning and Environment
-  Different tools - greater use of norms and standards
-  Objectives lead monitoring
-  Strengthen cooperative governance in laws and policies
-  Move from authorising activities to authorising projects
-  Changing the hierarchy of decision making

Knowledge and Information

Avoid duplication of data collection


 Long term commitment to development and maintenance of information systems


Sufficient resources

Willingness to share and disseminate information

Describe, standardise, digitise, quality assure, data provision

Improve access to internet

 Link environmental data with social and economic data

 Link indicators to environmental priorities

 Formal inter-departmental collaboration

Managing the urban edge and transitions • Urbanisation

Human Wellbeing

Sanitation

Awareness and education

Defining acceptable limits of change and trade offs

Light and noise pollution •

Desertification

Value of Ecosystem Services

Future focus -

Public transport, urban open space, quality open spaces, bicycle lanes, safe pavements and walk ways

Active citizens

green fun

The most significant proposals

- Outcomes based approach / Objectives-led
- Screening
- “Strategic Context”

And, all the usual suspects

Outcomes based

*Decision making must be informed by strategic environmental assessment before the decision maker can properly say “yes” to things which are **consistent with the big plan** and “no” to the things that are not*

Will the PROJECT take us closer to or further away from our goals for ecologically sustainable development?

What are the goals?

How are they measured, monitored, reported on and realised?

OUTCOMES

WHAT COULD THESE BE?

Example – Sweden

Environmental quality objectives and interim targets

Reduced Climate Impact

Clean Air

Natural Acidification Only

A Non-Toxic Environment

A Protective Ozone Layer

A Safe Radiation Environment

Zero Eutrophication

Flourishing Lakes and Streams

Good-Quality Groundwater

A Balanced Marine Environment,
Flourishing Coastal Areas and Archipelagos

Thriving Wetlands

Healthy Forests

A Varied Agricultural Landscape

A Magnificent Mountain Landscape

A Good Built Environment

- BIG
- ASPIRATIONAL
- SIMPLY STATED
- IMPLEMENTABLE
- CLEAR CONCLUSIONS

B A S I C
and compelling

Bilicki © 2005

RESEARCH CONCLUDES:

**WE ARE
DESTROYING
EARTH.**

COULD YOU KINDLY
REPHRASE THAT IN
EQUIVOCAL, INACCURATE,
VAGUE, SELF-SERVING AND
ROUNDBOUT TERMS THAT
WE CAN ALL UNDERSTAND?

GOVERNMENT



Engaging decision makers

- ✓ Assume the decision maker has not been given all the information
- ✓ Notice when YOU are confused, feel manipulated or “shushed” – then look at the information again
- ✓ Present the decision maker with a reasoned argument that will stand up to scrutiny
- ✓ Make your point in very simple language – it is more memorable and you want your argument to stick
- ✓ Avoid attacking the decision maker

And when the project goes ahead –

- ✓ **Monitoring requirements**
- ✓ **A process that keeps the public in the loop**

Remember: YOU have to live with the development

Which OUTCOMES matter?

Acid Mine Drainage

Water quality

Acidification of the ocean

Salienation of the soil

Species protection

Scenic beauty

WELLBEING AND HEALTH

Screening

NOW:

By the EAP against the regulated activities to determine if BAR or Scoping and EIA.

PROPOSED:

- The Screening of activities, programs, policies and plans is intended to ensure that the correct EM tool is used to determine, in any combination –
 - the desired state of the environment
 - environmental outcome
 - possible avoidance of impacts
 - possible alternatives
 - to identify impacts
 - to identify most applicable mitigation measures
- It is also proposed that the screening is used to evaluate a Public Participation plan, and check if the extent, reach and methods proposed are aligned with the scale of the project/plan.

Strategic context

- More information at a strategic level
- More guidance about appropriate activities in geographically defined areas
- Type of tool determined by sensitivity of the receiving environment (less by activity)
- Implications for public participation and cost to the State

WHAT IS MISSING?

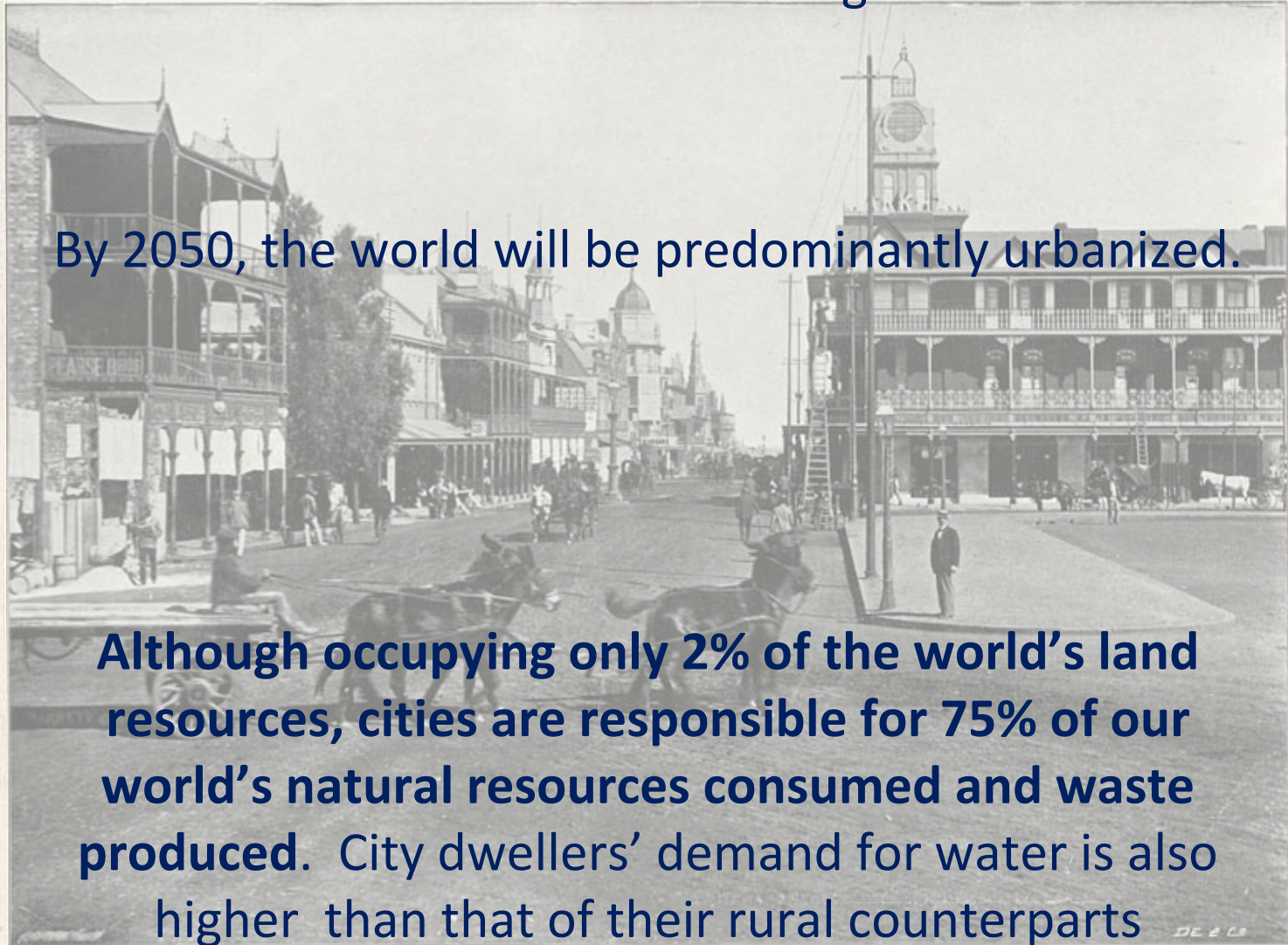


Valuing Ecosystem Services is essential if we are to argue for their on-going protection

Cities are booming and urban population is over 3 billion – and rising.

By 2050, the world will be predominantly urbanized.

Although occupying only 2% of the world's land resources, cities are responsible for 75% of our world's natural resources consumed and waste produced. City dwellers' demand for water is also higher than that of their rural counterparts



From a photo, by HARRITT.

PRITCHARD STREET, JOHANNESBURG.—This is another of Johannesburg's main thoroughfares, second only in importance to Commissioner Street, and adorned with many fine shop-fronts, which would not disgrace Bond or Regent Streets. It also boasts a number of excellent hotels, and is well lighted at night-time. In the early morning it is quite a sight to watch the hundreds of people on all kinds of vehicles hurrying to business, as this is one of the main thoroughfares from Doornfontein.



Climate change compounds all concerns

Problems in Civil Society and NGOs

IT'S A TWO-WAY STREET

FRANK R. OGBURN
1999



Image is part of the problem



In your arsenal

1. Water is unsustainably used and the quality and quantity of water resources is in decline;
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prepare strategies to cope with projected climate change impacts and reverse the rising trend in relation to the release of pollutants into the atmosphere;
3. Proper and better management of the environment; and
4. Protection of biodiversity

Outcome 10

SIGNIFICANCE: SPEAKS DIRECTLY TO POLITICAL WILL

In your arsenal

Guidelines and “Information Series”

- Overview of Integrated Environmental Management
- Screening
- Scoping
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Specialist Studies
- Impact Significance
- Ecological Risk Assessment
- Cumulative Effects Assessment
- Cost Benefit Analysis
- Life Cycle Assessment
- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Criteria for determining Alternatives in EIA
- Environmental Management Plans
- Review in Environmental Impact Assessment
- Environmental Auditing
- Environmental Impact Reporting
- Environmental Economics
- Project alternatives
- Review in EIA

And more

Guideline

All there BUT CAN YOU ACCESS IT??!

Sustainable Development

2008 Framework for Sustainable Development: national vision for sustainable development:

South Africa aspires to be a sustainable, economically prosperous and self-reliant nation state that safeguards its democracy by meeting the fundamental human needs of its people, by managing its limited ecological resources responsibly for current and future generations, and by advancing efficient and effective integrated planning and governance through national, regional and global collaboration.