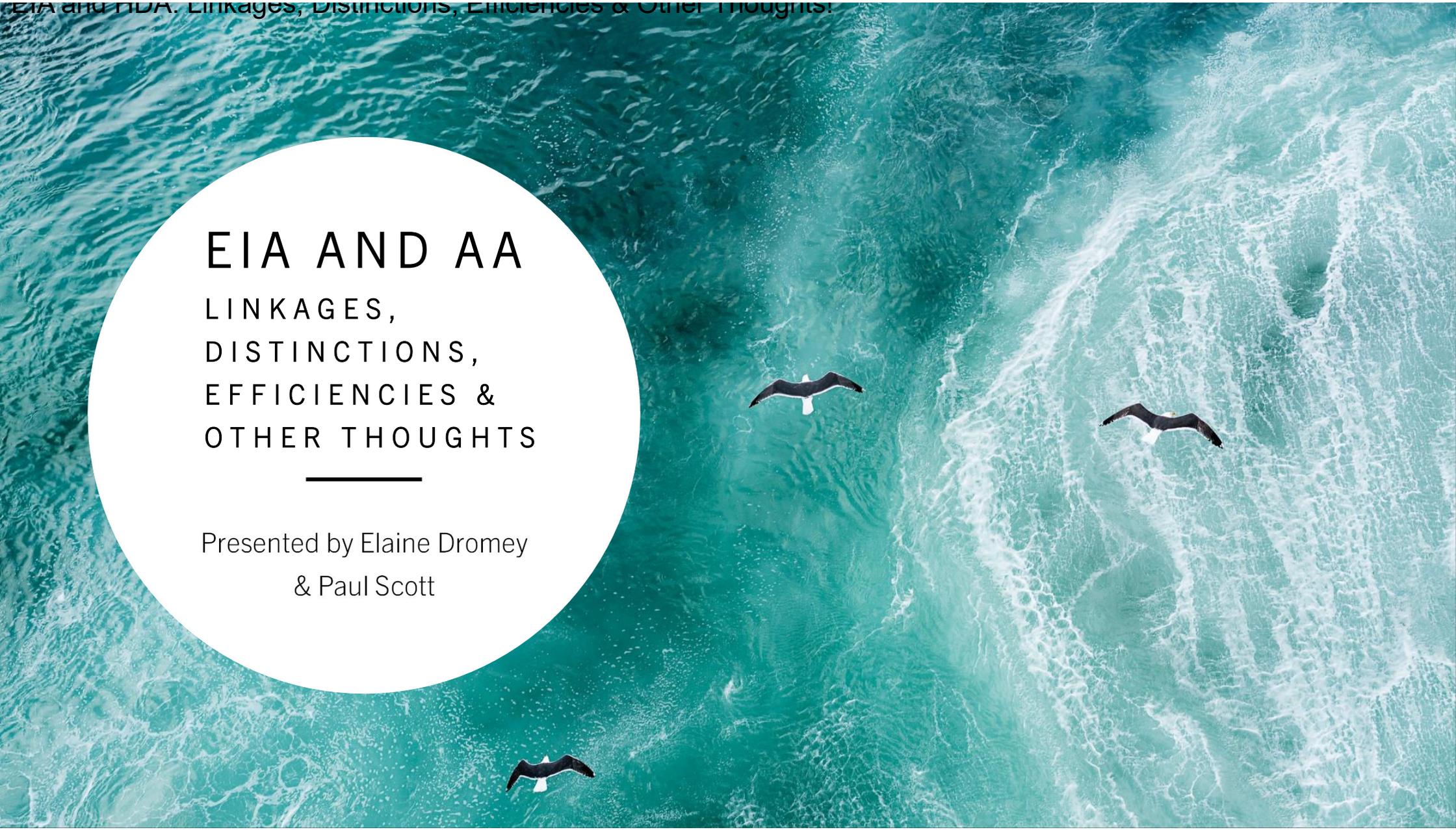


EIA and TDA: Linkages, Distinctions, Efficiencies & Other Thoughts!

EIA AND AA

LINKAGES,
DISTINCTIONS,
EFFICIENCIES &
OTHER THOUGHTS

Presented by Elaine Dromey
& Paul Scott



AGENDA

1. Introduction
2. EIA and AA processes
3. Discussion – breakout groups

INTRODUCTION

- Elaine Dromey, Ecologist, Dromey Eco Consulting Ltd.
- Paul Scott, Head of Ecological Guidance and Advisory Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Structure of Workshop



EIA AND AA

EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment (the process)

- Focus is on the Development Site and all environmental topics including Biodiversity.
- Likely Significant on the Environment
- Significant Residual Effects are Permissible
- Compensation can be used to address such effects.

AA – Appropriate Assessment (the process)

- Focus is only on Natura 2000 sites (Blinkered view)
- AA process is staged process with the outcome of each stage determining need to proceed to the next.
- Test at first stage is ‘Likely Significant Effects’ (in absence of mitigation)
- Test at second stage is ‘Adverse Effects on the Integrity of the Site’

EIA AND AA

Avoidance of Duplication

- EIAR can cross-refer to other 'relevant assessments'
- Example: *Natura Impact Statement (NIS)* Your EIAR need not repeat the whole of it, but summary within EIAR should be **consistent** with the NIS evidence & findings.
- NIS must focus on Natura 2000 sites and not duplicate detail in EIAR that is not directly relevant e.g. habitat and species baseline data that is relevant to EIAR but not to Screening Report / NIS

Competent Experts

- Developer must use *Experts* to produce EIAR
- EIAR accompanied by a statement explaining how above has been met – commonly Appendix of concise CVs for each factor lead / EIAR chapter author
- Competent Experts also required for AA but these may be different to those that prepare EIAR chapters.
 - How is Competence determined?

Linking back to Scoping Opinion

- EIAR should be based on Scoping Opinion (where issued) if the CA is not satisfied that it covers the *opinion* it is required to seek further information [PDR Art.108]
- Thus, if you do get a Scoping Opinion and deviate from it ALWAYS clearly explain why.
- AA may also be addressed in scoping, importance of technical experts attending all meetings with CA.

EIA AND AA

Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

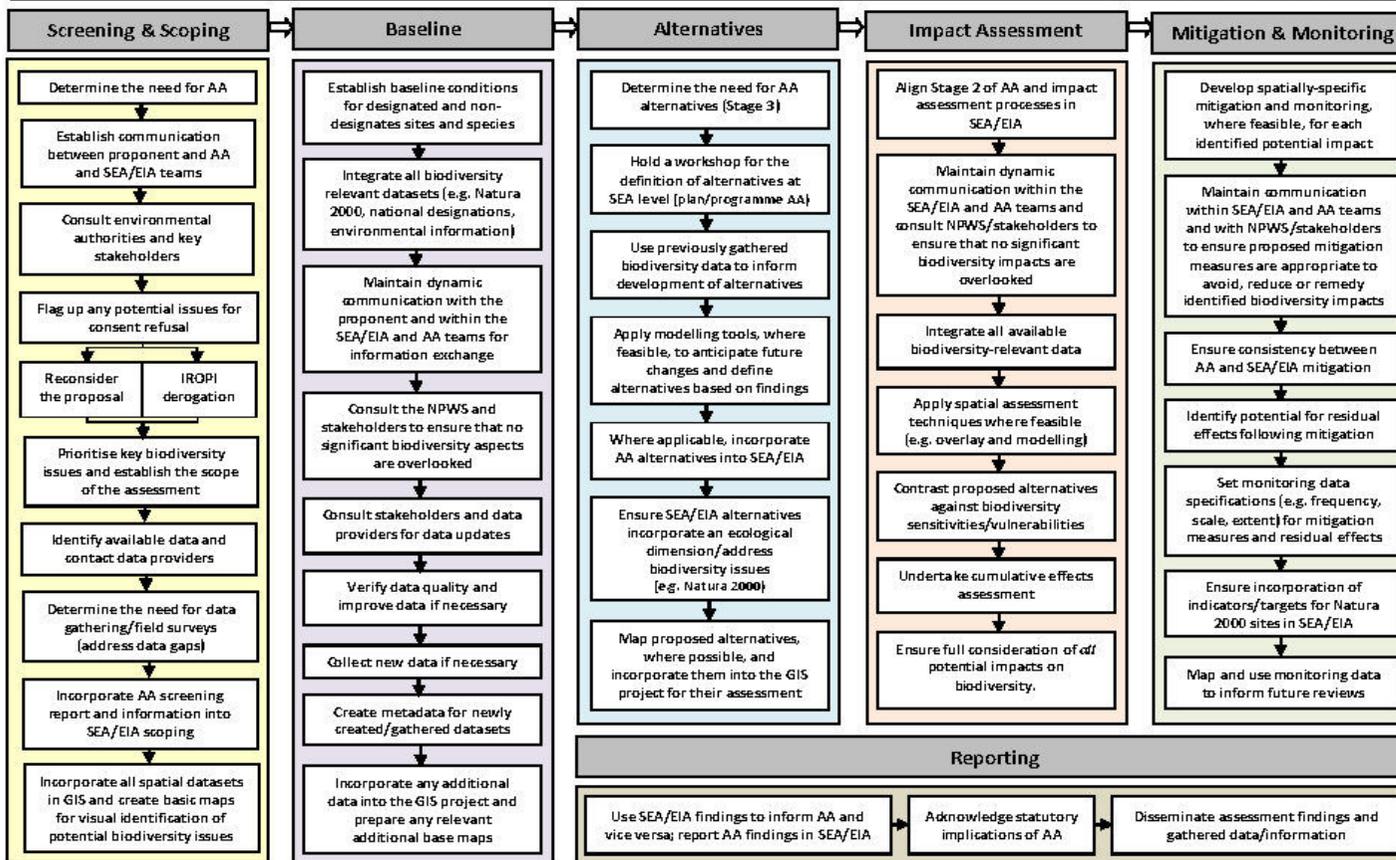
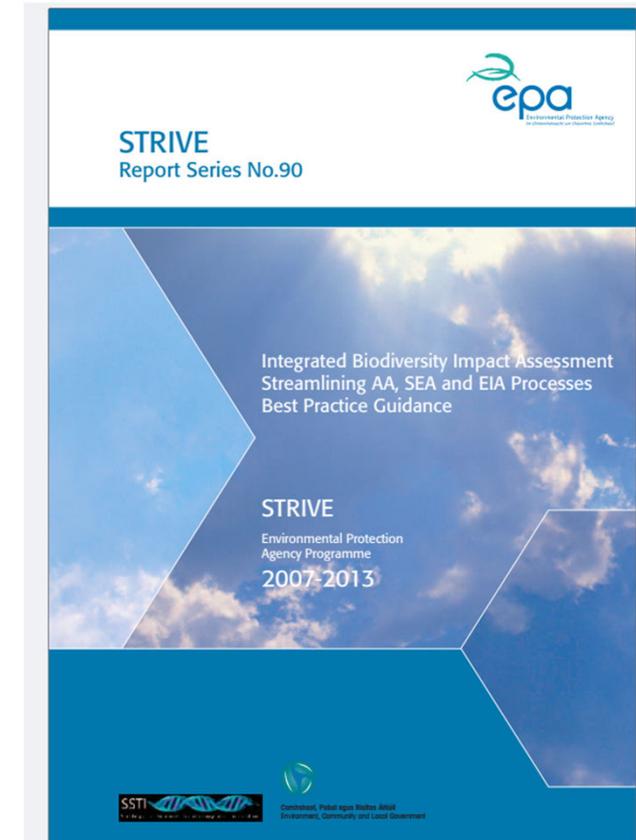


Figure 3.1. Flowchart diagram illustrating the overall recommendations for integrating the requirements of AA and SEA/EIA.



EIA AND AA

European Commission's (EC) "Environmental Omnibus" package December 2025

Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on speeding-up environmental assessments (COM(2025) 984)

- Single Point of Contact
- Coordinated or Joint Procedures
- Procedural steps combined
- Combined scoping
- Sharing Env Ass data between developers



EIA AND AA

For Discussion: Can we integrate EIA and AA processes?

- Possible positives include:
 - Reduction in size and number of documents.
 - Reduction in Duplication of information.
- Possible negatives include:
 - Confusion about legal tests.
 - Confused terminology.
 - Lack of clear conclusions.
 - Increase in lengthy documents?
- EC keen on integration
 - What would this entail, can it be achieved, who / what would co-ordinate this?

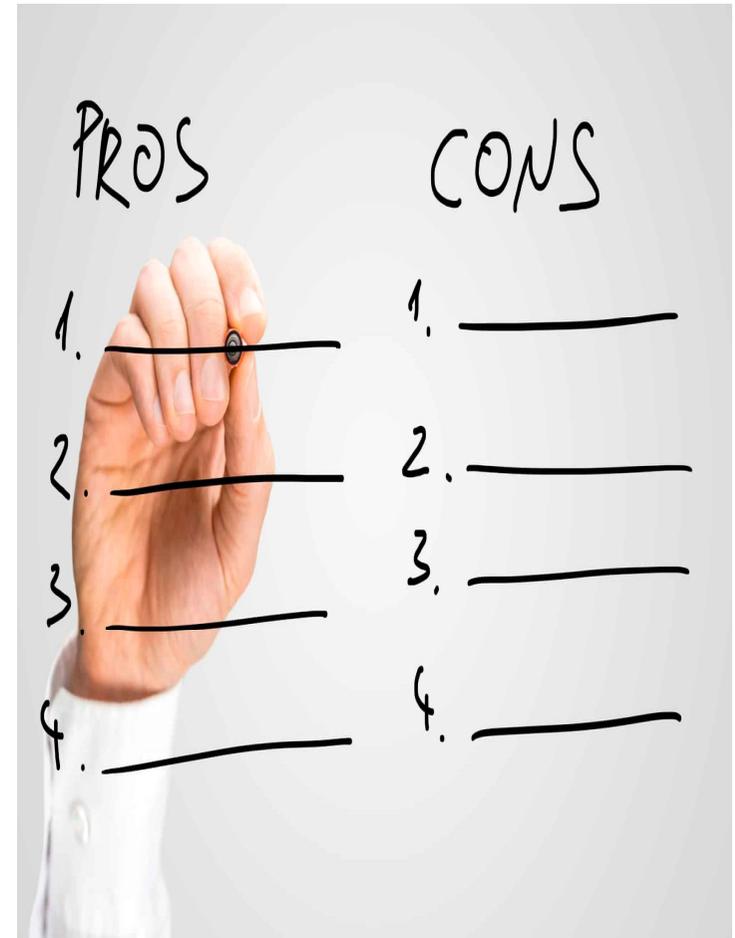


EIA AND AA

For Discussion: Can we integrate processes?

Where / what are the crossover(s), if any, between AA and EIA ?

- Are AA and EIA capable of becoming integrated? If so, what should first steps be?
- Do they need be integrated?
- Can we easily identify which parts of process can be integrated?
- What about other assessments such as WFD?
- Would integration resolve or further complicate issues such as:
 - Mitigation vs Compensation
 - Embedded Mitigation / Good Work Practices acceptable when screening for appropriate assessment.



DISCUSSION

