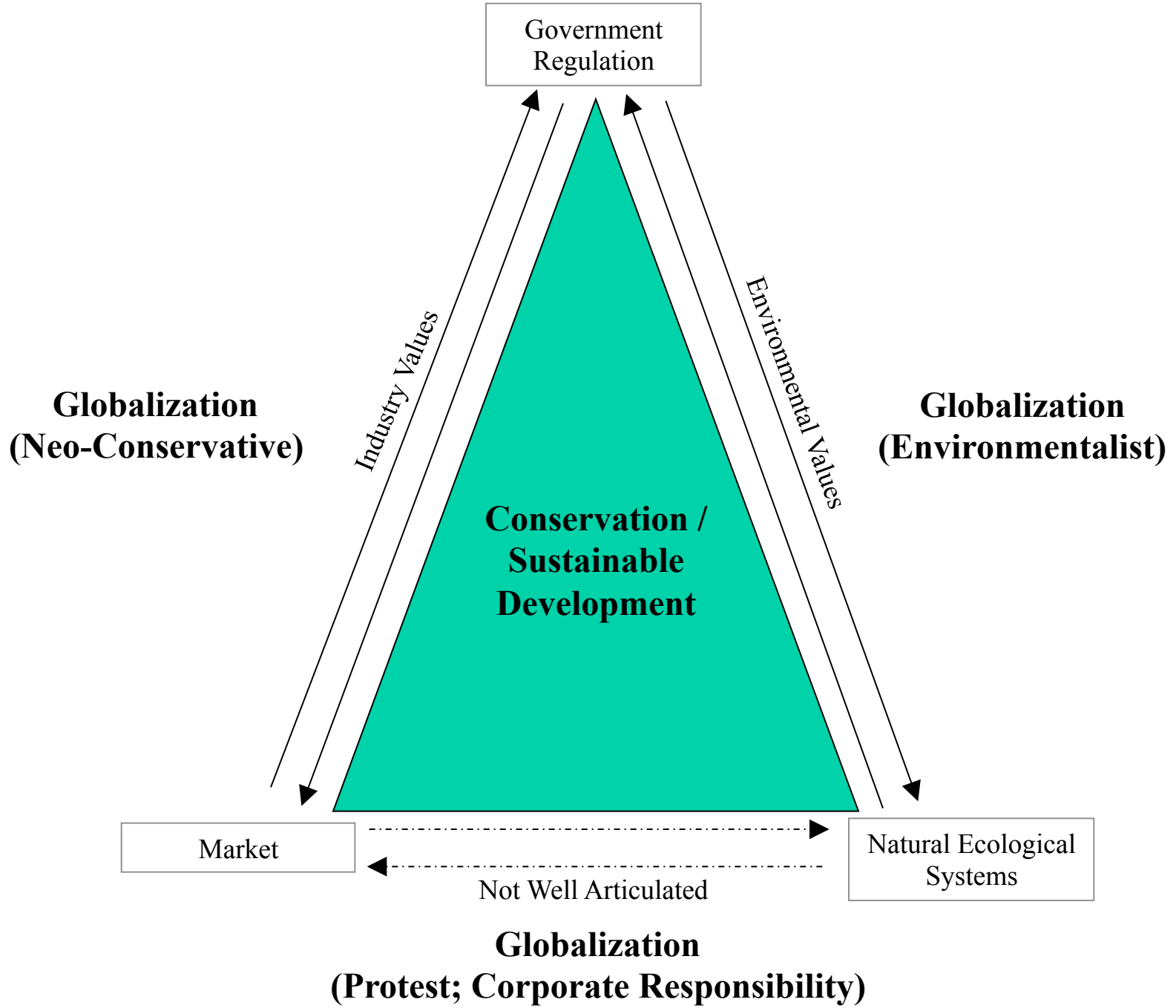


Environmental Assessment in Canada

- 1. International Building Blocks for Environmental Assessment**
- 2. Role of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act***
- 3. The *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act***
- 4. Procedures in the Assessment of Environmental Impacts**
- 5. Methods of Assessing Environmental Impacts**
 - Biophysical
 - Socio-Economic

The Dynamics Of Sustainable Development



1. International Building Blocks For Environmental Assessment

1. Creating a more secure world
2. Moving the climate agenda foreword
3. Farming in the public interest
4. Reducing our toxic burden
5. Redirecting International Tourism
6. Rethinking Population, Improving Lives
7. Breaking the link between resources and repression
8. Re-shaping global governance

[Canadian Values for International EA](#)

2. ROLE OF CEAA

Reports directly to the Minister of the Environment, the Agency is mandated by the following instruments:

- International agreements containing environmental assessment provisions (United Nations): <http://unep.net/>
- The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act) and its accompanying regulations: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/>
- Environmental Assessment Agreements:
http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/013/agreements_e.htm

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

Act establishes a process based on a federal statute for conducting environmental assessments of projects involving the federal government.

Environmental Assessment Act applies to proposed projects and about the four types of environmental assessment:

[screenings](#) (including [class screenings](#))

[comprehensive studies](#)

[mediations](#)

[review panels](#).

3. The Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*?

In Ontario, this process is defined and finds its authority in the *Environmental Assessment Act, 1995* (EAA).

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/ea/english/General_info/What_is_the_Ontario_Environmental_%20Assessment_Act.htm

The purpose of the Ontario EAA is to provide for the:

- protection;
- conservation; and,
- wise management of Ontario's environment.

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/ebr/english/ebr_info/introduction.htm

There are four program areas under Ontario's EA Program:

- a. Class EAs
- b. Individual EAs

a. Class Environmental Assessment approved under the *Environmental Assessment Act*:

- Pre-approve certain classes of projects that have predictable and mitigable environmental effects.
- Allow a proponent who receives approval for a class of undertakings to proceed without separate approval under the EAA for each specific project,
- Provide the class planning process is adhered to for the specific project.

b. Individual EA differentiates an EA performed under subsection 5(1) of the EAA from Class EA projects (i.e., projects carried out in accordance with an approved Class Environmental Assessment).

- Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch (Branch) coordinates a review of Terms of Reference
- Branch solicits comments on the ToR document from various government ministries and agencies, municipalities, First Nations and the general public
- During that time, anyone including the proponent may make a written request to the Minister suggesting:

The Minister decides whether to:

- Refer all or part of the matter to the EA Board for a hearing, or to a tribunal for a decision;
- Refer the EA or a particular issue to mediation; or
- Approve the proposed undertaking and what conditions to impose on the approval.

4. Procedures in the Assessment of Environmental Impacts

1. **Screening** – does proposal require EIA, and at what level of detail.
2. **Scoping** - identify the issues and impacts; establish terms of reference for EIA.
3. **Alternatives** – establish environmentally sound option to achieve proposal objectives.
4. **Impact analysis** - identify and predict the likely environmental, social effects
5. **Mitigation / impact management** - measures to avoid / minimize predicted impacts
6. **Evaluation of significance** - determine relative importance and acceptability of residual impacts
7. **Environmental impact report** - measures for mitigation, significance of effects (public)
8. **Review of the EIS** – does report meet terms of reference and provide a satisfactory assessment
9. **Decision making** - approve or reject proposal and establish the conditions for implementation.
10. **Follow up** - ensure the conditions of approval are met; to monitor the impacts of development

5. Components (Methods) of an EIA *(Physical Environment)*

1. Air and Climate

2. Soils and Geology

3. Water

a. physical hydrology

b. water quality

4. Ecology

a. Legislative Background and interest groups

b. Impact prediction and significance

5. Terrestrial Ecology

a. scoping and baseline studies for flora and fauna

6. Freshwater Ecology

a. impact prediction

b. impact significance

7. Cumulative impacts

a. ensuring consistency and accuracy

b. interactions between impacts as well as other projects (predict)

6. Components (Methods) of an EIA *(Socio-Economic)*

- 1. Socio-economic Impacts:** Economic
 - a. Impact prediction: (direct employment impacts)
 - b. Impact prediction: (wider economic impacts)

- 2. Socio-economic Impacts:** Social Impacts
 - a. Cultural impacts
 - b. Welfare (Safety / Risk)

- 3. Noise**
- 4. Traffic**
- 5. Landscape**
- 6. Archaeological and other materials and cultural assets**
- 7. Public Participation and Mediation/Mitigation**