

Can we do more - does EIA and
SEA make a difference in reaching
SDG targets? - Polish perspective.

Piotr Otawski

Minsk 2017

UNECE Espoo Convention MOP-7 and MOP/MOP-3

Preventive role of Environmental Assessments

- Scope and scale of preventive role is difficult to determine
- Number of proposed projects rejected in Poland is less than 5% of all application
- No one have tried to assess how many projects were abandoned, after EIA was requested as result of screening
- And how many were abandoned before formal application was submitted
- SDG 8. Decent work and economic growth - SDG 12. Responsible consumption and production

Usability for reaching different targets

- Depends on:
 - * authorities involved
 - ✓ their position
 - ✓ their background
 - * law structure
 - * society/public awareness

Usability for reaching different targets

- Law structure - environmental decision within which EIA is carried
 - opens the investment process, has binding effect on every subsequent decision - increases EIA influence
- Authorities responsible/involved are governmental authorities not local self-government - helps to strive for responsible development
- Authorities influenced by „ancestral” nature protection authorities
 - affects the strong position of nature protection aspects within EIA
- Growing society awareness makes a shift toward emissions and health related issues

Usability for reaching different targets

- important tool for nature protection - many examples of changes introduced to the projects, wide use of mitigation and compensation measures - Goal 14 and 15
- important, specially in urban areas, as a tool for mitigating potential health impacts of project - Goal 3
- growing potential for use as climate adaptation tool - Goal 13

EIA vs SEA

- Significant difference in actual impact of two instruments
- SEA less specific, usually too general
- Less public interest
- Access to justice -
 - * important factor in attracting public participation
 - * lack of it has negative impact on authorities attitude

Public involvement

- Increase the quality of documentation
- Increase the transparency of process
- Influence the conduct of the process by authorities
- Access to justice as the strongest tool supporting quality of assessment process
- Goal 16 - Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

Assessments costs

- In broad terms meaning not only time and resources needed for documentation preparation but also affiliated cost - „by - products”
- Use of EIA as a way to block/delay the investment
- NGOs created by/sponsored by competitor of the proponent - (waste management)
- Lack of gathered information management

**Thank You for Your
Attention**