



SEA process: Key elements and actors

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Introduction to SEA

SEA is a systematic & anticipatory process, undertaken to analyze environmental effects of proposed plans, programmes & other strategic actions and to integrate findings into decision-making

Key principles:

- Undertaken by the authority responsible for Plan preparation
- Applied as early as possible in decision-making process
- Focused on key issues
- Evaluates reasonable range of alternatives
- Provides appropriate opportunities for involvement of key stakeholders & the public
- Carried out with appropriate, cost-effective methods & techniques of analysis

SEA Benefits

- Provide for high level of environmental protection
- Improve quality of P/P making
- Increase efficiency of decision-making
- Facilitate identification of new development opportunities
- Help prevent costly mistakes
- Strengthen governance
- Facilitate transboundary cooperation

Typical / Generic SEA Steps

0. *Screening*

1. **Scoping / Baseline Analysis**

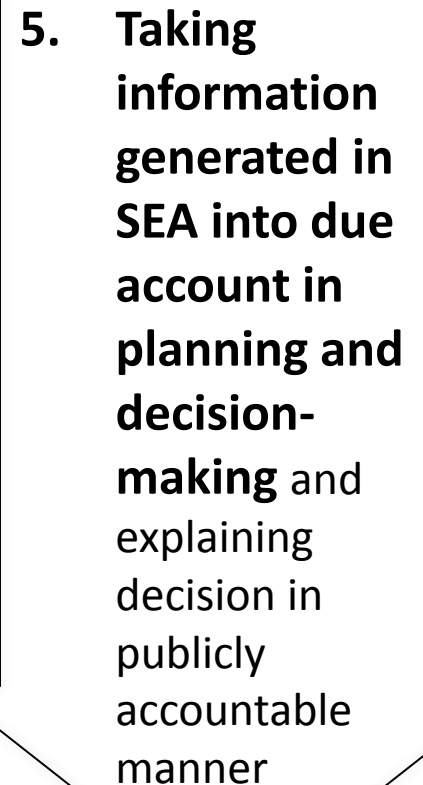
- Determination of key issues that should be considered within the SEA process
- Analysis of key issues i.e. past evolution, current situation and likely future evolution if the plan or programme is not implemented

2. **Assessment of effects** of the plan or programme on the key issues and development of mitigation measures (including monitoring scheme)

3. **Compilation of the SEA Report** and its submission for consultations with environmental and health authorities and the public



4. **Consultations**



5. **Taking information generated in SEA into due account in planning and decision-making** and explaining decision in publicly accountable manner

Scoping

- SEA Scoping is:
 - simply a structured method for identifying key sustainability risks or issues related to the Plan or Program (PPP) under preparation
- Scoping shall identify relevant environmental and health issues, which should be further considered within the SEA and (as far as possible) also:
 - To define territorial dimension of the assessment
 - To identify stakeholders to be involved involvement
 - To suggest suitable environmental proposals (or specific questions) that will guide analyses within the SEA process.
- It is important for efficiency of SEA process, since it should ensure the SEA focuses only on the likely significant effects which are relevant for the proposed plan or programme