

EaPGREEN

Partnership for Environment and Growth



This project is
funded by the EU

Quality Assurance (QA) / Quality Control (QC) in SEA

Thursday, 5 November 2015, 14:00

Training of Trainers

3 – 6 November 2015, Kakheti, Georgia



Step back: What is the purpose of SEA?

- Good SEA study results in:
 - A good reliable report
 - Proper participatory process
 - Scientifically sound predictions of impacts
 - Improvement of the plan/program under assessment

Focus of QA/QC

- Two objects of quality assurance/quality control can be distinguished, i.e.:
 - the SEA report; or
 - the entire SEA process (including the SEA administrative procedure).

What do you want to do?

Responsibilities

- Who?
- When?
- What? (a report or a process? – false dilemma)
- How? – setting out criteria and defining the tools

How

- Quality review package has to be designed to evaluate SEA reports
- Criteria:
 - √ general SEA objectives and principles;
 - √ good practice requirements.

Quality review package tentative structure (Cherp and Bonde, 2000)

- Description of the plan, the affected environment and the baseline conditions;
- Identification and evaluation of key impacts;
- Alternatives, mitigation, monitoring and recommendations; and
- Communication of results.

Quality Assurance checklist (UNECE, 2012)

- Objectives and context
- Scoping
- Alternatives
- Baseline information
- Prediction and evaluation of likely significant environmental effects
- Mitigation measures

Quality Assurance checklist (UNECE, 2012)

- The Environmental Report
- Consultation
- Decision-making and information on the decision
- Monitoring measures

SEA objectives → SEA quality criteria

- **Objective:** Prevent cumulative impacts of RES on biodiversity
- **Criterion:** 'Have impacts to all relevant vulnerable species been analyzed?'
- **Indicator:** number of vulnerable species analyzed vs number of species identified as potentially affected

Tools and resources

- Checklists (e.g. Table 22 Quality assurance (UNECE, 2012) p.117 – 118 of your Manual)
- Public participation (as a tool!)
- Sources of good practice/specific criteria:
 - EU SEA Directive and SEA Protocol as good practices source
 - National legislation and/or environmental assessment system, incl. State Ecological Expertise
 - International Association of Impacts Assessment SEA Performance criteria

EaPGREEN

Partnership for Environment and Growth



This project is
funded by the EU

**Case example:
QA/QC for Ukraine Sustainable Energy
Financing Facility (USELF) Strategic
Environmental Review (SER)**



Approach to QA/QC

Who?

- SER implementation team + EBRD (client)

When?

- In 1 year upon completion

What (a report or a process)?

- Both

How?

- Setting out criteria and defining the tools

Approach to QA/QC

- Criteria: USELF objectives + institutional approval and application, for example:
 - Are the indicators for screening of the small hydropower projects in line with international best practice?
 - How many developers of the renewable energy projects consulted SER report?
- Tools: stakeholder consultations and peer review
- National system was not used as a criterion – may be a disadvantage?

EaPGREEN

Partnership for Environment and Growth



This project is
funded by the EU

Questions or comments?

Thank you for your attention!

