UNECE

Protocol on
Strategic Environmental Assessment

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EIA

Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

- SEA Protocol in brief
  - Status of ratification
  - What it involves
  - Benefits

- Examples of application
  - Yerevan city master plan
  - Belarus tourism plan
  - Crimea development plan

SEA Protocol in brief

- Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Adopted at Kiev in 2003; entered into force on 11 July 2010
- Final meeting of Signatories in November 2010
- First meeting of Parties in June 2011
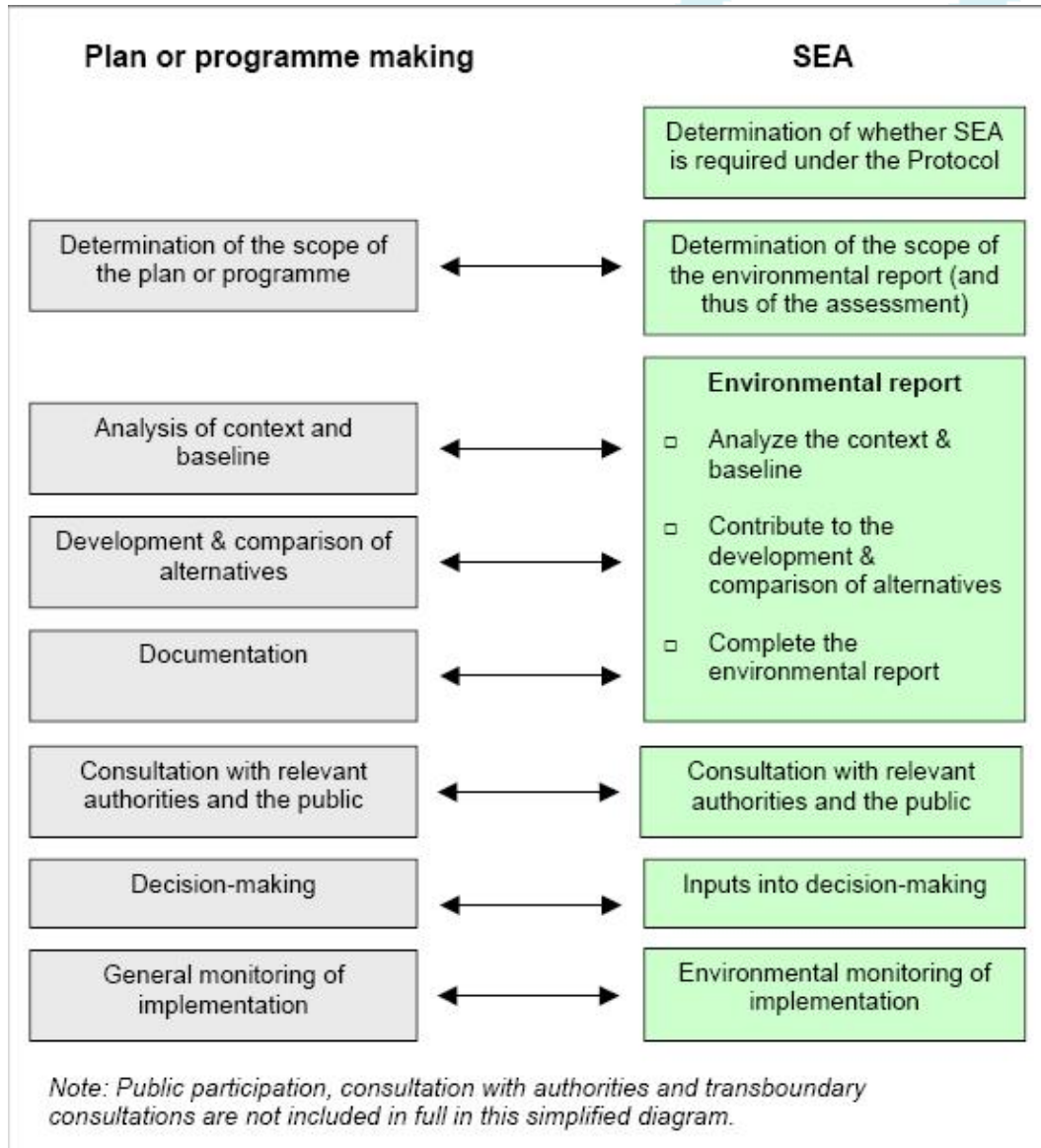- Now has 18 Parties

What is SEA?

- SEA means the evaluation of likely environmental, including health, effects, which comprises
  - determination of scope of an environmental report & its preparation,
  - carrying-out of public participation & consultations, and
  - taking into account of the environmental report & the results of the public participation & consultations in a plan or programme
- (art. 2, para. 6)

What is purpose of SEA?

- To ensure environmental considerations inform & are integrated into strategic decision-making in support of environmentally sound & sustainable development

- Assists authorities responsible for plans & programmes, & decision-makers, to take into account:
  - Key environmental trends, potentials & constraints that may affect or be affected by plan or programme
  - Environmental objectives & indicators relevant to plan or programme
  - Likely significant environmental effects of proposed options & implementation of plan or programme
  - Measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate adverse effects & to enhance positive effects
  - Views & information from relevant authorities, the public & (when relevant) potentially affected States

SEA steps

Plan or programme making	SEA
	Determination of whether SEA is required under the Protocol
Determination of the scope of the plan or programme	Determination of the scope of the environmental report (and thus of the assessment)
	Environmental report
Analysis of context and baseline	☐ Analyze the context & baseline
Development & comparison of alternatives	☐ Contribute to the development & comparison of alternatives
Documentation	☐ Complete the environmental report
Consultation with relevant authorities and the public	Consultation with relevant authorities and the public
Decision-making	Inputs into decision-making
General monitoring of implementation	Environmental monitoring of implementation

Note: Public participation, consultation with authorities and transboundary consultations are not included in full in this simplified diagram.

What is added value of SEA compared with EIA?

- Opportunity to consider wider range of alternatives & options at this level compared with project stage

- Influencing type & location of development in sector / region, not just design / siting of individual project

- Enhanced capability to address cumulative & large-scale effects within time / space boundaries of plans & programmes as opposed to project level

- Facilitating sustainable development through addressing consistency of plan or programme objectives & options with relevant strategies, policies & commitments

- Streamlining & strengthening project EIA by tiering process to SEA report & so avoiding questions (whether / where / what type of development) that have been decided already with environmental input

What are benefits of SEA?

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

Guiding principles of SEA

- Undertaken by the authority responsible for plan or programme
- 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

Promoting ratification & application of SEA Protocol

- through UNDP
  - countries of West Balkans, September 2008
  - Belarus, August 2009
- national awareness workshops
  - Slovenia, 9 June 2010
  - Kyrgyzstan (with Tajikistan), 2010
- with WHO/Euro
  - health in SEA
- also GTZ/InWent further to OECD/DAC Guidance

Examples of application

- Pilot projects as capacity-building for implementation of Protocol on SEA

- UNDP and REC-CEE

- Project objectives

  - test & demonstrate opportunities for practical application of SEA Protocol, considering Protocol requirement on public participation and stakeholder consultation

  - provide recommendations for environmental optimizing & modifications of target plan/programme

- Created SEA team to interact with the planning team

- See http://www.unece.org/env/sea/eecca_capacity_r.htm

Pilot projects
Crimea Regional Development Strategy

- UNDP / EnvSec project 2007-2008 "SEA and Autonomous Region of Crimea Regional Development Strategy to 2015"

- See hand-out

See http://www.unece.org/env/sea/eecca_capacity_r.htm

Contacts

- For more about the SEA Protocol, visit our website: www.unece.org/env/eia
- Or email: eia.conv@unece.org