

EaPGREEN

Partnership for Environment and Growth



This project is
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SEA Scoping: What it is and why do we do it?

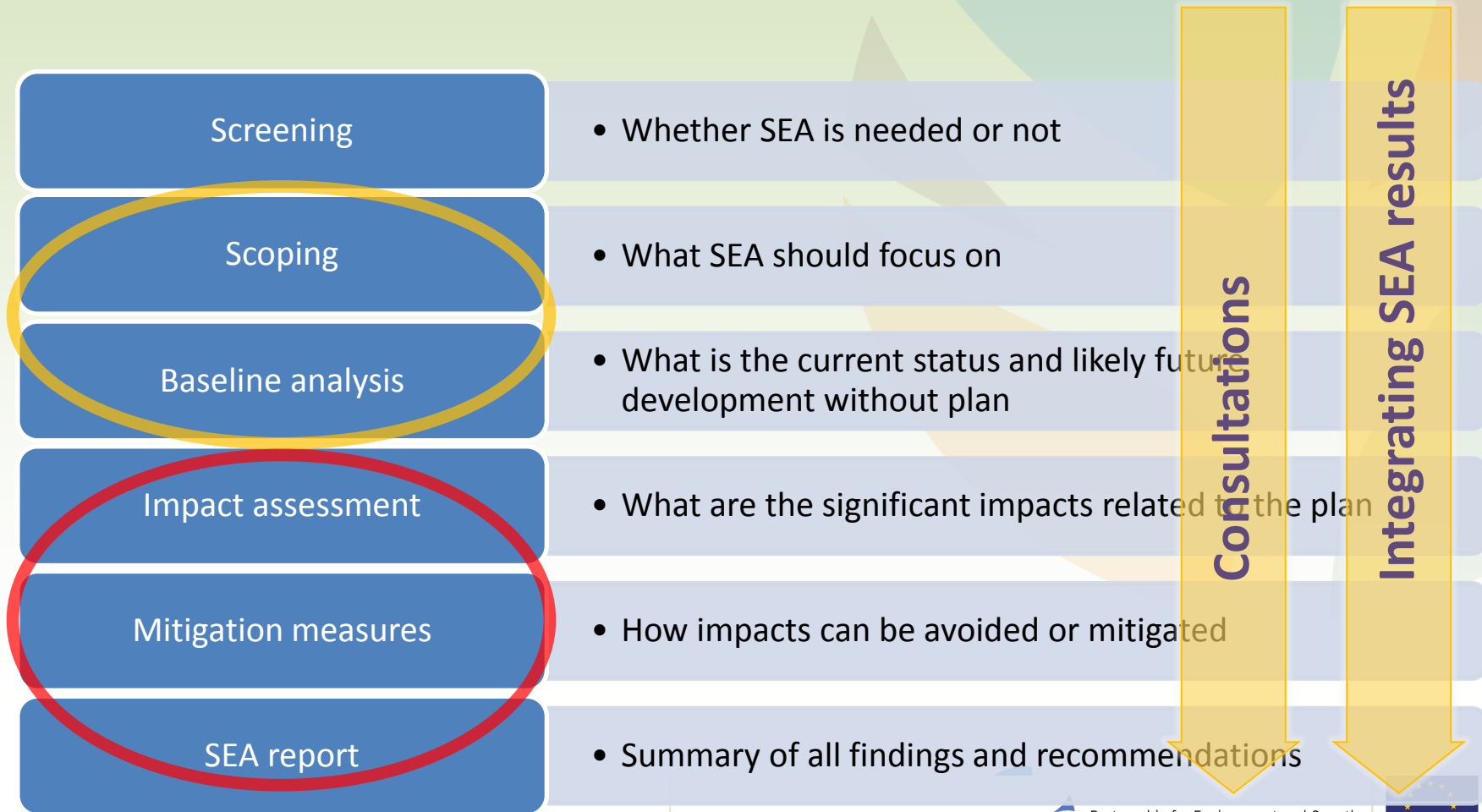
Tuesday, 2 December 2015

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Typical SEA stages and analyses



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Purpose of scoping

Scoping shall identify development interventions and relevant **environmental and health issues**, which should be further considered within the SEA

Scoping can also identify, as far as possible:

- **territorial scope** of the assessment and key areas of concern,
- **stakeholders** to be involved,
- **data and information** to be considered

Importance of scoping

Scoping is important for efficiency of SEA process – it determines priority issues of concern and „scopes-out“ issues that are less important

Priority issues become the main point of reference for

- examining if/how environmental concerns are integrated into the planning document;
- assessing positive or negative impacts of the proposed development (strategy, objectives, measures)

Guiding principles for scoping

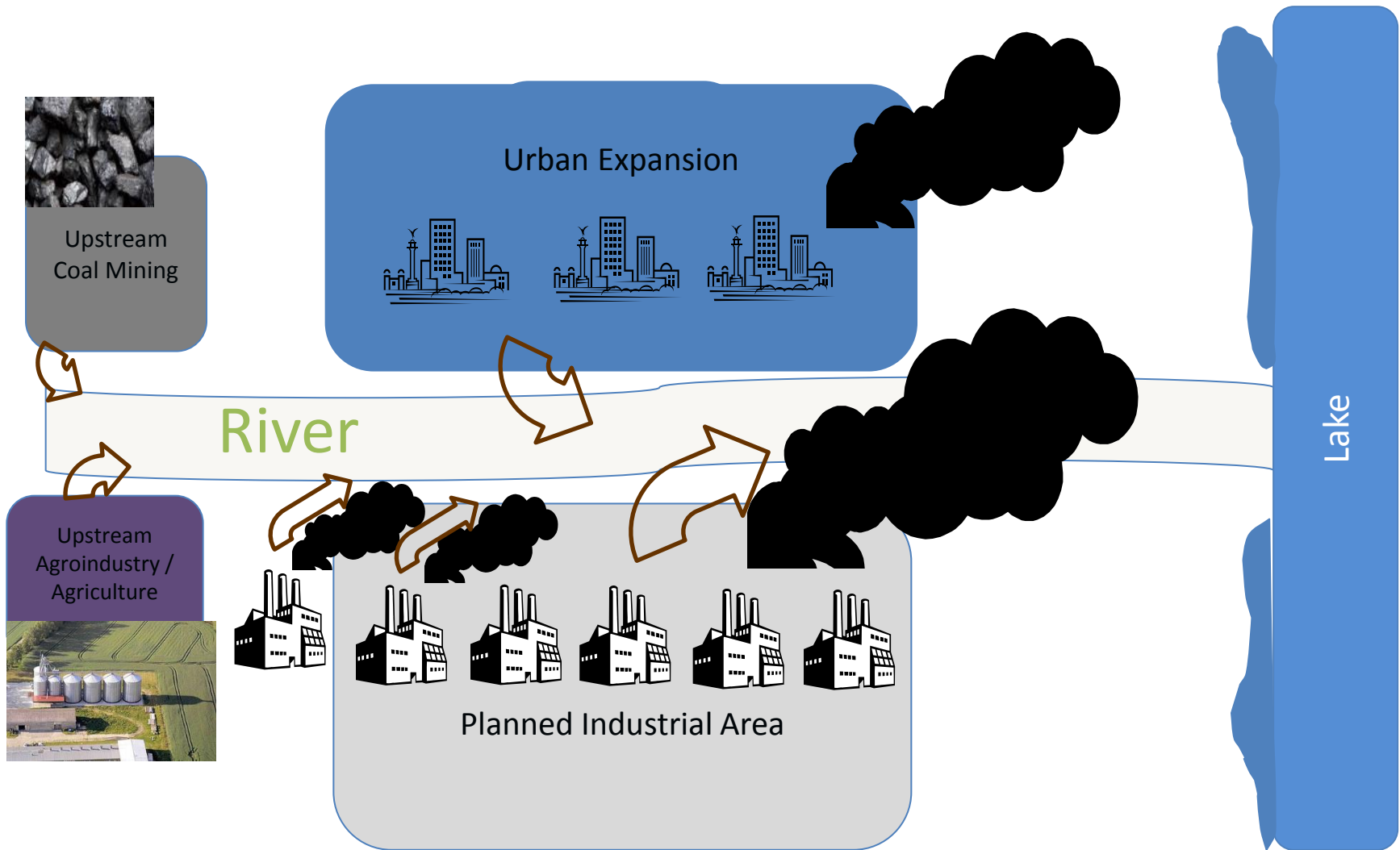
Scoping out (i.e. excluding certain issues) is as important as scoping in (otherwise SEA is too wide and unfocused)

It is important to **keep the scope of SEA flexible** to allow its adjustments as the understanding of environmental implications of the proposed plan or programme unfolds.

Key Scoping principles

- Use important baseline data from the PPP (area); and the combination of preliminary analysis and consultation to consider the main priorities elaborated by a PPP
- Identify key issues through appropriate levels of preliminary analyses, case examples, literature review etc.
- Keep the scope of SEA flexible – in order to allow additional or new information that could lead to:
 - the discovery of new issues or risks
 - further define the importance or insignificance of an identified issue

Illustration: Cumulative Air and Water Quality Strategic risks



Scoping approach

- SEA experts should, in consultations with relevant environmental authorities, identify key environmental and health issues that are relevant to the planning document and for each issue to define:
 - Geographical areas of concern
 - Stakeholders to be consulted
 - Sources of data and information
- In addition
 - Relevant environmental protection objectives should be identified and described
 - Topics/Guiding questions for further analyses shall be formulated

Scoping tools and methods

- Many variations of analysis or ranking matrices e.g. Rapid Impact Assessment Matrix
 - Used typically for expert and Delphi approaches to scoping and effective for
 - organizing scoping analyses,
 - and prioritizing issues
- Maps and GIS mapping overlay
 - Used typically for expert and Delphi approaches to scoping and effective for
 - quickly reviewing large amounts of spatial information
 - quickly identifying possible areas of concern
- SWOT
 - Most often applied for policy scoping
- Others:
 - Decision Trees / Networks
 - Decision Support System

SEA Scoping: Procedural aspects

- Scoping Report
- Scoping decision/opinion
- Public consultations

- Linked with SEA Baseline analysis

What is Good SEA Scoping?

- Allowing further assessment to focus only on the key sustainability issues which may be significantly affected by the plan or programme
- Providing the input for decisions on the appropriate methods and analytical tools for further analyses of the key sustainability issues of the PPP
- Ensuring that further SEA process reflects opinions of relevant stakeholders (i.e. consultations therefore should be a part of the scoping)
- Limitations of scoping:
 - It is usually based on a limited data / general analysis
 - It does not need (and it is not intended) to be detailed
 - results should be verified through further analysis, especially where PPP mitigation development requires more detailed input

Questions, comments?

Thank you for your attention!

21 September 2015