



What does SEA mean?

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the analysis of potential impact on environment and human health of strategic plan, program and other documents at the stage of planning, outcome integration to initial decision-making process, as well tool of systematic and consecutive evaluation which take into account sustainable development principles.

Legal documents on SEA

- Directive 2001/42/EC (known as 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' – SEA Directive) and UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention play a key role as an international legal framework. SEA Protocol of the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) of the Parties at the extraordinary "Environment for Europe" Conference held in Kiev on May 21, 2003, signed and entered into force on 10 July 2010.

SEA fields of application:

- SEA has been applied to fields such as ***“industry, transportation, regional development, waste water management, telecommunication, tourism, town-building or land management as well agriculture, forestry, fishery, energy, demining.*** These strategical documents cover plans and programs(as well other strategical documents) which prepared for sectors given by appropriate executive bodies and in the future, as well drafting of activities required for environmental impact assessment.



SEA process

After determining the importance of SEA application («screening» process), SEA has been implemented in the following stages:

- Base analysis and determining the scope of assessment («scoping»)
- Impact assessment on environment and human health and proposal preparation – SEA report preparation
- Providing public participation in SEA process (for «scoping» and SEA outcomes).
- Providing consultation with appropriate bodies as well environmental and health bodies.
- Making decision and giving declaration by planner body
- Monitoring(or activity control)

Implementation mechanisms of these stages contained in the guideline on SEA protocol and translated into Azerbaijani language:

- Guideline on implementation of the SEA protocol- UNECE and REC for Central and Eastern Europe, 2012. First edition 2006, second edition 2012.

http://www.unece.org/env/eia/sea_manual/welcome.html

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/SEA%20Manual/translations/SEA_Resource_Manual_Aze.pdf

Information on SEA pilot project. *See:*

<http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/environmental-impact-assessment/about-us/protocol-on-sea/envseaeapgreen/sea-pilot-projects.html>

SEA activities:

Azerbaijan ratified (may 25,1999) UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a **Transboundary Context**(Espoo Convention) and hasn't been involved in the SEA protocol. In order to accelerate pathway of Azerbaijan to SEA protocol and to provide legal and practical preparation it has been taken an action within the scope of Espoo Convention **Action Plan for 2014-2017**(was adopted by Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South Eastern European countries at the Meeting of the Parties VI (UNECE Espoo MOP6) held in Geneva on 2-5 June 2014). Activities were implemented by the **Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan on the basis of cooperation with UNECE, as well, with the financial support of "Greening Economies in the European Union's Eastern Neighbourhood- "EaP GREEN" Programme.**

Meetings were held to inform civil servants and public, and to share international experience on SEA. Nowadays,continuation of the activities related to appropriate performance, capacity and human resources development especially for SEA are planning.

New Draft law on Environmental Impact Assessment has been modernized with the support of international and national experts as well, adoption of experience on SEA within SEA pilot project in order to provide practical analysis of implementation of the draft law has been implemented.

This Pilot project has been applied to the project document **"The National Strategy on the use of Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources- 2015-2020"** based on coordination and cooperation between The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan and The State Agency for Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources.

This is the first pilot project which has been implemented by The ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan for SEA in Azerbaijan.