



EaP GREEN
Partnership for Environment and Growth



Draft National Waste Management Strategy (Strategy) and the Draft National Waste Management Action Plan (Action Plan)

Application of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan

Public Consultation Workshop

Tbilisi, Georgia

Report

November 2015

The EaP GREEN programme is funded by the European Union and other donors, and is jointly implemented by the four partner organizations: OECD, UNEP, UNECE and UNIDO.



CONTENT

1. Background	3
2. Meeting objectives and organization	4
3. Summary of the event	4
4. Conclusions and next steps	6

Annex 1. Agenda

Annex 2. List of Participants

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1. Background

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) effectively promotes sustainable development by mainstreaming environment into economic development at a national and local level. SEA is a well-established, practical and efficient planning and environmental governance tool/system set out in the UNECE Protocol on SEA to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context. It ensures that development plans in key sectors such as energy, water and waste management with likely significant adverse environmental impacts are efficiently developed taking into account environmental (and health) considerations. SEA, in particular, will allow identification of the most sustainable and cost-effective strategic development alternatives in Georgia for attracting new investments and for improving its environment. SEA also helps strengthen the country's environmental governance through fostering transparency and consultation with relevant stakeholders and the public prior to the approval of plans and programmes. SEA in a transboundary context can also greatly facilitate regional cooperation on environmental matters.

Since June 2013, the UNECE secretariat to the Convention on the Environmental Impact Assessment in the Transboundary Context (the Espoo Convention) assists the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource Protection of Georgia in developing a national environmental assessment system in line with the Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA). The activities are implemented in the framework of the EU funded programme 'Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood' (EaP GREEN) in several phases.¹ Phase I of the programme was carried out from September 2013 to August 2014 and included reviews of legislative and institutional frameworks for the application of EIA and SEA procedures. Phase II extends from November 2014 to September 2015 and aims to develop a new draft law on EIA/SEA (draft law) (grant ECE/GC/2014/05/016). Phase III of the programme covers a pilot application of the SEA procedure (SEA pilot project) to Georgia's National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan.

The aims of the SEA pilot project are:

- (a) to build national institutional capacities and expertise to conduct SEA at the national level;
- (b) to provide recommendations for environmental optimisation and modifications of the Georgia's Waste Management Strategy, and
- (c) to test the SEA system proposed in the draft law and develop recommendations for its improvement.

¹ <http://www.unece.org/env/sea/eapgreen.html>

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The SEA pilot was initiated in July 2015. Based on the discussions with the Ministry of Environment, the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan in Georgia was selected as a document to be a subject of SEA. The SEA pilot is being conducted by the national SEA team supported by the international SEA experts in close cooperation with the waste management specialists drafting the Strategy and the Action Plan.

The draft scoping report was issued in early September 2015 (English version with the summary in Georgian) and the public scoping consultation event took place on 22 September 2015 (back-to-back with the training workshop on effect assessment and mitigation measures. This document is prepared by Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, UNECE Consultant, with inputs from Michal Musil, UNECE Consultant, Georgia's Environmental Outlook (GEO), the local logistical partner, to report on the scoping public consultation event.

2. Meeting objectives and organization

The public consultation workshop aimed at obtaining feedback from the key stakeholders on the draft Strategy and Action Plan and the preliminary conclusions of the SEA. The comments and suggestions from the workshop will help to verify the planning outputs and SEA findings and recommendations. Furthermore, they will be integrated in the final versions of the Strategy, Action Plan, and the SEA Report, thereby contributing to their finalization in a participatory and transparent manner.

The abridged SEA summary report was issued in both English and Georgian languages and sent out to the invited participants prior to the public stakeholder meeting.

The agenda of the event is found in Annex 1 and the list of the participants is found in Anne 2.

3. Summary of the event

A joint public consultation workshop, which was held in the hotel “Betsy” (32/34 Makashvili Str. 0108 Tbilisi, Georgia), aimed at presenting the findings and preliminary results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) pilot project and discussing the Draft National Waste Management Strategy (Strategy) and the Draft National Waste Management Action Plan (AP).

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The workshop was organised by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia in the framework of two projects: “Development of Legislation for Waste Management as part of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement”, funded by the EU Delegation to Georgia and implemented by the ParticipGmbH, and “Greening Economies in the European Neighbourhood (EaP GREEN) “programme, financed by the European Commission and implemented by UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), OECD, UNEP, and UNIDO. Logistical support of the workshop was provided by the non-governmental organization Georgia’s Environmental Outlook (GEO).

The workshop gathered up to 55 representatives of the relevant ministries including Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs and its structural unite National Center for Disease Control and Public Health and Ministry of Agriculture, as well as EU Delegation to Georgia and other international organizations familiar with waste management sector in Georgia and non-governmental organizations.

The main purpose of the public consultation workshop was to obtain feedback from the key stakeholders on the draft Strategy and Action Plan and outputs of the SEA pilot project in order to integrate the relevant comments in the final versions of the Strategy, Action Plan, and the SEA Report, thereby contributing to their finalization in a participatory and transparent manner. Besides, the workshop aimed at verifying the planning process and SEA findings with the stakeholders.

The meeting was opened by the deputy ministers Mr. Teimuraz Murgulia and Ms. Maia Bitadze, who welcomed the participants of the workshop and expressed their gratitude to the donors for facilitating the development process of the National Waste Management Strategy and Action plan and the SEA pilot project. Mr. Alvaro Ortega Aparicio, programme manager of the EU delegation to Georgia and Ms. Elena Santer on behalf of the UNECE Espoo Convention Secretariat also welcomed the participants.

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Welcome speeches were followed by the presentation on the draft National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan, which was introduced by Ms. Khatuna Gogaladze, EU project team leader. After the presentation the participants were given the possibility to ask the questions and provide their feedback on the Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan for their further improvement.

The second half of the workshop was devoted to the presentations on SEA pilot project, which were preceded by the presentation of a short movie on SEA produced with the assistance of the UNECE Espoo Convention Secretariat. The presentation on the SEA pilot project, procedures and preliminary findings and recommendations were presented by the UNECE international consultant Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and the SEA team leader Ms. Irma Melikishvili.

4. Conclusions and next steps

At the end of the workshop it was agreed that the SEA teams would:

- collect comments on the distributed abridged SEA summary document (SEA Summary Report) within the next 10 days.
- continue working on the finalization of the SEA report;
- incorporate the collected comments in the final SEA report;
- prepare the SEA recommendations as a separate document to be submitted to the team working on the draft Strategy and Action Plan not to delay the process of submitting

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those documents to the Government of Georgia as planned in accordance to the Waste Management Code.

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Annex 1. Agenda.

A joint public consultation workshop aims at presenting and discussing the Draft National Waste Management Strategy (Strategy) and the Draft National Waste Management Action Plan (AP) as well as the findings and recommendations of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) applied for these documents. The workshop is organised by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia in the framework of two projects: “Development of Legislation for Waste Management as part of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement”, funded by the EU Delegation to Georgia and implemented by the ParticipGmbH, and “Greening Economies in the European Neighbourhood (EaP GREEN)” programme, financed by the European Commission, UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), OECD, UNEP, and UNIDO. Technical support of the workshop is provided by Georgia’s Environmental Outlook (GEO).

The public consultation workshop should result in obtaining feedback from the key stakeholders on the draft Strategy and Action Plan and the preliminary conclusions of the SEA. The comments and suggestions from the workshop will help to verify the planning outputs and SEA findings and recommendations. Furthermore, they will be integrated in the final versions of the Strategy, Action Plan, and the SEA Report, thereby contributing to their finalization in a participatory and transparent manner.

The workshop will gather representatives of the relevant ministries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

09:00 - 09:30	Registration of Participants
09:30 – 10:00	Opening/Welcome Speech <i>Mr. Teimuraz Murgulia, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia</i> <i>Ms. Maia Bitadze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia</i> <i>Mr. Alvaro Ortega Aparicio, Programme Manager of the EU Delegation to Georgia</i> <i>Ms. Elena Santer, Secretariat to the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA)</i>
10:00 – 11:00	Draft National Waste Management Strategy and Draft National Waste Management Action Plan (Presentation and Discussion) <i>Mr. Arevrd Chankseliani – Head of the Waste and Chemicals Management Service</i> <i>Ms. Khatuna Gogaladze, TeamLeader</i>

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	<i>Mr. Kurt Terpgaard-Jensen, Consultant</i> <i>Mr. Irakli Legashvili, Consultant</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 13:00	Draft National Waste Management Strategy and Draft National Waste Management Action Plan (Continued) (Presentation and Discussion) <i>Mr. Arevrd Chankseliani – Head of the Waste and Chemicals Management Service</i> <i>Ms. Khatuna Gogaladze, Team Leader</i> <i>Mr. Kurt Terpgaard-Jensen, Consultant</i> <i>Mr. Irakli Legashvili, Consultant</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00- 14:20	Introduction to the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and technical assistance within the EU funded EaP GREEN Programme <i>Ms. Elena Santer, UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and Protocol on SEA</i>
14:20 – 14:45	Introduction to the SEA Process and the SEA Pilot Project on the Waste Management Strategy and the Waste Management Action Plan in Georgia (Presentation and Discussion) <i>Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, UNECE Consultant</i> <i>Ms. Irma Melikishvili, SEA Team Leader</i>
14:45 – 15:15	Key SEA Findings and Preliminary Recommendations (Presentation and Discussion) <i>SEA team</i>
15:15 -15:45	Coffee Break
15:45 – 16:30	Key SEA Findings and Preliminary Recommendations (continued) (Presentation and Discussion) <i>SEA team</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Final remarks and closure of the meeting

Annex 2. List of Participants

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Draft National Waste Management Strategy (Strategy) and the Draft National Waste Management Action Plan (Action Plan)

Application of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan

Public Consultation Workshop

30 October, 2015

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