



Practical application of SEA to the solid waste management sector of Armenia

Workshop 1: SEA scoping and baseline analysis

9-10 March 2016,
Yerevan



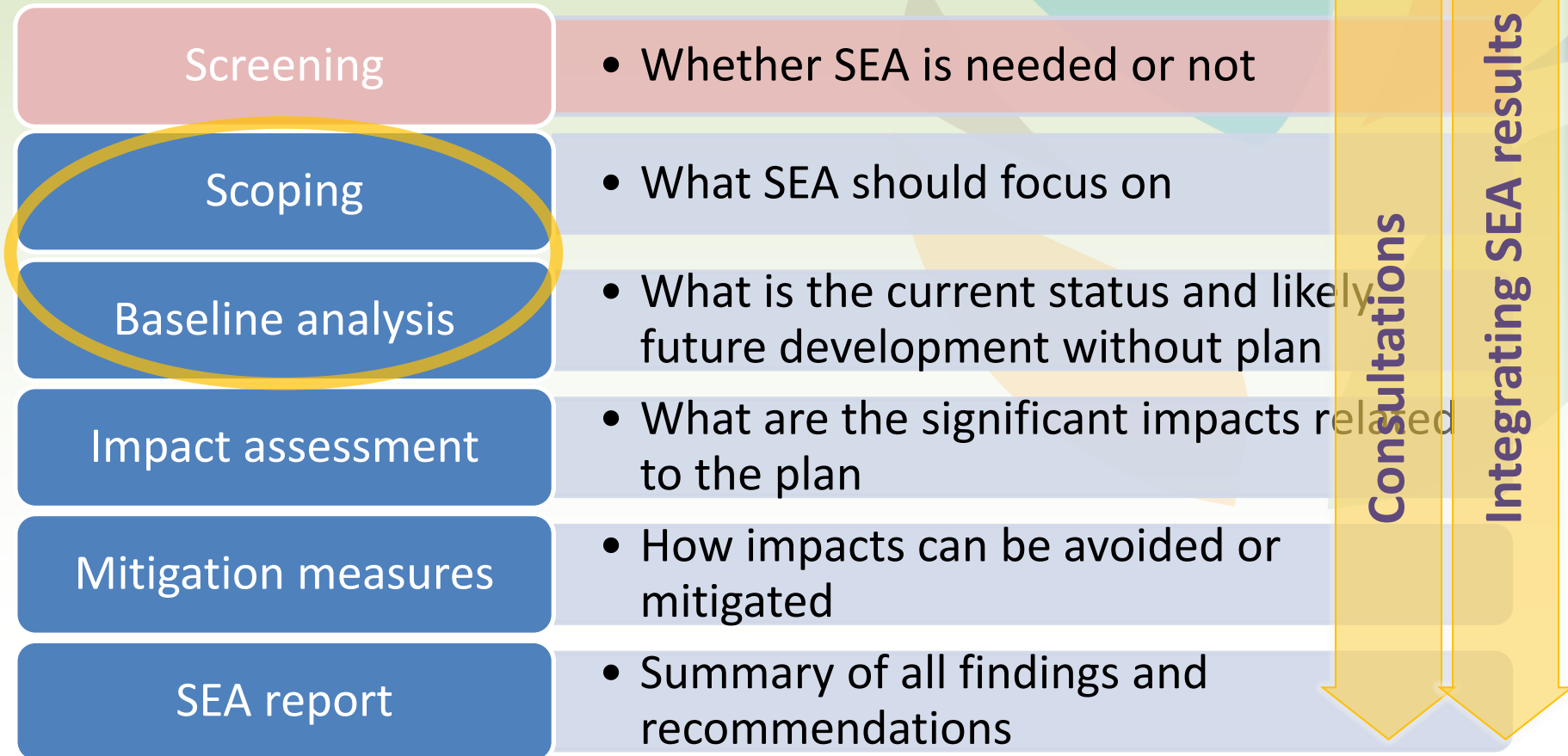
Introduction to scoping and baseline analysis

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Typical SEA stages and analyses



Determining the scope of SEA

- SEA applies to various sectors and therefore a wide range of environmental and health issues is to be considered
- However, not all environmental and health issues are relevant to all sectors and all types of plans and programmes
- Thus, it is important to **identify relevant environmental and health issues for each SEA individually = SCOPING**

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
 - Policy and legal context for relevant environmental and health issues
 - Stakeholders to be involved,
 - Data and information to be considered
 - Methods to be used

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.

Limitations in scoping

It is usually based on a limited data and general analysis...

...however, it does not need (and it is not intended) to be detailed

Results should be verified through further analysis and stakeholder consultations, especially where mitigation of likely adverse effects requires more detailed information

Scoping should...

- Ensure that **further assessment focuses on the key sustainability issues** which may be significantly affected by the plan or programme
- Provide input to decisions on the appropriate methods and analytical tools for further analyses of the key sustainability issues of the P&P
- Indicate **gaps in data and potential uncertainties**
- Ensure that **further SEA process reflects opinions of relevant stakeholders** (i.e. consultations therefore should be a part of the scoping)

Scoping and baseline analysis

- Two closely interlinked steps
 - **Initial baseline analysis** is needed to determine the key environmental and health issues (i.e. as a part of scoping)
 - **Further analysis of baseline situation and trends** needs to be established a basis for assessing likely effects and formulate mitigation measures

Purpose of baseline analysis

- For relevant environmental and health issues to describe:
 - Current status
 - Past development trends
 - **Outline the likely evolution of these trends without implementation of the plan or programme**

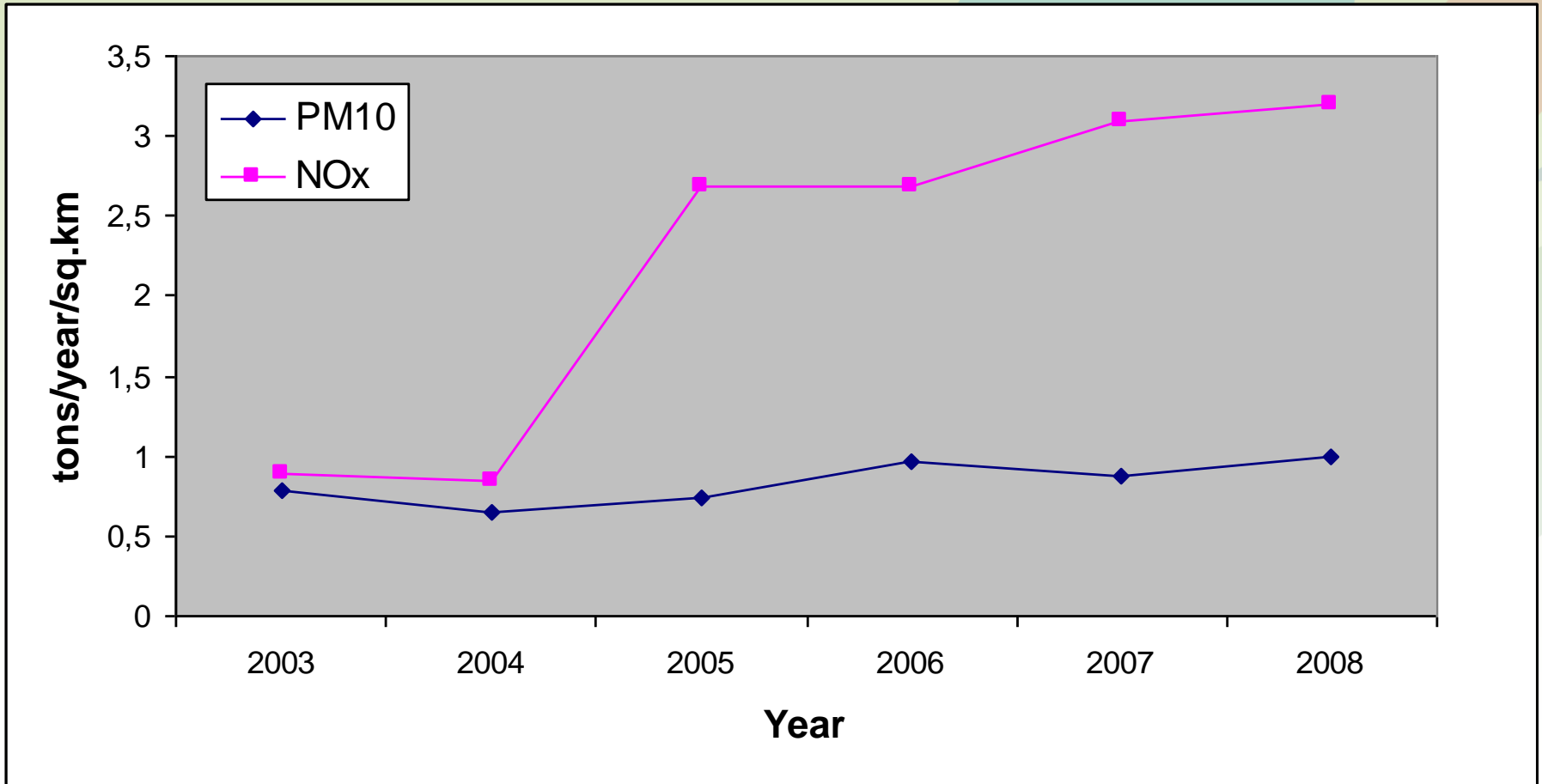


Baseline against which the likely effects of the P&P will be evaluated i.e. how P&P implementation will affect likely future development

Guiding principles

- SEA team needs to present sound judgments on the ongoing environmental and health changes which are relevant to the plan.
- It is important to concentrate on the key environmental and health issues that have been identified during the scoping
 - Often, deficiencies in analysing current situation and trends do not usually arise from the lack of data but rather from poorly targeted analyses that focus on irrelevant issues.
- The SEA practitioners need to gather just enough information to answer key questions related to the identified issues

Analysis *versus* Description



Likely future development

- The outline of the future trends is obviously constrained by numerous uncertainties: economic developments, technological progress, advancements in regulatory frameworks
- SEA experts are only required to outline the future trends as best as they can considering:
 - Past trends (**‘what happened’** so far)
 - Key driving forces behind these trends (**‘why it happened’**)
 - Main uncertainties

Methods, approaches and tools

Baseline analysis in SEA are often based on existing studies and reports e.g.

- State of the environment reports
- Data from general environmental and health monitoring
- Data from specific monitoring (programmes, projects)
- Previous SEAs, EIAs and other environmental analyses
- Special research projects

Certain analyses can be conducted within SEA

- Spatial analysis (GIS, maps overlays)
- Biodiversity surveys
- Emission modelling

Approach to scoping in SEA pilot

1. **Initial baseline analysis** regarding environmental and health topics related to solid waste management sector
2. Scoping workshop and consultations = **preliminary identification of the key issues**
3. **Preparing the draft Scoping report** i.e. further elaboration of baseline analysis and further specification of the key issues
4. Distribution of the draft Scoping report for comments
5. Finalizing the Scoping report

Questions or comments?

Thank you for your attention!