

Introduction to SEA, UNECE Protocol on SEA, and UNECE Secretariat

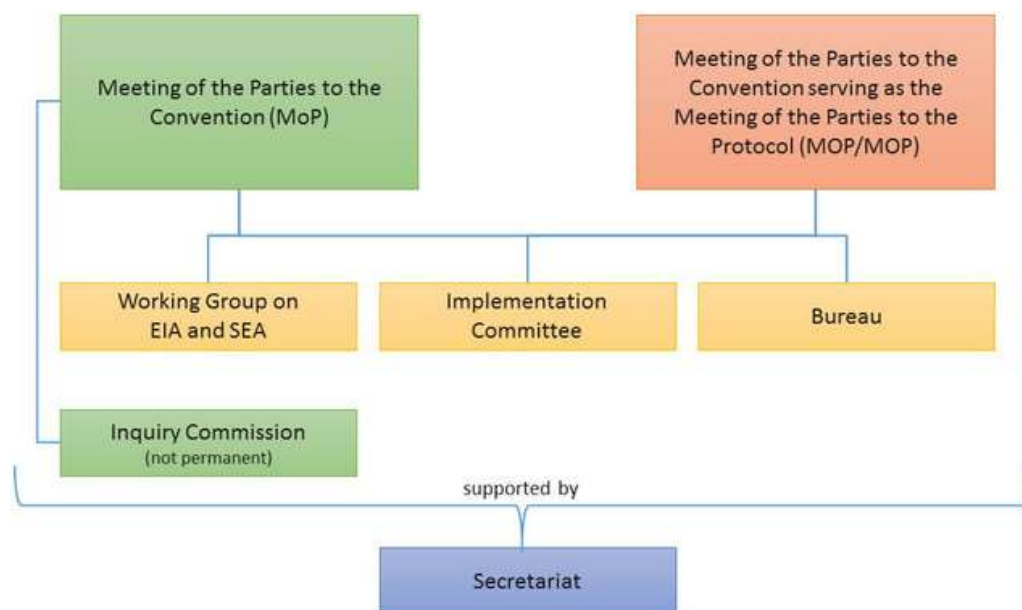
National Conference on SEA
October 25, 2016, Moscow,
Russian Federation



UNECE

UNECE SECRETARIAT

to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Contexts (Espoo Convention) & its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA)



- Promotes exchange of good practices
- Supports sub-regional cooperation & capacity-building
- Promotes ratification & application of SEA Protocol

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO RUSSIAN FEDERATION (supported by SIDA)



- Expert support to review the draft laws and decrees vis-à-vis the provisions of the Protocol (2014)
- Participation of Russian experts in the SEA study tour to the Czech Republic (Dec 2014)
- Round-table organized on “Major legislative dilemmas for implementing the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA in the ECE region and ways to address them in national legislation” (Jan 2015)
- Expert support to SEA of the Strategy of socio-economic development the Zabaikaliye Region of until 2030 (coordinated by the Ministry of Ecology and WWF, 2016)
- Participation of one Russian expert in the sub-regional conference on SEA legal reforms and the Training of Trainers on practical application of SEA (Nov 2015)
- National Conference on SEA, Moscow, October 25, 2016

UNECE and the SDGs

And the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda



No involvement
 Some involvement
 Medium involvement
 High involvement

“UNECE’s achievements have made it a go-to source for improving global public goods and services, with more than 100 countries beyond the UNECE region benefiting from its work”.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

WHAT IS SEA

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is an efficient procedural tool to **integrate environmental and health considerations** into plans, programmes as well as to policies and legislation alongside the economic and social considerations



WHAT SEA SHOULD DO

- Inform the decision-making through
 - a robust assessment of the likely environmental and health consequences, and of their relationship with the objectives and development proposals of the plan/programme;
 - identification of development alternatives; and
 - outcomes of the consultations;
- Enable consultations with governmental agencies as well as public in the preparation of plans, programmes and policies, including, if relevant, a transboundary aspect;
- Ensure that the results of assessment and debate are taken into account during decision-making and implementation.

SEA BENEFITS

- Provides for a high level of environmental and health protection
- Improves the quality of planning
- Facilitates identification of new development opportunities
- Helps to prevent costly mistakes
- Increases the efficiency of decision-making and strengthens governance

PRINCIPLES OF SEA APPLICATION

- Undertaken by the **authority responsible for planning**
- **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
- Individual SEA **adjusted to the document assessed**, considering its focus, planning process, structure of the document, governmental agencies and other stakeholders involved etc.

MAIN ACTORS IN SEA

- Planning agencies (sectoral ministries, regional and local authorities)
- Environmental and health authorities
- The public (natural or legal persons, civil society, non-governmental organizations, etc.)
- Decision-makers (government, parliament, regional or municipal councils)
- Other governmental institutions
- Consultants and experts

SEA AND PLANNING

Planning analyses and proposes development interventions

SEA examines individual outputs of the planning process and it may propose any necessary amendments

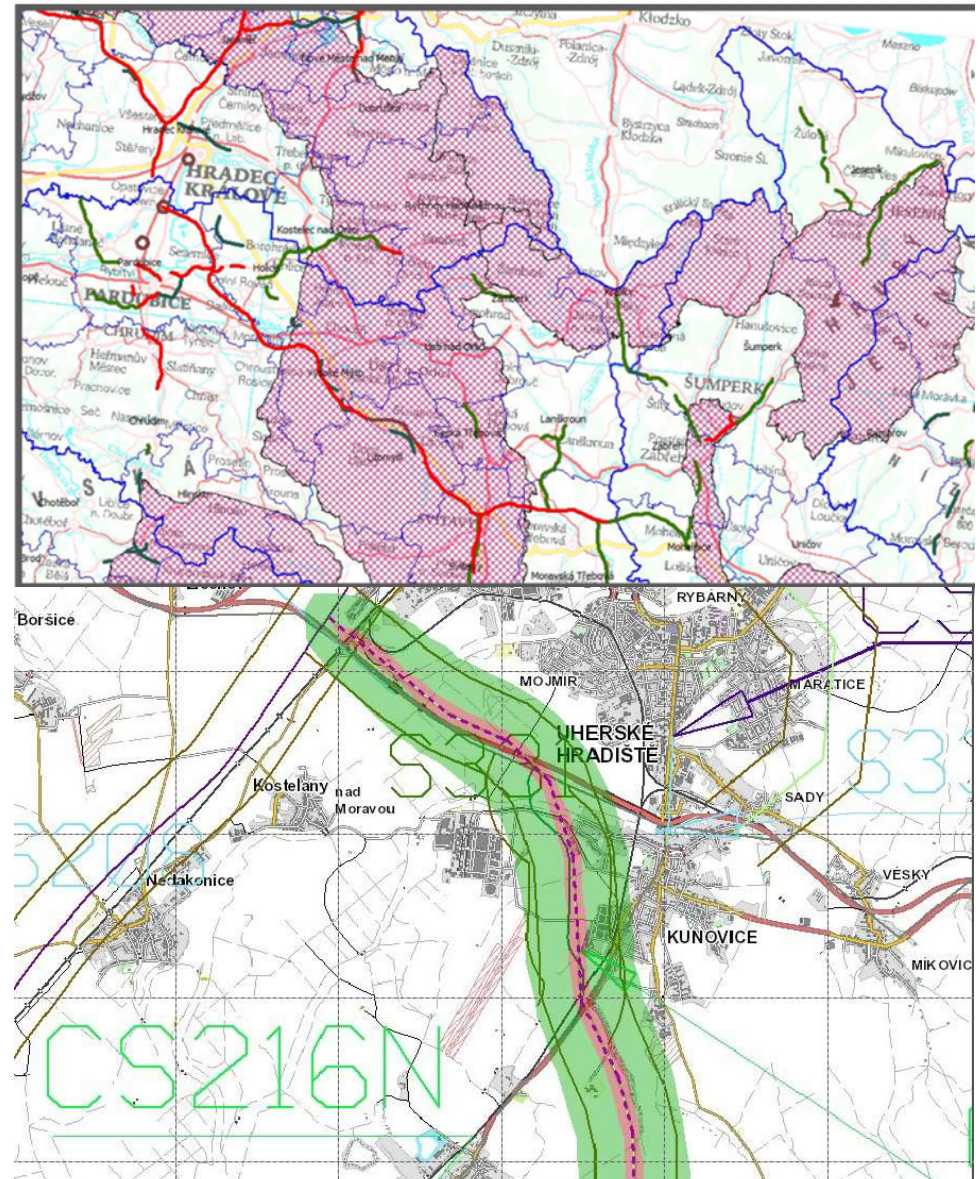
Optimally, SEA should be carried out in parallel with planning, when

- The lead process is the planning process, and
- SEA fits into the logic and steps of the planning process

Thus, both processes can be seen as mutually reinforcing tools within **one robust planning system for more sustainable development**

SEA AND EIA

- SEA is not a mega-EIA, it should not duplicate EIAs
- SEA ideally covers strategic issues of concern that cannot be effectively addressed through project-level decision-making
- SEA can facilitate EIA by providing 'guidance' for the project level development



PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)



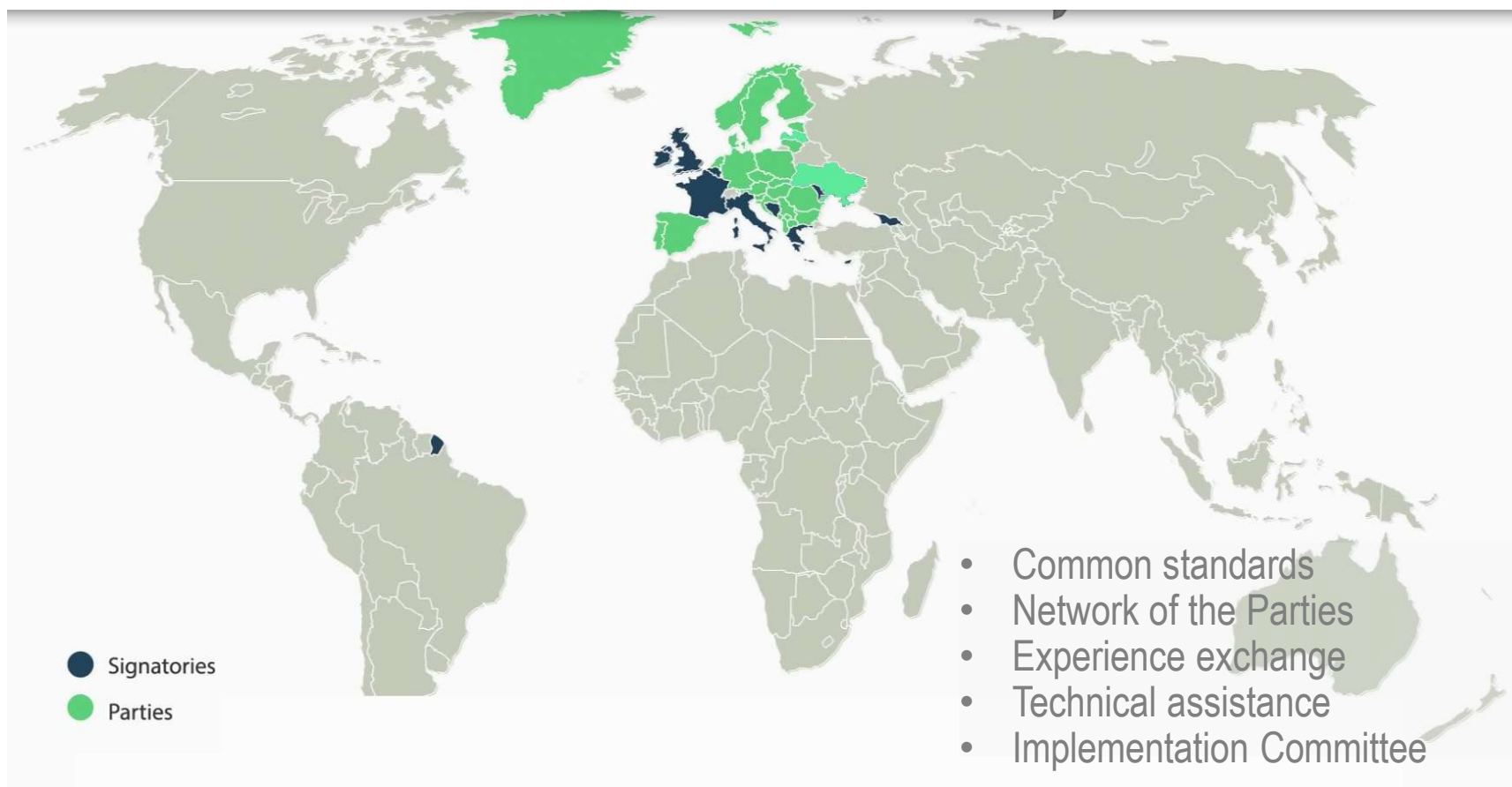
the advantages of a harmonized SEA procedure in the UNECE region and beyond

ENVIRONMENT



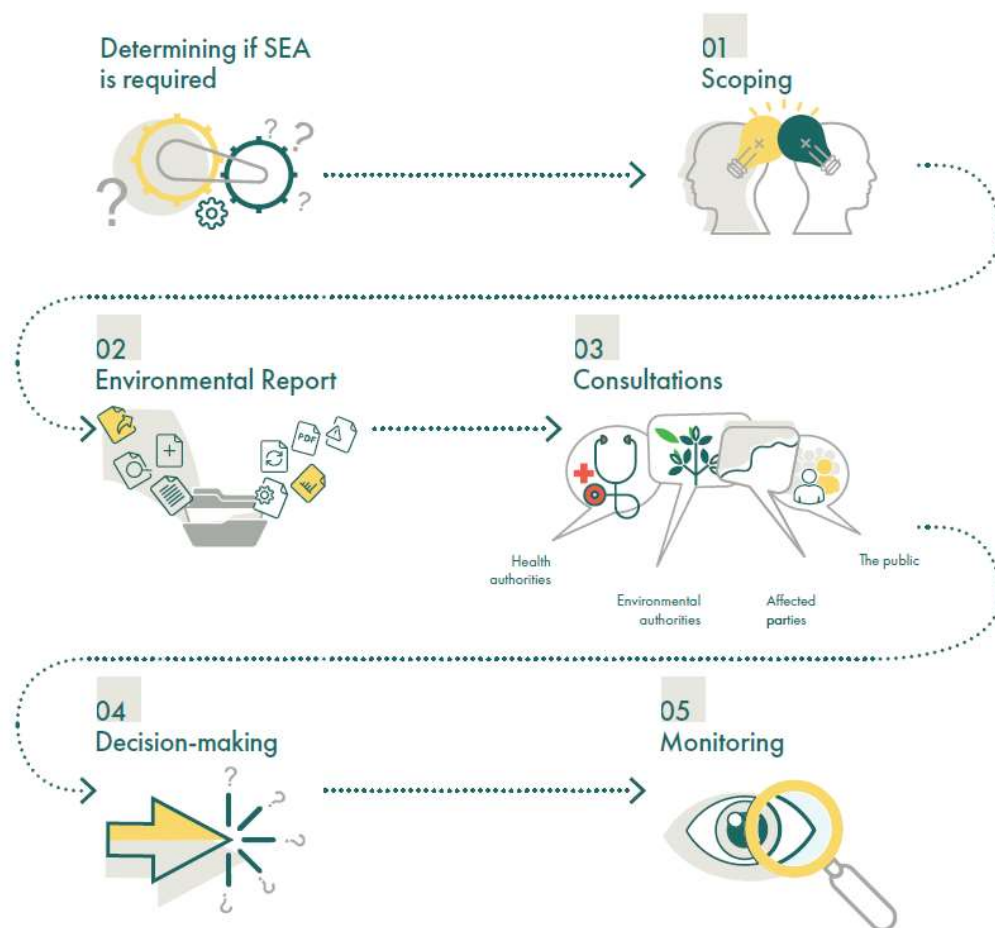
PROTOCOL ON SEA

Global instrument



PROCEDURE SET BY THE PROTOCOL ON SEA

mainstreams environmental and health considerations into development planning and policy making



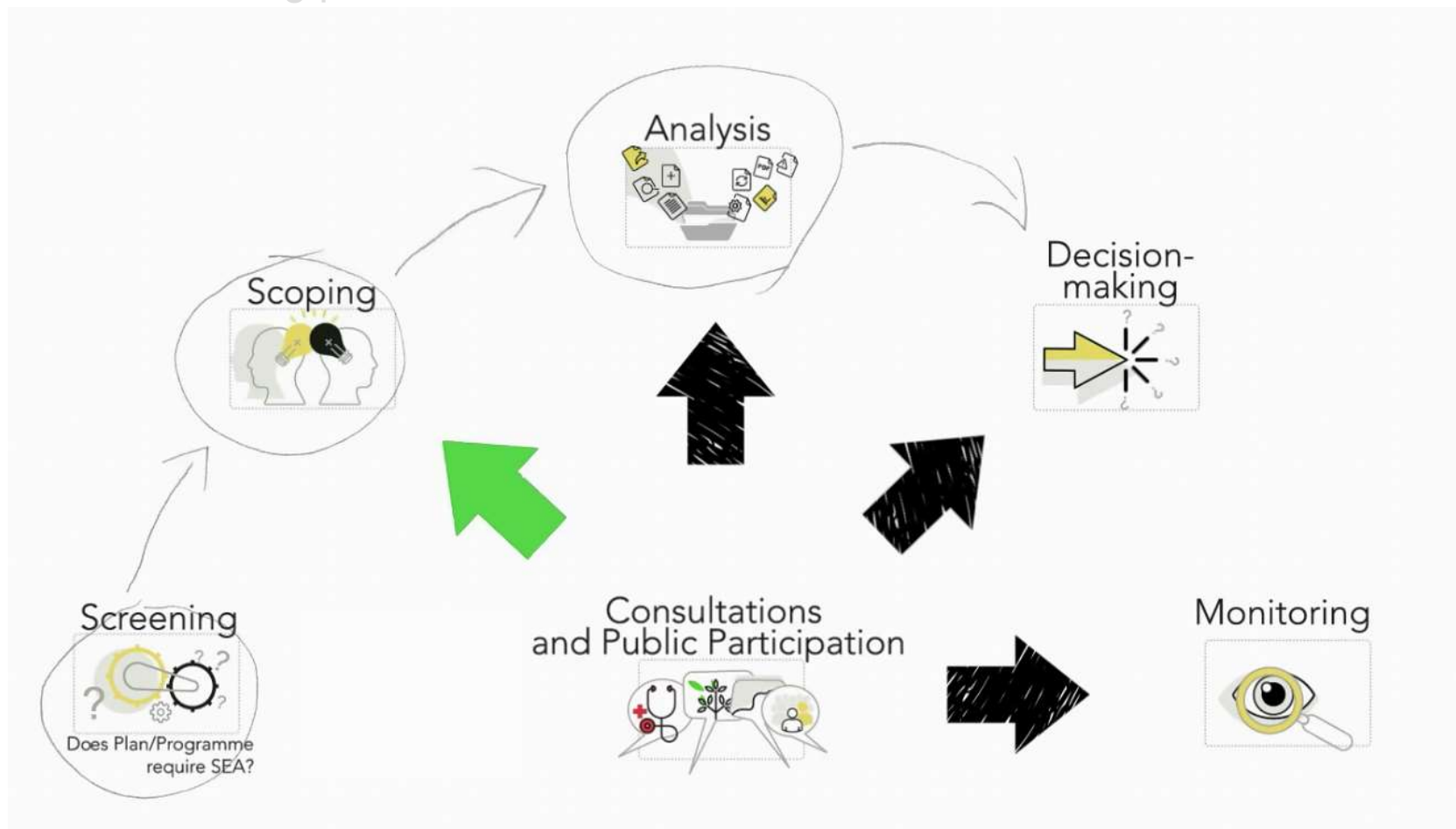
SEA IS OBLIGATORY FOR PLANS AND PROGRAMMES IN:

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Fisheries
- Energy
- Industry, including mining
- Transport
- Regional development
- Waste management
- Water management
- Telecommunications
- Tourism
- Town and country planning
- Land use



PROTOCOL ON SEA

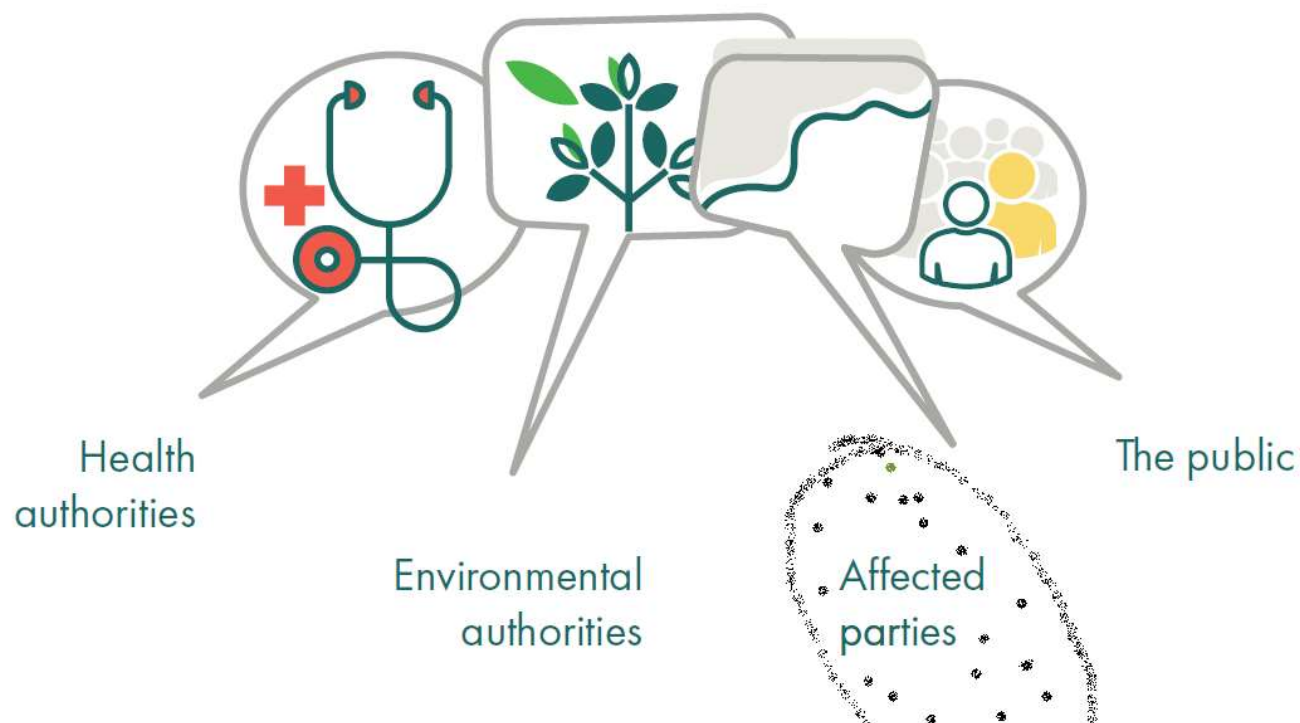
instrumental for good governance, better planning, transparency and trust in a decision making process



PROTOCOL ON SEA

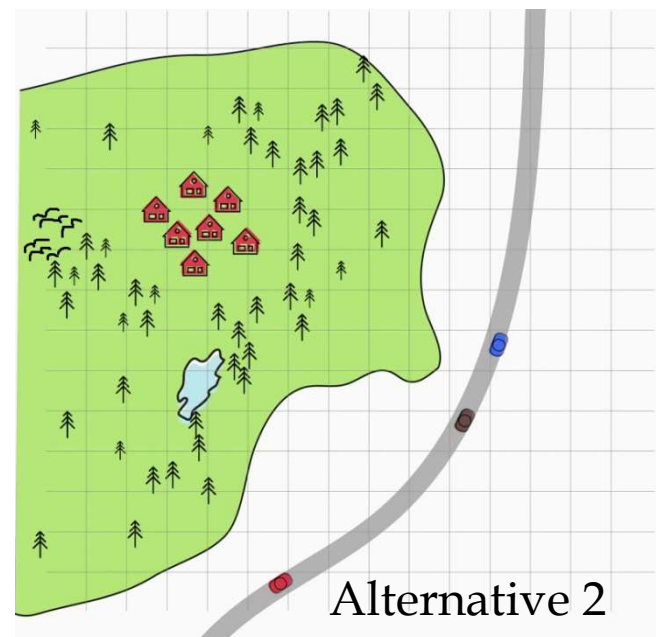
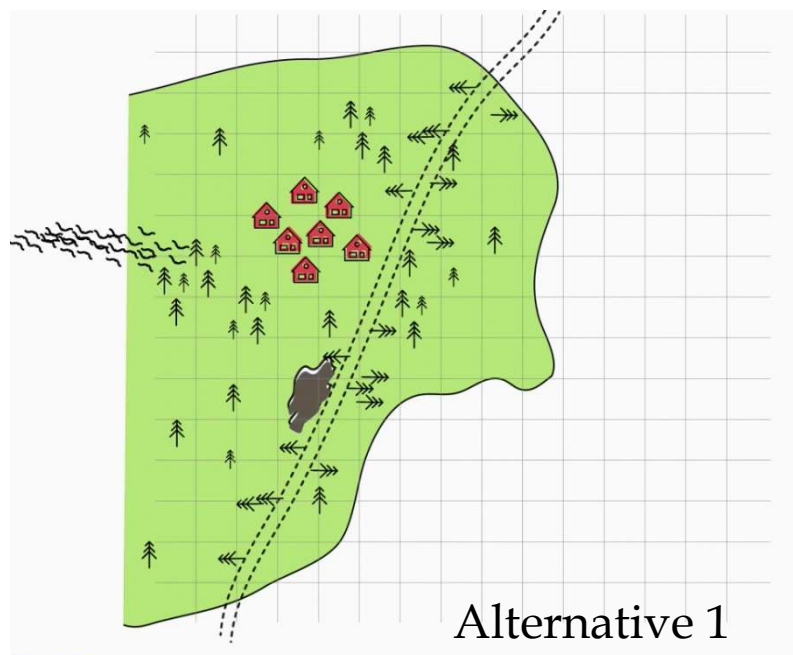
provide well-defined rules for information sharing and constructive consultations across the national borders

Consultations



PROTOCOL ON SEA

stimulates innovation in the business environment, prevents costly mistakes



Thank you for your attention!

Martin Smutny, EaP GREEN Project Coordinator, UNECE
martin.smutny@unece.org