



Training workshop on SEA scoping

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Introduction to the scoping stage of the SEA pilot on the Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan

Ms. Irma Melikishvili
Mr. Michal Musil

Scoping in SEA pilot project

The purpose of the scoping was to identify the key environmental (and public health) issues relevant to the Waste Management Strategy (and potentially to the Action Plan implementation) for undertaking further analytical steps on important issues.

The scoping included the following steps:

- Preliminary analysis of the environmental situation (**baseline analysis**) in Georgia with regards to water, soil, air quality, climate change, biodiversity, protected areas, geology, waste management, social and economical situation and public health;
- **Identification of the key environmental (and public health) issues** relevant to the Strategy (and thus potentially to the Action Plan) implementation;
- Identification of environmental (and health) policy objectives (**policy analysis**) relevant to the Strategy (and thus potentially to the Action Plan) implementation;
- Consultations with stakeholders.

Pilot SEA scoping stage

Step	Time	Note
Preparatory stage of the SEA Pilot		
Initiation of the pilot	June 2015	Preliminary discussions with the MENRP
Preparation of ToR and formation of national SEA Team	July 2015	Preparatory Stage
Initial scoping and baseline analysis training workshops (a Skype webinar)	5 August 2015	National SEA team members and invited participants from the MENRP
Draft separate parts of the scoping report	End of August – beginning of September 2015	Draft Waste Management Strategy (i.e. document elaborating general objectives of the waste management, and forming a framework for the Waste Management Action Plan) was available
First version of the draft scoping report	Middle of September 2015	The draft Waste Management Action Plan was available for the SEA team by 15 September 2015

Results of the scoping

- **Baseline analysis** related to given topics (water, air quality, climate change, soil quality, biodiversity and protected areas, geology, social-economical situation, waste and public health):
 - ✓ Brief description of the situation, highlighting the main problems and concerns, including long-term trends and drivers of those trends (where possible);
 - ✓ An overview of sensitive areas or hotspots relevant for a given topic (where relevant).
- **Key environmental and public health issues** (in the form of matrix) relevant to the Strategy for the assessment of potential environmental and health effects of the Action Plan.

Results of the scoping

- **Review of relevant policy and strategic documents and identification of the number of health and environmental objectives** to prepare framework for evaluating **compliance of the Action Plan with the relevant environmental and health objectives**;
- ✓ Information on relevant **legislation and policy framework** relevant to environmental, health and socio/economic aspects;
- ✓ List of relevant **environmental, health and social targets and objectives** established on the national level from existing strategic documents;
- ✓ Analysis of **potential synergies and conflicts between relevant environmental and health objectives and main priorities of the Waste Management Strategy** in a simple matrix.
- **Main gaps in existing information and data** important for the SEA
- **Initial recommendations**
- **Review of Stakeholders**

Scoping Report content checklist

Content of scoping report according to the draft EAC	Content of the scoping report
information about the planning authority;	+
a brief description of strategic document;	+
information on the scale of possible impact on the environment and public health;	+
information on the scale and possible impact on the protected areas;	+
information on the potential transboundary impact on the environment and public health.	+
the aims and nature of proposed strategic document, and possible alternatives including zero alternative	+/-
the information to what extent the strategic document sets a framework for the future projects and activities with regard to location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating natural resources	+/-
the types of environmental impacts to be examined and reported in SEA report;	+
its relation to other existing or planned strategic documents;	+
baseline surveys and investigations which should be carried out in SEA and methods and criteria to be used for prediction and evaluation of impact;	+
information of measures, which should be considered for mitigating, preventing and compensating negative impact in case of implementing strategic document;	+
information on those people who might be impacted by strategic document;	+
information on those agencies which can provide comments and views on strategic document within their competence.	+

Main challenges for elaborating the Scoping report

- **A lack of data on** the environmental and health conditions
- **Insufficient information** to identify the baseline trends in relation to some issues on a given territory and describe specific trends and effects on the particular area
- **Limited time** to conduct baseline analysis
- **Abstract nature** of the Strategy not allowing for selecting reasonable and feasible alternatives to be analyzed

SEA pilot scoping stage

Step	Time	Note
SEA Scoping Procedures of the SEA Pilot		
Public consultation meeting on draft scoping report	22 September 2015	National stakeholders were invited to the meeting.
Receiving comments on draft SEA scoping report	2 October 2015	Participants of the meeting
Incorporation of received comments in the draft scoping report	October 2015	SEA Team
First opinion note to the planners	10 October 2015	Some of the recommendation were included in the Action Plan
Finalization of SEA scoping report	December 2015	
Submission of SEA scoping report to the MENRP	Early January 2016	Georgian version of the SEA scoping report was sent to EIP Department
Overall duration of the scoping stage	5 months (including 2 months for finalizing the report)	Experts had less than a month to prepare individual reports including baseline analysis and policy analysis review



Partnership for Environment and Growth



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Main challenges of SEA pilot scoping stage

- The SEA pilot scoping stage was initiated at an early stage of the Action Plan preparation, when its draft was not available yet
- Scoping stage was based on the Waste Management Strategy (i.e. document elaborating general objectives of the waste management sector)
- The first version of the draft Action Plan was provided to the SEA experts only in September 2015
- SEA team had to work on different versions of the Action Plan under time pressure to produce the scoping report
- It was not possible to follow the procedural scheme of the draft law due to the limited time available for the SEA scoping stage
- Lack of experience of the national team in conducting SEA
- Lack of cooperation from the side of the planning team due to limited time available to them

Questions or comments?

Thank you for your attention!