



The SEA Report

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The SEA Report

” ...identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental, including health, effects of implementing the plan or programme and its reasonable alternatives... Each Party shall ensure that environmental reports are of **sufficient quality** to meet the requirements of this Protocol. “

UNECE SEA Protocol

SEA Report - Contents (1)

UNECE SEA Protocol states the SEA Report should contain:

- Non technical summary.
- Contents and main objectives of the plan/program and its relationship to other plans/programs.
- Current environment conditions, projected into the future.
- Environmental characteristics likely to be significantly affected.
- Existing environmental problems of relevance.
- Environmental objectives (national and international) of relevance to the plan/ program, and the way those objectives have been taken into account during its preparation.

SEA Report - Contents (2)

- Likely significant effects:
 - human health, flora, fauna, biodiversity, soil, climate, air, water, landscape, natural sites, material assets, cultural heritage and the interaction among these factors.
 - secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short-, medium- and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.
- Measures to prevent, reduce, or mitigate impacts.
- Alternative dealt with: how selected; how assessed; any difficulties (technical etc.) in compiling required information.
- Monitoring arrangements.
- Significant transboundary impacts.

Assessing likely effects

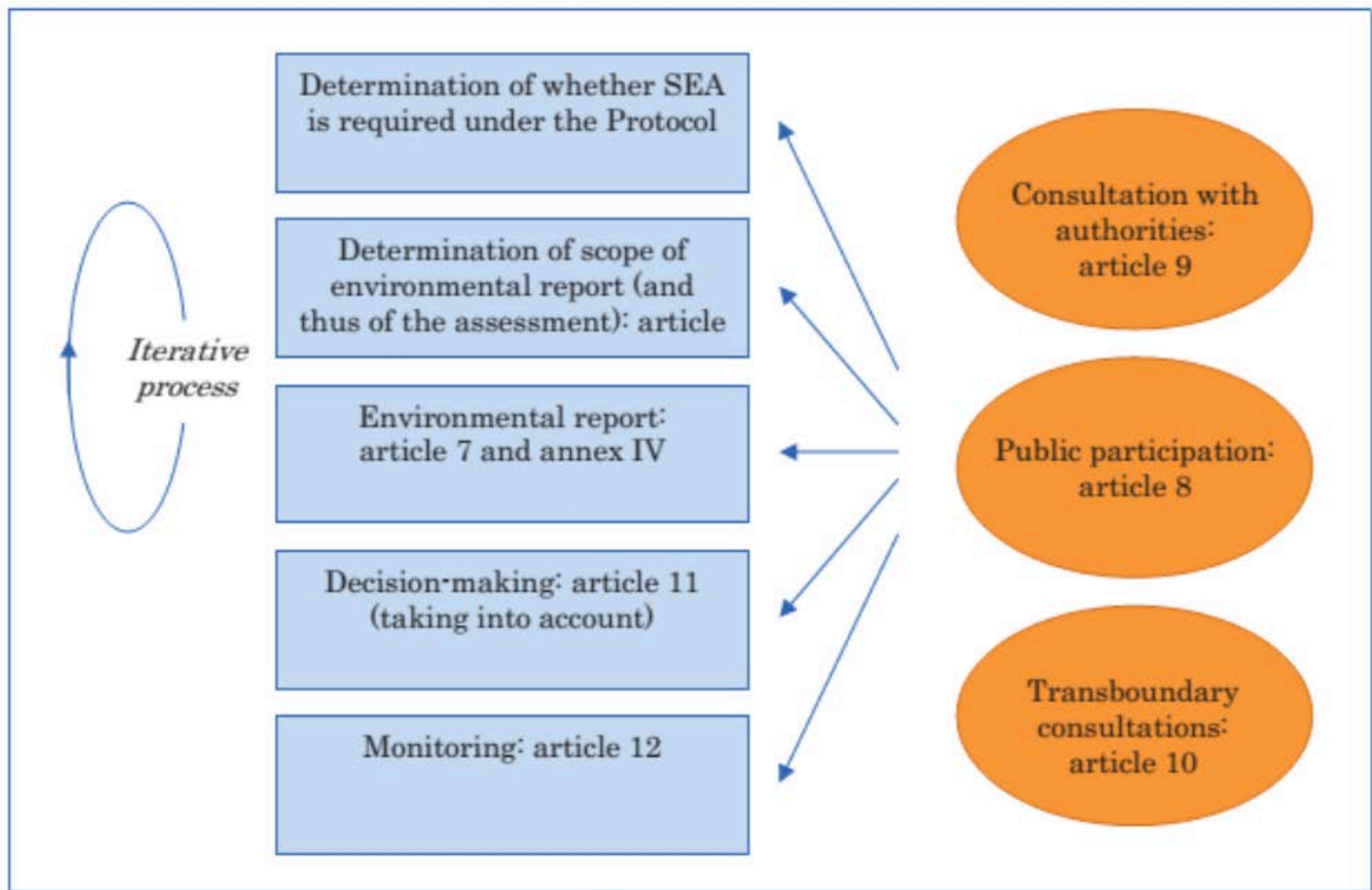
Two levels

- Policy analysis: Evaluation of synergies or conflicts between objectives and priorities of the strategic document and environmental objectives or priorities.
- Analysis of effects: Assessment of effects of the specific development proposals included in the strategic document on the key environmental issues identified in scoping.

Consultation on the SEA Report

Consultation required during at least two stages:

1. Consult designated authorities on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report.
2. SEA Report and draft plan:
 - Nationally: made available to designated authorities and ‘the public’: early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion.
 - Transboundary impacts: forward reports to other countries potentially affected.



Case examples: England and Wales

- For land-use planning, it is common practice to produce a stand-alone scoping report prior to the SEA Report.

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'Mole Valley' District Council, 2013

Structure of (main) SEA Report

- Non technical summary.
- Background
- Assessment methodology.
- Scoping report summary.
- Assessment of relevant alternatives.
- Scoping the need for further assessments.
- Assessment chapters (different policy types).
- Key findings.
- Monitoring framework.
- Next steps.

SEA Report: Thames Water Draft Drought Plan 2016

- Introduction.
- Policy context.
- Environmental baseline.
- Methodology.
- Assessment of drought options (demand side and supply side options).
- Cumulative assessment.
- Mitigation and monitoring.
- Quality assurance.

Policy analysis – example

- Drought management policy can address both:
 - Demand side (water usage in industry and homes)
 - Water supply (reduction in pipeline leakages, new reservoirs, etc)
- However, often strategic planning often emphasises supply/production side.
- SEA initial policy analysis may recommend also to include priorities regarding water use efficiency, how to change water use behaviours (showers instead of baths), etc.

Reporting on Consultation

From	Section/ Paragraph/ Page	Comment	Nature of Response	Torbay Council proposed actions and additional notes
Natural England	N/A	Neighbourhood Plans will need SA/HRA, to ensure their policies and proposals are fully informed by the further level of detail and information that will become available, which Council has a responsibility for.	Recommendations	The Council has already offer SA/HRA support to the three Neighbourhood Forums
Environment Agency	N/A	Sustainability Appraisal should make reference to the WFD and to the South West RBMP which identifies measures that will achieve WFD requirements in water bodies.	Objection	The SA will make an explicit reference to WFD and RBMP as required
RSPB	N/A	Growth level could harm wildlife – particularly impact on Cirl Buntings	Objection	The SA will make a reference to cirl bunting in the subsequent stage of the SA as required

Summary of responses to written consultation responses received during consultation on draft SEA report.

From	Section/ Paragraph/ Page	Comment	Nature of Response	Torbay Council proposed actions and additional notes
Torquay Neighbourhood Forum	SA Report	Accepted – subject to amendment of the Local Plan as suggested	Conditional Support	Any significant changes made to the draft Local Plan will be subject to further SA assessment.
Paignton Neighbourhood Forum	SA Report	Accepted – subject to amendment of the Local Plan as suggested	Conditional Support	Any significant changes made to the draft Local Plan will be subject to further SA assessment.
Cockington Forum	Section 7.3	Care should be taken not to imply that housing development in Cockington is appropriate	Objection	Noted
Boyer Planning	N/A	As currently drafted, the Sustainability Appraisal accompanying the Local Plan cannot be considered to have assessed reasonable alternatives. Alongside a higher housing provision, this needs to be remedied in future iterations or it will risk being found <i>unsound</i> .	Objection	Agree, the 10,000 dwelling alternatives has already been assessed in the previous stage of the SA but not published, there is a need to mention it in the subsequent stages to avoid the risk of been found <i>unsound</i> .
	Paragraph 8.1.1	The Sustainability Appraisal identifies that: <i>"the Plan will enable some of the future housing needs to be accommodated at a level that takes into account the environment"</i> . In adopting such an approach, the emerging Local Plan places too great an emphasis on environmental protection at the expense of meeting the objectively assessed level of housing need and demand as required by para. 159 of the NPPF. In this context the Plan cannot be considered as being <i>positively prepared or consistent with national policy</i> .	Objection	Disagree, there is no contradiction between the SA statement and paragraph 159 of the NPPF and therefore no action is required.

Thank you for your attention!