



ევროკავშირი  
საქართველოსთვის  
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# SEA Pilot Project to Support Spatial Planning in Gurjaani Municipality Training in Strategic Environmental Assessment

Doug Hickman  
Nova Scotia, Canada

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# What is Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

## Definition

*A procedure to examine and generally forecast potential impacts on the environment and human health arising from the implementation of a strategic document (Environmental Assessment Code of Georgia)*

## Purpose of SEA

General purpose of SEA is to:

- Assess how plans, policies and/or programs may impact the environment, as defined
- Identify measures to address negative environmental effects and promote positive effects.

SEA is key tool to support sustainable development

SEA is promoted by international organizations including United Nations agencies, EU international financial institutions and others



# How is Strategic Environmental Assessment Different from Environmental Impact Assessment?

Strategic Environmental Assessment	Environmental Impact Assessment
Focus is on policy, programmes and plans	Focus is on specific projects
Addresses the effects of documents that orient development, but does not address specific developments	Addresses specific developments – but not the factors that stimulate or orient developments
Supports sustainable development at landscape/regional/national level	Supports environmental sustainability at property/project level
Addresses activities undertaken over multiple years/decades	Addresses activities undertaken over project-specific timeframes
Provides “early warning” of environmental effects of plans	Identifies specific environmental effects of specific projects.
Broad analysis of general trends over time	Narrow analysis of specific project impacts

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# Strategic Environmental Assessment in Europe

## Main Structure of SEA

**Screening** Determination of whether the plan falls under the SEA legislation

**Scoping** Defining the boundaries of investigation, assessment and assumptions required

### SEA Report

Overview of the environment and public health in the relevant area

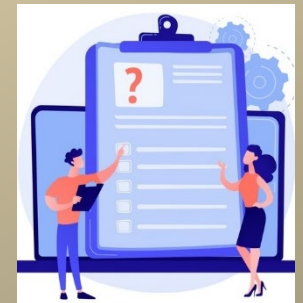
Determination of the likely effects of a proposed plan on the environment and public health, usually in terms of *direction of change* rather than firm figures

Determination of transboundary effects

Measures to prevent, reduce or mitigate negative effects

**Public Participation** Informing and consulting the public, and documenting the public comment and inputs.

*In Georgia:* No specific SEA requirement to monitor the effects of a plan





## Benefits of SEA Application to Spatial Planning

Provides a tool for the first step in explicitly planning and designing sustainable development at the level of the spatial plan

Holistic analysis of direction of change highlights the cumulative impact of many small negative effects on environment/public health that do not individually contravene law or policy

Effects of a plan on environment/public health are considered pro-actively in advance – not after implementation of a plan when it may be too late or very expensive to address an effect

Public environmental/health priorities are integrated into planning from the outset and help to shape the strategic vision for a community

Demonstrates coherence of spatial plan with qualitative and quantitative national objectives and goals



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# Application of SEA to Spatial Plans: Lessons Learned

- **Ensure a good integration with planning processes**  
SEA informs planning and must be integrated in the planning process
- **Customize content to context**  
No two spatial plans are the same; SEA processes may be the same, but planning priorities and SEA content will differ between plans
- **Evaluate draft concepts and plans against sustainability objectives, principles and criteria**  
Evaluation should be objective based on established goals; the basis for evaluation should be clearly communicated
- **Be open to public and stakeholder input**  
Spatial plans serve communities, not planners. Public/stakeholder priorities should be considered and reasons for acting/not acting on these priorities should be documented



## Methodological Considerations: Lessons Learned

- **Be clear on priorities for the SEA Report**  
Not everything is a priority; the job of “Scoping” is to rapidly separate the more important from the less important so that the SEA Report can focus on the more important
- **SEA should “paint a picture” of the probable environmental consequences of plans**  
In particular, cumulative and indirect impacts of plans may have greater environmental effects than direct, easily quantifiable impacts
- **SEA outputs may be semi-quantitative and directional**  
The precise effects of plans cannot always be fully quantified, but can usually be numerically represented

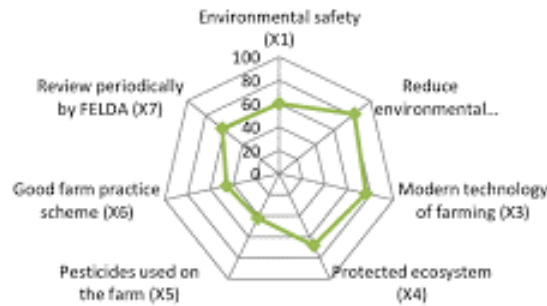
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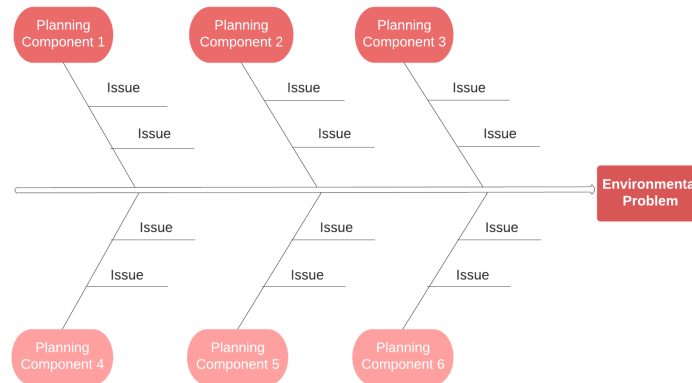
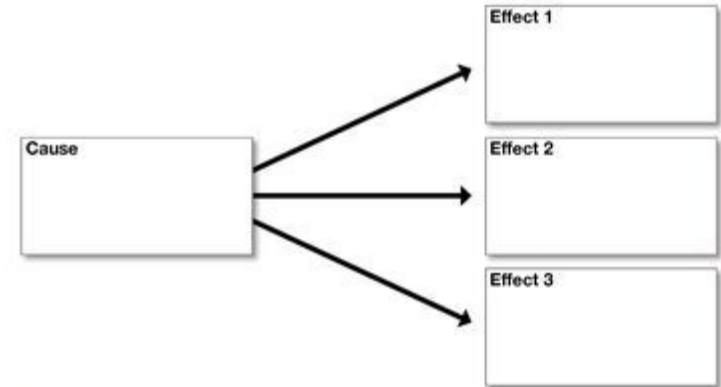
# Data Presentation Templates - Examples

Presentation is important:

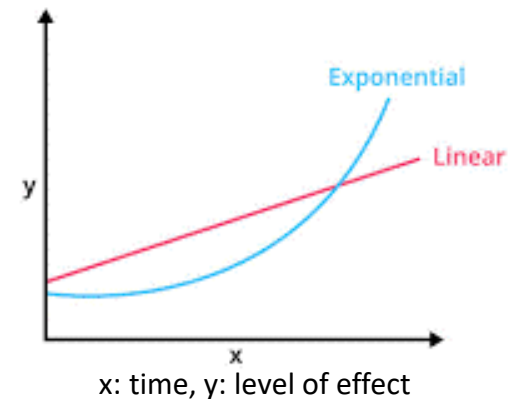
- Use pictures to present data and conclusions
- Important findings can be communicated even if they cannot be quantified
- Graphic presentation has high impact



One Cause and Multiple Effects Diagram



Exponential vs. Linear Growth



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# Case Example: SEA to Support Greater Baku Regional Development Plan

SEA Undertaken in 3 phases:

- Scoping
- Assessment of effects
- Monitoring, evaluation and institutional strengthening



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## Phase 1 Outputs

Identification of 59 major activities that potentially or actually cause serious stress on natural, human and cultural environments, and their impacts.

Identification of key needs to achieve environmental sustainability in Greater Baku:

- Improved legal and institutional frameworks, particularly for environmental planning
- Enhanced capacities linked with financial frameworks
- Thematic priorities for immediate and continuing actions

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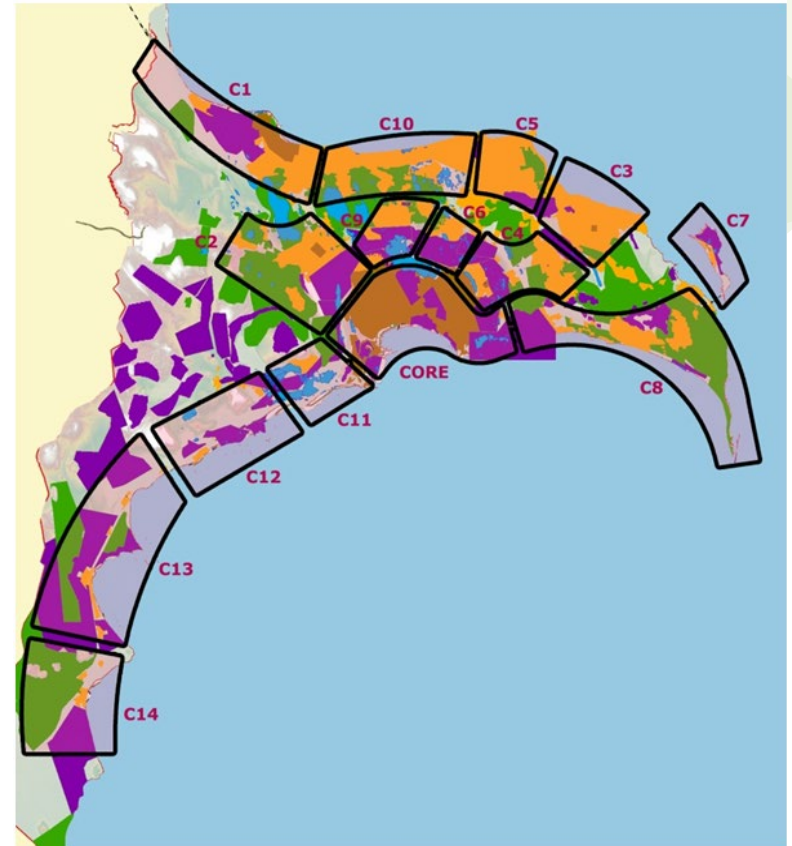
## Phase 2 Outputs

Environmental priorities in spatial planning of each of 15 “development clusters” address:

- Natural environment
- Social environment
- Cultural environment

For preferred development option:

- Preparation of environmental fiche to guide development in each cluster
- Identification of environmental constraints to development, and mitigation measures to be taken



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## Phase 3 Outputs

Tools to integrate environmental sustainability into spatial planning in the GBRDP:

- Terms of reference for environmental screening and analysis of development proposals
- International procedures, norms and standards for addressing environmental issues related to implementation of the GBRDP
- Identification of international good practice in environmental planning and spatial development
- Integration of environmental planning function into spatial planning activities

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