

Questionnaire for the report of Republic of Armenia on the implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment in the period 2019–2021

Information on the focal point for the Protocol

1. Name and contact information: Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia

Information on the point of contact for the Protocol

2. Name and contact information (if different from above): Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia

Information on the person responsible for preparing the report

3. Country: Republic of Armenia
4. Surname: Grigoryan, Kharatova
5. Forename: Elyanora, Larisa
6. Institution: Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia
7. Postal address: 0010
8. Email address: interdpt@env.am, interdpt@yahoo.com
9. Telephone number: +37411 818 510, 37491 48 48 20
10. Date on which report was completed: 22.04.2022

Part one

Current legal and administrative framework for the implementation of the Protocol

In this part, please describe the legal, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Protocol. This part should describe the framework for your country's implementation, and not its experience in the application of, the Protocol.

Please do not reproduce the text of the legislation itself but summarize and explicitly refer to the relevant provisions transposing the text of the Protocol (for example, Strategic Environmental Assessment Law of the Republic of ..., article 5 (3) of Government Resolution No. ..., para. ... item...)

Article 3

General provisions

I.3. According to article 3 (1) of the Protocol: “Each Party shall take the necessary legislative, regulatory and other appropriate measures to implement the provisions of this Protocol within a clear, transparent framework.” Please provide the main legislative, regulatory and other measures your country has adopted to implement the Protocol (art. 3, (1)) (more than one option may apply):

(a) Law on strategic environmental assessment (please provide exact title/reference number/year/access link, if any):

Law of Republic of Armenia “On environmental impact assessment and expertise” was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia 21.06.2014 (ՀՕ-110-Ն)

(b) Strategic environmental assessment provisions are transposed into another law/other laws (please specify, providing title/reference number/year/access link, if any):

SEA provisions, included in other(s) law(s) (please specify): SEA provisions included in Law of Republic of Armenia “On environmental impact assessment and expertise” was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia 21.06.2014 (ՀՕ-110-Ն)

(c) Regulation (please indicate title/reference number/year/access link, if any):

(d) Administrative rule (please indicate title/reference number/year/access link, if any):

(e) Other (please specify):

Please explain:

Article 4

Field of application concerning plans and programmes

I.4.1 Which plans and programmes referred to in article 4 (2)–(4) of the Protocol are set out in your country's legislation?

Fundamental/conceptual documents – /Law/ Draft document that has possible impact on environment (strategy, concept, projects, plans for using natural resources, programmes, plans, documents of city planning (subpara 6, para 1, art. 4, chapter 1).

List the types of plans and programmes that require strategic environmental assessment in your country's legislation and provide references to the relevant legislation:

Plans and programmes prepared for:

Agriculture

Forestry

Fisheries No

Energy

Industry including mining

Transport

Regional development

Waste management

Water management

Telecommunications

Tourism No

Town and country planning

Land use No

Other (including those falling under article 4 (3)–(4)), please list

Please explain:

I.4.2. Explain how you define whether a plan or programme “set the framework for future development consent” (art. 4 (2)):

Fundamental documents of the relevant fields: social-economic, energy, urban planning, transport and communication, agriculture, mining industry, industrial sector, health protection, environmental protection and forestry, waste management, sectors of water management, tourism.

There is no selection mechanism, all plans and programmes listed above are not subject to SEA according to the law of the Republic of Armenia.

I.4.3. Explain how the term “plans and programmes ... which determine the use of small areas at local level” (art. 4 (4)) is interpreted in your country’s legislation:

In the legislation of the Republic of Armenia the term “plans and programmes” is defined as fundamental/conceptual documents (subpara 6, para 1, art. 4, chapter 1).

I.4.4. Explain how you identify in your legislation a “minor modification” to a plan or programme (art. 4 (4)):

“Minor modification” of plans and programmes is not regulated by the law of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 5 Screening

I.5.1 According to article 5 (1): “Each Party shall determine whether plans and programmes referred to in article 4, paragraphs 3 and 4, are likely to have significant environmental, including health, effects either through a case-by-case examination or by specifying types of plans and programmes or by combining both approaches.”

How do you determine which plans and programmes referred to in article 4 (3)–(4) should be subject to a strategic environmental assessment? Please specify:

(a) On a case-by-case basis

- (b) By specifying types of plans and programmes
- (c) By using a combination of (a) and (b) above
- (d) Other (please specify):

Please explain:

According to our legislation, all plans and programmes are subject to SEA, however on practice the choice is made on a case-by-case basis.

I.5.2. According to article 5 (2), each Party shall ensure that the environmental and health authorities are consulted during screening.

Please explain whether your legislation provides for consultation with environmental and health authorities at the screening stage and, if so, how.

- (a) On a case-by-case basis:
- (b) As defined in the national legislation:
- (c) Other (please specify)

Please explain:

Information to be included in the screening is defined based on results of expertise of application of pre-assessment/screening (art.16, chapter 4, the Law of the Republic of Armenia)

I.5.3. According to article 5 (3): “To the extent appropriate, each Party shall endeavour to provide opportunities for the participation of the public concerned in the screening of plans and programmes under this article.”

Please indicate whether you provide opportunities for the public concerned to participate in screening of plans and programmes in your legislation and, if so, how.

No

Yes

Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) By sending written comments to the relevant authority
- (b) By completing a questionnaire
- (c) By taking part in a public hearing
- (d) Other (please specify):

Please explain:

By submitting written comments to consultants/experts on SEA or persons dealing with preparation of plans and programmes. All these issues are regulated by the Order of Government PA N1325.

Article 6 Scoping

I.6.1 According to article 6 (1): “Each Party shall establish arrangements for the determination of the relevant information to be included in the environmental report in accordance with article 7, paragraph 2.”

Please explain how you determine the relevant information to be included in the environmental report.

Information to be included in environmental report is defined based on results of expertise of application of pre-assessment/screening (art.16, chapter 4, the Law of the Republic of Armenia)

I.6.2. According to article 6 (2), each Party shall ensure that the environmental and health authorities are consulted during scoping.

Please explain whether your country's legislation provides for consultation with environmental and health authorities at the scoping stage and, if so, how.

(a) On a case-by-case basis:

(b) As defined in the national legislation:

By the law of the Republic of Armenia it is regulated and takes into account the opinion of relevant authorities, the opinion of health authorities is mandatory, in accordance with para 4 of the Order of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 399-Ն of 9.04.2015

(c) Other (please specify)

Please explain:

I.6.3 According to article 6 (3): "To the extent appropriate, each Party shall endeavour to provide opportunities for the participation of the public concerned when determining the relevant information to be included in the environmental report."

Please indicate whether your country's legislation provides opportunities for the public concerned to participate in scoping of plans and programmes and, if so, how.

No

Yes

The law foresees the conduction of public hearings of plans and programmes in 4 steps from preliminary to concluding step.

Please specify (more than one option may apply):

(a) By sending written comments to the relevant authority

The deadline for receiving written comments and suggestions of the public is defined by the Order by the Government of the Republic of Armenia

(b) By completing a questionnaire

(c) **By taking part in a public hearing**

There are 4 public hearings conducted

(d) Other (please specify):

Please explain:

Article 7 Environmental report

I.7.1. According to article 7 (2): "The environmental report shall, in accordance with the determination under article 6, identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental, including health, effects of implementing the plan or programme and its reasonable alternatives."

How do you determine "reasonable alternatives"? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

(a) On a case-by-case basis

(b) As defined in the national legislation (please specify):

(c) **By using a combination of (a) and (b) above**

Subpara 5, para 1, art. 18, chapter 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia

(d) Other (please specify):

Please explain:

I.7.2. According to article 7 (3): “Each Party shall ensure that environmental reports are of sufficient quality to meet the requirements of this Protocol.”

How do you ensure that quality of the reports is sufficient? Please specify:

(a) The competent authority checks the information provided and ensures that it includes all information required under annex IV as a minimum before making it available for comments

Para 3, art.19, chapter 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia

(b) By using quality checklists

(c) There are no specific procedures or mechanisms

(d) Other (please specify):

Please explain:

Article 8 Public participation

I.8.1. According to article 8 (2): “Each Party, using electronic media or other appropriate means, shall ensure the timely public availability of the draft plan or programme and the environmental report.”

How do you notify the public and make the draft plans and programmes and the environmental report available? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

(a) Through public notices in printed media

(b) Through electronic media

(c) Placing copies in public offices for the public

(d) Through other means:

Please explain:

The issue is regulated by the Order of the Government N 1325-N

I.8.2. According to article 8 (3): “Each Party shall ensure that the public concerned, including relevant non-governmental organizations, is identified for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 4.”

How do you identify the public concerned? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

(a) Based on the geographical location of the plans and programmes

(b) Based on the environmental effects (significance, extent, accumulation, etc.) of the plans and programmes

(c) By making the information available to all members of the public and letting them identify themselves as the public concerned

(d) By other means:

Please explain: **The issue is regulated by the Order of the Government N 1325-N**

I.8.3. According to article 8 (4):“Each Party shall ensure that the public referred to in paragraph 3 has the opportunity to express its opinion on the draft plan or programme and the environmental report within a reasonable time frame.”

How can the public concerned express its opinion on the draft plan and programme and the environmental report? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) **By sending comments to the relevant authority/focal point**
- (b) **By completing a questionnaire**
- (c) **By taking part in a public hearing**
- (d) **Other (please specify): it is possible verbally**

Please explain: **The issue is regulated by the Order of the Government N 1325-N**

I.8.4. According to article 8 (4):“The public [concerned, including relevant non-governmental organizations] has the opportunity to express its opinion ... within a reasonable time frame.”

Do you have a definition (for example, a number of days) in your legislation of the term “within a reasonable time frame”? Please specify:

- (a) No, it is defined on a case-by-case basis
- (b) Yes (please provide the definition): **By the Order of the Government N1325-N of 19.11.2014 the deadline is precisely defined.**
- (c) Other (please specify):

Please explain your selection:

Article 9

Consultation with environmental and health authorities

I.9.1. According to article 9 (1): “Each Party shall designate the authorities to be consulted which, by reason of their specific environmental or health responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental, including health, effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.”

How are the environmental and health authorities identified? Please specify:

The law regulates and takes into account the opinion of relevant authorities, the opinion of health authority is mandatory, in accordance with para 4 of the Order of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 399-H of 9.04.2015

- (a) **On a case-by-case basis: the competent authority according to para 2, part 3, art. 16 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia identifies the participants of the process on the preliminary stage of conducting expertise.**
- (b) **As defined in the national legislation:**
- (c) Other (please specify)

Please explain:

I.9.2. According to article 9 (4): “Each Party shall determine the detailed arrangements for informing and consulting the environmental and health authorities referred to in paragraph 1.”

How are the arrangements for informing and consulting the environmental and health authorities determined? Please specify:

- (a) On a case-by-case basis:
- (b) **As defined in the national legislation:**
- (c) Other (please specify)

Please explain: **the issue is regulated by the Law of the Republic of Armenia and the Order of the Government N399-H of 9.04.2015**

I.9.3. According to article 9 (3): “Each Party shall ensure that the authorities referred to in paragraph 1 are given, in an early, timely and effective manner, the opportunity to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the environmental report.”

Does your national legislation call for consultations with environmental and health authorities?

(a) **Yes (please refer to specific provisions and provide citations in order to clarify the issue)**

The expert conclusion is submitted by the Ministry of Environment (art. 20 of the law of the Republic of Armenia). According to para 4 of the Order of the Government PA N399-H of 9.04.2015, health protection body issues a conclusion.

(b) No

Please explain:

I.9.4. How can the environmental and health authorities express their opinion?

(a) **By sending comments**

(b) By completing a questionnaire

(c) In a meeting

(d) By other means (please specify)

Please explain: **the issue is regulated by the Law of the Republic of Armenia and the Order of the Government N399-H of 9.04.2015**

Article 10

Transboundary consultations

I.10.1. According to article 10 (1): “Where a Party of origin considers that the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have significant transboundary environmental, including health, effects or where a Party likely to be significantly affected so requests, the Party of origin shall as early as possible before the adoption of the plan or programme notify the affected Party.”

As a Party of origin, when do you notify the affected Party?

(a) During scoping

(b) **When the draft plan or programme and the environmental report have been prepared**

(c) At other times (please specify):

Please explain: **when the draft plan or programme and environmental report have been prepared and the internal procedure starts**

I.10.2. According to article 10 (2): “[The] notification shall contain, inter alia:

(a) **The draft plan or programme and the environmental report including information on its possible transboundary environmental, including health, effects; and**

(b) **Information regarding the decision-making procedure, including an indication of a reasonable time schedule for the transmission of comments.”**

As a Party of origin, what information do you include in the notification? Please specify:

(a) **The information required by article 10 (2)**

(b) The information required by article 10 (2), plus additional information (please specify):

Please explain: **this information contained in para 1, art. 18. Chapter 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia**

I.10.3. According to article 10 (2): “The notification shall contain, inter alia: ... an indication of a reasonable time schedule for the transmission of comments.”

As a Party of origin, does your legislation indicate a reasonable time schedule (in days, weeks, months) for the affected Party? Please specify:

(a) No

(b) **Yes (please indicate how long): 60 working days**

If “Yes”, please explain whether that schedule contains individual time frames for a response to the notification and for provision of comments and specify those in days, weeks, months, as relevant:

I.10.4. According to article 10 (3)–(4), when the affected Party expresses its wish to enter into consultations before the adoption of the plan or programme, the Parties concerned shall enter into consultations further to detailed arrangements agreed by them with a view to ensuring that the public concerned and the authorities in the affected Party are informed and given an opportunity to forward their opinion within a reasonable time frame.

How do the Parties agree on detailed arrangements?

(a) **Following those of the Party of origin**

(b) **Following those of the affected Party**

(c) On a case-by-case basis

(d) In accordance with existing arrangements (for example, bilateral agreement)

(e) Other (please specify):

Please explain: **both Parties together agree on the format of conducting consultations**

Article 11 Decision

I.11.1. According to article 11 (1): “Each Party shall ensure that when a plan or programme is adopted due account is taken of: (a) [t]he conclusions of the environmental report; (b) [t]he measures to prevent, reduce or mitigate the adverse effects identified in the environmental report; and (c) [t]he comments received in accordance with articles 8 to 10.”

Please specify how your country ensures that due account is taken of:

(a) **The conclusions of the environmental report**

(b) **Mitigation measures**

(c) **Comments received in accordance with articles 8–10**

Please explain: **in accordance with national legislation**

I.11.2. According to article 11 (2): “Each Party shall ensure that, when a plan or programme is adopted, the public, the authorities ... and the Parties consulted ... are informed, and that the plan or programme is made available to them together with a statement summarizing how the environmental, including health, considerations have been integrated into it, how the comments received ... have been taken into account and the reasons for adopting it in the light of the reasonable alternatives considered.”

How and when do you inform your own public and authorities?

(a) Pursuant to national legislation (please refer to specific provisions and provide citations in order to clarify the procedure followed):

(b) Other (please specify):

Please explain: **the public participates in the process prior to issuing the conclusion by the Ministry of Environment, opinion of relevant authorities (health authorities) is taken into account in the conclusion. Plans and programmes are adopted by the Government or other competent authorities.**

I.11.3. Does the information provided to the public and authorities include?

(a) Plan or programme:

(b) Statement summarizing how the environmental, including health, considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme, and how the comments received have been taken into account:

(c) The reasons for adopting the plan or programme in the light of the reasonable alternatives considered:

Before submitting expert conclusion the SEA process is regulated by the legislation, during which all the environmental questions are discussed, while the adoption of fundamental/conceptual document is regulated by sectoral legislation and is implemented by other authorities.

I.11.4. How do you inform the Parties consulted (art. 11 (2))?

(a) By informing the point of contact according to 1st part of art. 23 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia

(b) By informing the contact person of the ministry responsible for strategic environmental assessment, who then follows the national procedure and informs his/her own authorities and public

(c) By informing all the authorities involved in the assessment and letting them inform their own public

(d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

Article 12

Monitoring

According to article 12 (1)–(2): “1. Each Party shall monitor the significant environmental, including health, effects of the implementation of the plans and programmes.

According to the 1st part of para 7, art. 18 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia, the fundamental document, during the period of application of the provisions of fundamental document the monitoring that includes SEA report is foreseen.

...

2. The results of the monitoring ... shall be made available ... to the authorities ... and to the public.”

Expert conclusion sometimes required that results of monitoring were available to the competent authority and the public.

I.12. Describe the legal requirements for monitoring the significant environmental, including health, effects of the implementation of the plans and programmes:

Article 13

Policies and legislation

According to article 13 (1): “Each Party shall endeavour to ensure that environmental, including health, concerns are considered and integrated to the extent appropriate in the preparation of its proposals for policies and legislation that are likely to have significant effects on the environment, including health.”

I.13. Does your country have national legislation on the application of principles and elements of the Protocol as regards policies and legislation? Please specify.

- (a) Yes (please specify which articles of the Protocol apply):
- (b) No

Please explain:

Part two

Practical application during the period 2019–2021¹

Please report on your country's practical experiences in applying the Protocol (not your country's procedures, as described in part one). The focus here is on identifying good practices as well as difficulties Parties have encountered in applying the Protocol in practice. The goal is to enable Parties to share solutions. Please therefore provide appropriate examples highlighting application of the Protocol and innovative approaches to improving its application. Parties' reporting also provides useful information to other countries within and beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region that facilitates their efforts to implement and accede to the Protocol.

Part two also focuses on issues identified in the third review of implementation^a by Parties and those issues that have been identified as priorities by Parties in the 2021–2023 workplan.^b It also addresses the objectives of the Long-term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol related to: "Adapting the reviews [of implementation] to maximize their usefulness as a source of information, highlight progress achieved, draw attention to areas that need improvement, disseminate best practice...".^c

^aUnited Nations publication, ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/14.

^bECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/2–IV/2.

^cIbid., decision VIII/3–IV/3, annex, item II.A. 9.

A. Some specific questions related to domestic and transboundary implementation in the period 2019–2021

II.1. Does your country's strategic environmental assessment documentation always include specific information on health effects? Please specify:

- (a) Yes
- (b) No, only when potential health effects are identified

II.2. Does your country's strategic environmental assessment documentation always include specific information on potential transboundary environmental, including health, effects? Please specify:

- (a) Yes
- (b) No, only when potential transboundary effects are identified

¹ Part II of this questionnaire is not considered to be a reporting obligation according to the Protocol. Parties are encouraged to share examples of good practice, subject to their capabilities and the availability of relevant data.

B. Example of application of the Protocol in your country during the period 2019–2021

II.3. Please provide, using the table provided in annex I to this questionnaire, the (approximate) number of domestic strategic environmental assessment procedures initiated during the 2019–2021 period, list them grouped by the sectors listed in article 4 (2), and indicate their average duration and costs.

II.4. Please provide the (approximate) number of transboundary consultations referred to in article 10 of the Protocol that your country, during the reporting period, initiated, as a Party of origin, and participated in, as an affected Party. Please use the table in annex II to this questionnaire listing the transboundary procedures grouped by the sectors listed in article 4 (2), indicating their average duration.

II.5. Do you have a register of the domestic and transboundary strategic environmental assessment procedures (cases) that can be accessible for other Parties to consult, as needed?

<i>Domestic procedures</i>	<i>Transboundary procedures</i>
(a) Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
(b) No <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, please provide the access link to the register: webpage of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia	If so, please provide the access link to the register:

II.6. According to paragraph 10 of decision IV/5 on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol,² the lists of domestic and transboundary strategic environmental assessment procedures included in the responses to questions II.3 and II.4 of the questionnaire are to be posted on the ECE website. Should your country object to this, however, please indicate “Yes” in the table below and explain, as relevant:

<i>Domestic procedures (list provided under question II.3 and link to register referred in question II.5, if provided)</i>	<i>Transboundary procedures (list provided under question II.4 and link to register referred in question II.5, if provided)</i>
(a) Yes (my country has an objection to the compilation and posting of this information) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) Yes (my country has an objection to the compilation and posting of this information) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please explain:	Please explain:
(b) No (no objection) <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) No (no objection) <input type="checkbox"/>

C. Experience with the strategic impact assessment procedure in 2019–2021

II.7. Please list the benefits of strategic environmental assessment that are identified by your country:

(a) Cost effectiveness

² ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.3.

- (b) **More focused and informed planning**
- (c) **Coordination with other sectors/i.e. avoiding overlaps or discrepancies**
- (d) **Environmental and health benefits**
- (e) Other

Please provide your comments:

I.8. Has your country experienced substantial difficulties in interpreting particular terms contained in (or particular articles of) the Protocol?

- (a) **No**
- (b) Yes (please indicate which ones):

II.9. Please indicate how your country overcomes these difficulties, if any. Please provide examples that may include, among other things, working with other Parties to find solutions or using existing guidelines or fact sheets:

II.10. With regard your country's experience with domestic and/or transboundary procedures:

- (a) Please describe your country's procedures for ensuring that the health aspects are properly incorporated into the environmental report and that the health authorities are consulted as provided for in article 3

According to para 11, art. 7 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise" the health factors related to the impact should be included in the strategic documents. During the environmental impact assessment the fundamental documents are agreed (consulted) with the Ministry of Health.

- (b) To contribute to the sharing of knowledge and experience on themes outlined in the workplan for 2021–2023, please provide at least one example of your country's application of strategic environmental assessment in one or several of the following areas:

- Biodiversity
- Circular economy
- Energy transition
- Development cooperation
- Smart and sustainable cities
- Sustainable infrastructure
- Maritime spatial planning

(When describing your experience, please indicate the name of the plan/programme subject to strategic environmental assessment, provide background information or describe the context in which the document has been developed, describe the stages of the procedure and other issues of interest for other Parties. Please flag good practice, and/or lessons learned, referring, as relevant, to the contribution of the above application of strategic environmental assessment towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals or climate objectives. When providing an example, you may also make use of the template in annex III to the present questionnaire.)

- (c) Please indicate whether strategic environmental assessments implemented in your country can be considered to have contributed to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and their specific targets:

Yes, (certain) strategic environmental assessments significantly contributed to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

Yes, (certain) strategic environmental assessments somewhat contributed to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

No, there is no evidence that strategic environmental assessment contributes to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals in practice

If “Yes”, please list the most relevant Sustainable Development Goals³ (and their targets) and provide an example(s) of how strategic environmental assessment has contributed to their achievement

During preliminary assessment the terms of reference is submitted according to legislation, including proposals and comments that helps planners to take into account principles of sustainable development in implementing projects

II.11. Please indicate whether your country has been carrying out monitoring according to article 12.

(a) No

(b) Yes :

If so, please specify types of plans or programmes subject to the monitoring according to article 12, citing good practice examples or elements of good practice (for example, consultation or public participation), if available **In the legislation, in the list of requirements to the report the draft project monitoring is also included (subpara 7, para 1, art. 18, chapter 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia)**

³ In 2017, the Meetings of the Parties acknowledged that the Convention and, in particular, the Protocol, contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, decision VII/7–III/6, Minsk Declaration, para. 7). Selected examples of targets of the Sustainable Development Goals that strategic environmental assessment could help to implement include the following (see informal document to the fifth meeting of the Working Group (Geneva, 11–15 April 2016):

- (a) Sustainable Development Goal 3– Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (targets 3.9 and 3.d);
- (b) Sustainable Development Goal 6– Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (targets 6.3, 6.5–6.6 and 6.a–6.b);
- (c) Sustainable Development Goal 7– Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (targets 7.2 and 7.a);
- (d) Sustainable Development Goal 8– Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (target 8.4)
- (e) Sustainable Development Goal 9– Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (targets 9.1 and 9.4);
- (f) Sustainable Development Goal 11– Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (targets 11.3–11.4, 11.6 and 11.a–11.b);
- (g) Sustainable Development Goal 12– Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (targets 12.2 and 12.4–12.5);
- (h) Sustainable Development Goal 13– Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (targets 13.1–13.3);
- (i) Sustainable Development Goal 14– Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (target 14.1);
- (j) Sustainable Development Goal 15– Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (targets 15.1 and 15.4);
- (k) Sustainable Development Goal 16– Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (targets 16.6–16.7 and 16.10);
- (l) Sustainable Development Goal 17– Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (targets 17.13 and 17.16–17.17).

For more details see informal document ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.16, available at http://staging2.unece.org/net4all.ch/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/WG2.5_April2016/Informal_document_16_ece.mp.eia.wg.2.2016.INF.16__SDG_Mapping.pdf.

II.12. With regards to your country’s experience with transboundary procedures, in response to each of the questions below, please either provide one or two practical examples or describe your country’s general experience. You might also want to include examples of lessons learned in order to help others. Please detail:

- (a) What difficulties has your country experienced and what solutions has it found?
 - (i) Translation and interpretation
 - (ii) Other issues
- (b) What elements of the environmental report and other documentation does your country usually translate as a Party of origin?
- (c) As an affected Party, please specify whether and how your country has ensured the participation of the public concerned and the authorities pursuant to article 10 (4):
 - (i) No
 - (ii) Yes (please indicate how):
- (d) What has your country’s experience been of the effectiveness of public participation?
- (e) Does your country have examples of organizing transboundary strategic environmental assessment procedures for joint cross-border plans and programmes?
 - (i) No
 - (ii) Yes (please describe):

There is no practice

D. Experience regarding guidance in 2019–2021

II.13. Has your country used in practice the following documents:

<i>Good Practice Recommendations on Public Participation in Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/2)</i>	<i>Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/17)</i>
<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Please specify reasons for not using the Good Practice Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Lack of awareness about the document <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The document is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The document is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/> <p>Your comments and/or suggestions for improving or supplementing the Good Practice Recommendations:</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Please specify reasons for not using the Manual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Lack of awareness about the document <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The Manual is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The Manual is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/> <p>Your comments and/or suggestions for improving or supplementing the Resource Manual:</p>

E. Contributions to the funding of the workplans

II.14. Please indicate whether the information regarding contributions to the trust fund was already provided by your country in the responses to the questionnaire concerning the Convention and covered both the Convention and the Protocol:

(i) Yes

(ii) No

If your response is “No”, please provide the information regarding the contributions to the trust fund below.

II.15. Through paragraph 4 of decision VII/4–III/4 on budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance,⁴ applicable for the period 2017–2020, the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol jointly “Urge[d] all Parties to contribute to ensuring sustainable funding of activities and an equitable and proportionate sharing of the financial burden among the Parties.” For the period 2021–2023, by paragraph 1 of decision VIII/1–IV/1⁵, regarding funding of the adopted workplans, the Meeting of the Parties decided that: “All the Parties have a duty to contribute to the sharing of the costs that are not covered by the United Nations regular budget.”

(a) Please indicate whether your Government contributed to the funding of the workplans during the reporting period, indicating also the currency and the amount of the contribution:

(i) **My Government made a multi-year contribution for the period 2017–2020**

The contribution was made in 2021 for the amount of USD 1000

Please indicate when the contribution was provided (year), amount and currency:

(ii) Individual contribution in 2019

Yes Amount and currency:

No Please explain the reason:

(iii) Individual contribution in 2020:

Yes Amount and currency:

No Please explain the reason:

(iv) Individual contribution in 2021:

Yes Amount and currency:

No Please explain the reason:

(v) **Please indicate any plans of your country to contribute for the period 2021–2023 Yes it is planned**

(b) Did your country make in-kind contributions in the reporting period?

Yes Please describe how:

No Please explain the reason

⁴ ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1.

⁵ ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1.

F. Suggested improvements to the report

II.16. Please provide suggestions for how this report could be improved:

Annex I

List and number of domestic strategic environmental assessment procedures initiated in the reporting period

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Total number or an estimate*</i>	<i>Number of local-level procedures</i>	<i>Number of national-level procedures</i>	<i>Estimated average duration of the procedure, ** months, if available</i>	<i>Average costs (also as percentage of the total costs for preparation of a plan/programme), euros and (percentage), if available</i>
Forestry:	Public hearings are defined by the law at each stage of expertise, after receiving documents at relevant stage, the person responsible for hearings / local authorities and territorial authorities / according to art. 12, 13, 26 of the Law, makes available the announcement at its website, at advertisement boards of public building of places of residence and publishes in the official magazine of the Republic of Armenia not less than 7 working days before hearings, publishes at "Official gazette" of the Republic of Armenia not less than 7 working days before hearings	The expertise of fundamental documents is carried out in 2 steps: preliminary (X working days) and the main one (up to 60 working days)			In accordance with subpara 12.4 para 12art. 19 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the Government Duty" for conducting expertise of environmental impact of fundamental document is set in 500 times.
Agriculture:					
Fisheries:					
Energy:					
Industry including mining:					
Transport:					
Regional					

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Total number or an estimate*</i>	<i>Number of local-level procedures</i>	<i>Number of national-level procedures</i>	<i>Estimated average duration of the procedure,**</i> <i>months, if available</i>	<i>Average costs (also as percentage of the total costs for preparation of a plan/programme), euros and (percentage), if available</i>
development:					
Waste management:					
Water management:					
Telecommunication:					
Tourism:					
Town and country planning:					
Land use:					
Other, including those falling under article 4 (3)–(4):					

* The information provided constitutes:

- Statistical data
- Estimates

** Once the need for strategic environmental assessment is determined

Your comments:

Annex II**List and number of transboundary strategic environmental assessments in the reporting period**

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Total number or an estimate*</i>	<i>Number of local-level procedures</i>	<i>Number of national-level procedures</i>	<i>Estimated average duration of the procedure,** months, if available</i>	<i>Average costs (also as percentage of the total costs for preparation of a plan/programme), euros and (percentage), if available</i>
Agriculture:					
Forestry:					
Fisheries:					
Energy:					
Industry including mining:					
Transport:					
Regional development:					
Waste management:					
Water management:					
Telecommunication:					
Tourism:					
Town and country planning:					
Land use:					
Other, including those falling under article 4 (3)–(4):					
No practice					

Annex III

Template for describing a good practice example of implementing a strategic environmental assessment at the national level or in a transboundary context

I. General information

1. Title of plan/programme **Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the document of territorial-special planning Dilizan community Tavushskoy oblast**

2. Authority responsible for the plan's/programme's development

3. Nature of the related strategic environmental assessment procedure:

(a) **Domestic**

(b) Transboundary

4. Please indicate which stage(s)/step(s) of the strategic environmental assessment procedure is/are considered to represent good practice:

The entire procedure

Screening (art. 5)

Scoping (art. 6)

Environmental report (art. 7)

Public participation (art. 8)

Consultation with environmental and health authorities (art. 9)

Transboundary consultations (art. 10)

Decision (art. 11)

In case of positive decision the provided document is adopted by the Order of the Government of the Republic of Armenia

Monitoring (art. 12)

5. Please indicate to which topic(s) of the 2021–2023 workplan the example is related:

Biodiversity

Circular economy

Development cooperation

Energy transition

Smart and sustainable cities

Sustainable infrastructure

II. Background

Please provide a short description of the plan/programme, the context of its development and general information about the strategic environmental assessment

III. Procedure under the protocol on strategic environmental assessment and elements of good practice

Please describe, in more detail, the procedural step/steps that is/are considered to represent good practice and then explain why that is:

III.1. Field of application (art. 4)

Fundamental document – the draft document that can cause potential impact on environment (policy, strategy, concept, plan, scheme of natural resources, programme, plan, urban planning document)

III. 2. Screening (art. 5)

The conceptual socio-economic justification of micro-regional integrated spatial planning documents (SPRPS) is aimed at identifying the prerequisites for the internal potential of communities and the region, their full, comprehensive and effective use through integrated management of environmental issues. The law sets a preliminary assessment for SEA. According to the legislation, the SEA is carried out in two stages: preliminary and the main one. At the initial stage of the expertise, the Ministry of Environment determines the possible impact of provisions of founding document on the environment, determines the content of the assessment report and its requirements, determines the participants in of the process, compiles and submits the technical impact assessment to the developer. On the basis of which the Entrepreneur prepares a SEA report and submits it to the main stage of the expertise.

III. 3. Scoping (art. 6)

- **Precise and full environmental impact assessment of each planned activity has crucial importance for prevention of adversary impact of human activity on environment, preserving stability of biosphere, facilitating the harmony of nature and humans.**
 - **Environmental assessment of activity should include direct forecast of indirect impact, description of which is a basis for development of mandatory activities on their prevention or possible mitigation.**
 - **As a result of work on project, the report on environmental impact assessment is developed based on the law of the Republic of Armenia “On environmental impact assessment and expertise”.**
 - **The report should include data, justifications and calculations required for conduction of environmental impact assessment of the planned activity.**
 - **The process of promotion of investments and development of community of Dilizan and close territories of Tavushskoy oblast of the Republic of Armenia is regulated by the law of the Republic of Armenia adopted on 23.06.2015 and aimed at:**
 - 1) **Ensure application of harmonised principles of urban development, unified architecture of Dilizan community in urban development, ensuring urban development for creation of health and attractive environment;**
 - 2) **Promote and support of implementation of urban development and construction investment programmes in line with historic-cultural particularities of the territory.**
 - 3) **Ensure transparency of the process of adoption of urban development projects, publicity and public participation through public hearings to support the decision making.**
 - 4) **Facilitate the improvement of investment environment and attraction of investment programmes aimed at the development of territories.**
 - 5) **Facilitate the implementation of the concept “clean city” and “green city”.**
- 2. Goals of this Law are:**
- 1) **Creation of favourable environment for the public.**
 - 2) **Ensure further development of the district as an educational center of international importance.**
 - 3) **Development of legal environment required for the development of territory as tourist-recreation zone and investment attractiveness.**
 - 4) **Ensure consistent implementation of requirements on urban development and architecture adopted according to established order.**
 - 5) **Non-implementation of activity that cause adverse environmental impact.**
- **The Law prohibits the implementation of the following activities:**
 - 1) **mining industry except for clay, porcelain, carbonic underground mineral waters.**
 - 2) **production of electricity other than solar, wind, geothermal energy, biomass (organic as a result of biological or human activities).**
 - 3) **production of coke, oil products, nuclear materials.**
 - 4) **chemical industry.**

III.4. Environmental report (art. 7)

Conceptual socio-economic justification of the project documentation of comprehensive territorial-spatial planning of the sub-district is aimed at studying the full potential of the interconnected spatial, economic and infrastructural components of the region as a whole, as an integral planning unit.

As a document that combines three levels of the hierarchical structure of spatial planning (spatial planning project, master plan, zoning project), it considers both general approaches of regional significance and the regulation of urban planning activities in each unit of the community.

- Solving potential environmental problems in residential areas will help maintain the ecological balance of the area. The Department of Environmental Protection provides an insight about measures to improve and preserve all components of the environment (atmosphere, water resources, soil, subsoil, biodiversity).

III.5. Public participation (art. 8)

According to the legislation, the process of SEA expertise is carried out in two stages: preliminary and the main one. At each stage of expertise the law foresees two public hearings after receiving documents of relevant stage, local authorities and territorial authorities responsible for hearings in accordance with art. 12, 13, 26 of the Law, publish an announcement at their websites, publish at announcement boards of public buildings in the place of residence, separately from advertisements, no less than seven working days prior to hearings publishes in the official magazine of the Republic of Armenia.

Electronic version of relevant documents for each stage is published on the website of the responsible for hearings, printed version based on the place of residence of the responsible for hearings, on stages of expertise on the website of the center of expertise.

III.6. Consultation with environmental and health authorities (art. 9)

As was mentioned before, according to the legislation the process of conduction of SEA expertise is carried out in two stages: preliminary and the main one.

The Ministry of Health, responsible authorities and the public concerned participate in the process at the stage of studying SEA report.

At the stage of expertise the Ministry of Environment prepares the terms of reference based on the conclusions received from other relevant authorities, local authorities, public hearings, opinions in which the requirements provided in details, framework of REG report.

In accordance with terms of reference the Entrepreneur prepares SEA report, at the main stage the changes are included in the report according to received comments and suggestions.

III.7. Transboundary consultations (art. 10)

III.8. Decision (art. 11)

III.9. Monitoring (art. 12)

IV. Lessons learned and advice to other parties:

IV.1. Please indicate:

- (a) Challenges in carrying out the procedure, if any, and how those were tackled
- (b) Lessons learned

IV.2. As relevant, please also refer to the contribution of the above application of strategic environmental assessment towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals¹ or climate objectives.

¹ In 2017, the Meetings of the Parties acknowledged that the Convention and, in particular, the Protocol, contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, decision VII/7–III/6, Minsk Declaration, para.

7). Selected examples of targets of the Sustainable Development Goals that strategic environmental assessment could help to implement include the following (see informal document to the fifth meeting of the Working Group (Geneva, 11–15 April 2016):

- (a) Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (targets 3.9 and 3.d);
- (b) Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (targets 6.3, 6.5–6.6 and 6.a–6.b);
- (c) Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (targets 7.2 and 7.a);
- (d) Sustainable Development Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (target 8.4)
- (e) Sustainable Development Goal 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (targets 9.1 and 9.4);
- (f) Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (targets 11.3–11.4, 11.6 and 11.a–11.b);
- (g) Sustainable Development Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (targets 12.2 and 12.4–12.5);
- (h) Sustainable Development Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (targets 13.1–13.3);
- (i) Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (target 14.1);
- (j) Sustainable Development Goal 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (targets 15.1 and 15.4);
- (k) Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (targets 16.6–16.7 and 16.10);
- (l) Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (targets 17.13 and 17.16–17.17).

For more details see informal document ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.16, available at http://staging2.unece.org.net4all.ch/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/WG2.5_April2016/Informal_document_16_ece.mp.eia.wg.2.2016.INF.16__SDG_Mapping.pdf.