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Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): Available Practice of Application of SEA to Urban Planning Documents

Kick-off event: Pilot SEA for the Draft Master Plan for Ganja City, Azerbaijan
25 July 2022

11:00 – 13:00 Baku time / 9:00 – 11:00 CEST

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National legal framework for SEA:

- It has been more than 10 years since Azerbaijan joined the process
- In the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, various projects have been implemented in cooperation with European experts in close cooperation with the Espoo Convention secretariat.
- Since 2018, additions and amendments in relation to the application of SEA have been made to the legislation

The new Law has been in force since 2019

- Relevant regulations on the SEA application have been prepared and submitted to the government
- Several pilot projects with regard to the practical application of SEA have been implemented

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Example for practical application of SEA

In 2012-2016, the SEA was applied for the Regional Development Plan of Greater Baku prepared with the loan allocated by the World Bank to the Government of Azerbaijan (The first urban development plan to which the SEA was applied)

The following positive practices have been achieved:

- Awareness of SEA has been raised at the government level and in society.
- A SEA report for the Greater Baku Regional Development Plan was prepared and submitted to MENR
- environment,
- nature,
- public health
- cultural heritage,
- Detection and assessment of ecological risks
- Consideration of environmental impacts in planning decisions





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SEA is applied in the drafting of master plans in the liberated territories

The application of SEA in the master plans of the cities of Karabakh and East Zangazur regions has started

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Challenges arising in the application of SEA in Azerbaijan

- Gaps faced occasionally in inter-agency coordination
- Importance of public participation occasionally not taken serious by government agencies
- Lack of awareness about the benefits of the SEA application in the country

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Thanks!

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