



Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol

Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

Synergies and possible future cooperation activities in marine regions

Jiří Dusík
UNDP





IV. Focus areas for future cooperation and further implementation steps

1. Information-sharing
2. Collection and dissemination of good environmental assessment practices in marine and coastal areas
3. Strengthening implementation of existing environmental assessment provisions under the relevant regional sea treaties
4. Pilot projects
5. Information sharing on the potential for cumulative impacts
6. Long-term coordination/cooperation opportunities

1. Information-sharing

EIA and SEA



- a) sharing relevant information and meeting invitations between the respective instruments
- b) UNECE secretariat creates a dedicated page on its website; the RSCs/bodies secretariats provide a link to that webpage from their respective websites
- c) coordination and sharing information on the application and effectiveness of TbEIA or SEA in marine regions nationally and internationally
- d) Regular meetings between the Espoo Contact Points in the respective marine regions: e.g. as currently done in the Baltic Sea Subregion
- e) RSC/Bodies organizing additional events/discussions within their future activities and meetings to explore the application of TbEIA or SEA – e.g. OSPAR correspondence group working on offshore renewables
- f) establishing voluntary/informal practical arrangements to (voluntarily) inform the concerned RSC secretariats/bodies of any relevant TbEIA or SEA conducted in their respective marine regions – HELCOM Helsinki Commission



2. Collection and dissemination of good environmental assessment practices in marine and coastal areas

EIA and SEA



- a) providing information on examples illustrating good environmental assessment practices in marine and coastal areas in the application of EIA and SEA provisions – Baltic EIA pipe, Saare Wind Energy offshore wind farm, Maritime Spatial plan of Polish sea areas and Maritime Spatial plan of Slovenia
- b) making use of the good practice recommendations and guidelines developed under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol, RSC and/or EU or UNECE system to strengthen the consideration of coastal and marine environmental protection in the relevant environmental assessment processes

3. Strengthening implementation of existing EA provisions under the relevant RSC

EIA and SEA



- a) RSC/bodies periodically critically evaluate the implementation of their relevant provisions related to TbEIA and SEA and identify areas for further improvements and/or assistance
- b) exchanging experience on compliance matters related to TbEIA or SEA through the participation of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Implementation Committee of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol to a meeting of the corresponding bodies under the RSC that address compliance/implementation of their relevant provisions
- c) establishing bilateral and/or multilateral cooperation arrangements between the Espoo Convention parties and non-parties for the application of to TbEIA or SEA
- d) providing Parties with legislative assistance or capacity-building support for strengthening/aligning national regulatory frameworks with the respective treaty obligations on TbEIA or SEA and supporting their practical implementation

4. Transboundary EIA or SEA pilot projects in marine regions

EIA and SEA



- a) Pilot transboundary projects to facilitate engagement and to help to build trust between the concerned countries, in particular in the following fields:
- maritime/marine spatial plans (on country or sub-regional levels, e.g., Western Mediterranean)
 - offshore hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation
 - offshore renewable energy
 - pipelines and high-voltage power-lines
 - LNG terminals
- b) Pilot projects implemented subject to the availability of resources or conducted via bilateral donor arrangements and be facilitated by the Espoo Convention secretariat

5. Information sharing on the potential for cumulative impacts

EIA and SEA



- a) Parties and relevant intergovernmental mechanisms under RSC/bodies identify the emerging cumulative impacts and cross-border issues through:
- regional or sub-regional scale assessments exploring the potential cumulative effects of the planned development of offshore renewable energy resources - cumulative effects of offshore wind development on birds
 - analyses of evolving baseline trends and impacts of development projections under the business-as-usual scenarios in the relevant assessment reports that the RSC/bodies prepare

6. Long-term coordination/cooperation opportunities

EIA and SEA



- a) Coordination among Parties to the RSC/bodies and to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol in developing approaches for the assessment of the potentially significant adverse impacts (of plans, programmes, or activities) on the marine environment
- b) Exploring options for the harmonisation of procedures and assessment methods, sharing information on marine environmental policy innovations that may be relevant for EA



NEXT STEPS



UNECE

Determining priority activities

EIA and SEA



RSC Secretariats asked to:

- Provide feedback from their Parties/intergovernmental organs on the draft report and proposed cooperation areas and activities
- Provide information on relevant planned or approved activities under their workplans - and possible needs for cooperation/inputs for their implementation
- Comment the initially selected Espoo Convention & Protocol draft workplan activities for 2024-2026 – and indicate their interest + possibilities to provide input
- Indicate their priorities and/or additional suggestions for specific focus areas and activities for potential future cooperation – in 2024-2026 and/or beyond

Suggestions for priority activities from the RSCs so far

EIA and SEA



Example – OSPAR Secretariat:

ICG-ORED (OSPAR correspondence group working on offshore renewables), would like to have a better understanding of the application and effectiveness of the Espoo Convention provisions: **it might be useful to have a presentation at the spring ICG-ORED meeting, and discuss/collect feedback on the extent to which Parties have applied ESPOO provisions and consulted on transboundary effects**

OSPAR Contracting Parties could share outputs from the work of ICG-ORED to conduct a pilot assessment of the cumulative effects of offshore wind development on birds. **Due in early 2024.**

OSPAR Contracting Parties would be interested in exchanging examples of good practices that could deep seabed mining projects and their potential transboundary effects

Thank you!

