



## **Strategic Environmental Assessment Pilot Project on National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan in Georgia**

**Initial scoping and baseline analysis workshop (via Skype)  
5 August 2015**

### **Report**



*The EaP GREEN programme is implemented with the financial support of the European Union and other donors, and is jointly implemented by the four partner organisations: OECD, UNEP, UNECE and UNIDO. Project partner in Georgia: NGO Georgia's Environmental Outlook.*



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## Background

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) effectively promotes sustainable development by mainstreaming environment into economic development at a national and local level. SEA is a well-established, practical and efficient planning and environmental governance tool/system set out in the UNECE Protocol on SEA to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context. It ensures that development plans in key sectors such as energy, water and waste management with likely significant adverse environmental impacts are efficiently developed taking into account environmental (and health) considerations. SEA, in particular, will allow identification of the most sustainable and cost-effective strategic development alternatives in Moldova for attracting new investments and for improving its environment. SEA also helps strengthen the country's environmental governance through fostering transparency and consultation with relevant stakeholders and the public prior to the approval of plans and programmes. SEA in a transboundary context can also greatly facilitate regional cooperation on environmental matters.

Since June 2013, the UNECE secretariat to the Convention on the Environmental Impact Assessment in the Transboundary Context (the Espoo Convention) assists the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource Protection of Georgia in developing a national environmental assessment system in line with the Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA). The activities are implemented in the framework of the EU funded programme 'Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood' (EaP GREEN) in several phases. Phase I of the programme was carried out from September 2013 to August 2014 and included reviews of legislative and institutional frameworks for the application of EIA and SEA procedures. Phase II extends from November 2014 to September 2015 and aims to develop a new draft law on EIA/SEA (draft law) (grant ECE/GC/2014/05/016). Phase III of the programme covers a pilot application of the SEA procedure (SEA pilot project) to Georgia's National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan.

The aims of the SEA pilot project are:

- (a) to build national institutional capacities and expertise to conduct SEA at the national level;
- (b) to provide recommendations for environmental optimisation and modifications of the Georgia's Waste Management Strategy, and
- (c) to test the SEA system proposed in the draft law and develop recommendations for its improvement.

The SEA pilot was initiated in July 2015. Based on the discussions with the Ministry of Environment, the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan in Georgia was selected as a document to be a subject of SEA. The SEA pilot is being conducted by the national SEA team supported by the international SEA experts in close cooperation with the waste management specialists drafting the Strategy and the Action Plan.



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This report presents a summary of the virtual Initial scoping and baseline analysis workshop on 5 August 2015.

The following consultants carried out this virtual workshop:  
 International Consultant – Mr. Martin Smutny  
 International Consultant – Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku  
 International Consultant – Mr. Michal Musil

### **Key Participants:**

**Team Leader:** Ms. Irma Melikishvili  
**NGO Georgia's Environmental Outlook (GEO) -** Ms.Khatuna Gogaladze  
**Water Expert** – Ms.Elina Bakradze  
**Air Expert** – Ms.Kety Mateshvili  
**Hydrogeology Expert** – Mr.George Gaprindashvili  
**Health Expert** - Ms.Nia Giuashvili  
**Biodiversity Expert** – Ms.Tamar Kvantaliani  
**Socio-Economic Expert** – Mr.George Natroshvili (via skype)  
**National Project Coordinator** – Ms.Sophio Tchitchinadze (GEO)  
**Media Expert** – Ms.Inga Nikagosian (GEO)

### **The Purpose of Workshop**

The purpose of the workshop was to provide information and guidance to the national experts on the preparation of the SEA scoping report on the waste management strategy. The workshop was facilitated by Ms.Irma Melikishvili, the team leader of the SEA pilot project. After the opening of the workshop the international consultants were introduced to the national SEA experts.

### **Summary of the event**

The first presentation – „Introduction to scoping and baseline analysis for the National Waste Management Strategy” was introduced by Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil. The international consultants provided information to the experts about the details of the baseline analysis to be included in the scoping part of the SEA with regards to different environmental and health aspects.

The next presentation – “Introduction to the scoping report outline for Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan” was mainly devoted to giving the instructions to the experts on



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how to prepare the scoping outline report with particular attention to the waste management strategy and what are the main issues to be taken into account while preparing reports within their fields of expertise.

The last presentation – “Preliminary identification of the key issues related to Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan” was devoted to the identification of specific issues related to waste management strategy. In addition, consultants gave experts examples how to identify and consider main environmental and health issues related to waste management strategy.

The presentations were followed by the question and answer session to clarify the questions which experts had to the international consultants to share their experience and get advice.

## Discussions and results

The participants proposed the idea to have some kind of group working to share their experience on baseline analysis, discuss the main issues and get the advice from international consultants. International consultants recommended the local experts first to work independently and then to share their work with international consultants. On mutual basis it was decided to schedule a common weekly basis meetings and individual skype conference calls between local experts and international consultants.

The participants also asked the international consultants to share the documents they had developed during the SEA pilot project in Moldova.

Some time was dedicated to the discussion of the structure of the scoping report outline. Team leader proposed to make a draft of the main principles and the structure of the scoping outline report and share it with local experts.

It was also agreed to search for the waste management related reports by international consultants prepared for the other counties than Moldova that could be a good example for Georgia and share it with Georgian experts.

The deadline for submission of the scoping report was set to be on 25th of August 2015. Finally, the conference finalised by the agreement on the format of cooperation and the future activities. Besides, the dates for the next meetings were decided as well. It was agreed to conduct the Training Workshop and Consultation Meeting“ on 21-22 September, 2015 and the „Final Consultation Meeting“ at the end of October, either 29 or 30 of October 2015.



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## Annex 1: Agenda of the initial workshop

### Strategic Environmental Assessment Pilot Project on National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan in Georgia

#### Initial scoping and baseline analysis workshop (via Skype)

5 August, 2015  
Tbilisi

Time	Activities
18:30 – 18:40	Introduction of participants
18:40 – 19:00	<b>Introduction to scoping and baseline analysis for the National Waste Management Strategy</b> <i>Presenter: Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku (scoping) and Michal Musil (baseline analysis); international consultants</i>
19:00 – 19:10	Questions/Answers session
19:10 – 19:30	<b>Introduction to the scoping report outline for the Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan</b> <i>Presenter: Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku; international consultant</i>
19:30 – 19:40	Questions/Answers session
19:40 – 20:00	<b>Preliminary identification of the key issues related to Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan</b> <i>Presenter: Michal Musil; international consultant</i>
20:00 – 20:10	Questions/Answers session
20:10 -20:30	<b>Next activities and work plan</b>
20:30 – 20:45	<b>Final remarks and closure of the meeting</b>



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## Annex 2. List of Participants

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#### Initial scoping and baseline analysis workshop (via Skype)

**5 August, 2015**  
**Tbilisi**

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