



**Strategy for Capacity Development for Strategic
Environmental Assessment in the Republic of Belarus
for the Period to 2012**

May 2006 (Official version 11)

DISCLAIMER

Elaboration of this document has been supported by Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, UNECE, the REC (implementing agency) and UNDP within the activity “SEA capacity building needs analysis in EECCA” based on the decision III/9 of the Third Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

The views expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, its Member States, UNDP or the REC.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	iii
List of Abbreviations	iv
1. Introduction	5
2. Background	6
2.1. Status of planning in the Republic of Belarus	6
2.2. Environmental Assessment	6
2.3. Stakeholder awareness of SEA in Belarus	7
3. Capacity development needs	8
4. Medium-term strategy for SEA capacity development to 2012	9
5. Short-term priority actions for 2007-2008	11
6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Revision of the Strategy	11
7. Implementation arrangements	12
Annex A. Project fiche 1: Improving system capacity and the capacity of the key organizations for SEA	13
Annex A. Project fiche 1: Improving system capacity and the capacity of the key organizations for SEA	13
Annex B. Project fiche 2. Raising stakeholder awareness of the SEA process and benefits	16
Annex D. Indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the strategy implementation	22

List of Abbreviations

CEU	Central European University
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
Espoo Convention	UNECE Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in Transboundary Context
MoEnv	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
REC	Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SER	State Environmental Review
UNDP Regional Centre	UNDP Regional Centre for Europe and the CIS
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
USD	United States Dollars

1. Introduction

The Strategy for Capacity Development for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the Republic of Belarus for the Period to 2012 aims to promote the consideration of environmental protection and human health issues at all levels of decision-making. Addressing environmental issues at the early stages of formulating strategic initiatives will lead to improved living conditions and health for the population of Belarus. It will also create a favorable natural environment and promote environmental security in the country.

The Belarusian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MoEnv) considers SEA to be an environmental policy tool for effectively integrating environmental concerns into national and local decision-making processes. Building capacity will provide the basis for the successful introduction of SEA in Belarus.

This strategy was developed by a team of national experts under the auspices of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus with technical support from the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and the UNDP Regional Centre for Europe and the CIS (UNDP Regional Centre) Financial support was provided from the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. The team that developed this strategy was composed of Mr. Alexander Rachevsky (MoEnv), Mr. Igor Tchoulba (Consultant on SEA), Ms. Liudmila Ivashechkina (MoEnv) and Mr. Valery Burak (Scientific Centre “Ecology”). Ms. Ausra Jurkeviciute and Mr. Jiri Dusik from the REC, Ms. Henrieta Martonakova representing the UNDP Regional Centre, Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin from the Espoo Convention Secretariat, Dr. Aleh Cherp from the Central European University and Ms. Lubov Ryzhikova from the MoEnv have also significantly contributed to the development of this strategy.

The results of the needs assessment for SEA capacity development conducted in Belarus in 2004 within the framework of the regional UNDP and the REC project on SEA, as well as the results of the SEA pilot project in Belarus initiated and supported by the UNDP Regional Centre and the REC in 2005 were used to develop this strategy.

The strategy sets forth medium- and short-term objectives and tasks for national SEA capacity development, and describes actions that are necessary to undertake at the first stage of strategy implementation. The current state of SEA in Belarus and national capacity development needs are presented. Additionally, monitoring and evaluation of capacity development progress and the strategy implementation process along with strategy revisions are covered. Finally, the strategy implementation arrangements are described.

After the five-year period, the strategy will be revised. A review of the state of SEA in Belarus after five years of capacity development will be conducted with the aim of identifying what was achieved, what did not work, and why. Changes to the capacity-development strategy will be suggested. New goals and objectives will be set and new actions to accomplish the new objectives will be planned.

2. Background

2.1. Status of planning in the Republic of Belarus

Within the current planning system and practice of formulating strategic initiatives a majority of developments at the national and/or local levels result from the implementation of a national, sub-national or local policy, programme or plan for socio-economic, sectoral or spatial development. The elaboration of national or sectoral strategic initiatives in Belarus is the responsibility of respective ministries, research institutions that belong to these ministries, and of the local authorities. They formulate a significant number of policies, strategies, plans and programmes that would provide a basis for SEA application in the country.

Considering the mechanisms of taking into account environmental issues during the planning process, the ministries or their research institutions within their structures have special units or individuals whose responsibilities include consideration of issues related to the efficient use of natural resources and environmental protection in the course of a plan or programme elaboration.

The Council of Ministers Decree on Economic and Social Programmes¹ (2004, amended in 2005) obliges the developers of strategic initiatives to gain approval of newly proposed programmes with the MoEnv on issues that are within the competence of the environmental authorities. The time available for consultations with the MoEnv is usually brief.

2.2. Environmental Assessment

The legal and regulatory basis for environmental assessment of proposed initiatives in Belarus is composed of the following laws and regulations:

- Law on Environmental Protection (1992, amended in 2002);
- Law on State Environmental Review (1993, amended in 2000);
- Regulation on the Procedure for Environmental Impact Assessment of Economic and Other Activities in the Republic of Belarus (2005);
- Regulation on the Procedure of State Environmental Review (2001).

Belarus is a party to the Espoo Convention (1991) and the Aarhus Convention (1998)² and the provisions of these conventions have become a part of national legislation.

During 2006-2007 the MoEnv plans to develop an Environmental Code of Belarus, which will regulate the field of environmental protection. The concept of the Environmental Code, which has been developed and adopted by the Council of Ministers of Belarus, includes a section dedicated to environmental assessment. However, the section does not contain any provisions related to SEA.

Among the above-mentioned documents, only the Law on State Environmental Review contains provisions related to SEA. In accordance with this law, “concepts, programmes (including investment ones) and schemes of sectoral and spatial social-economic development” are subject to SER (Article 6). In practice, although plans and schemes for spatial development undergo SER on a regular basis, proposed programmes for socio-economic and sectoral development are examined only occasionally. This discrepancy between the current practice and requirements of the legislation

¹ The Council of Ministers Decree # 1404 on Adoption of the Regulation on the Procedure of Formulating, Financing and Implementation of Economic and Social Programmes.

² Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

can be attributed to the lack of mechanisms to effectively enforce legislation and a lack of expertise to conduct environmental assessment of strategic initiatives.

The Belarusian system of environmental assessment of economic initiatives is comprised of two interrelated processes: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and State Environmental Review (SER). EIA deals with initiatives at the project level and does not address strategic documents, whereas SER deals with proposed projects, plans and programmes for socio-economic, sectoral and spatial development. SER employs an “engineering” approach that is based on technical norms and thresholds.

National environmental assessment specialists possess adequate knowledge and intensive experience in environmental assessment of proposed projects. However, knowledge of methods for the environmental assessment of proposed strategic initiatives, and professional experience in the evaluation of plans and programmes is limited. Knowledge and experience in managing the SEA process is very limited. The absence of national level SEA methodologies and guidelines adds to the above-mentioned deficiencies.

Although several Belarusian universities offer full or partial environmental impact assessment courses (as one of their components), there are no courses dedicated to strategic environmental assessment. Currently, there are no professional courses on SEA in the country available to environmental assessment practitioners.

2.3. Stakeholder awareness of SEA in Belarus

Stakeholder awareness of SEA is limited. Decision-makers and programme developers for example, are not aware of SEA as a tool that supports the due consideration of environmental and health issues in the process of policy, plan and programme formulation.

Considering the main players who will participate in, and benefit from SEA implementation in Belarus, the following stakeholders are important:

- *Decision-makers* including senior officials from the Administration of the President of Belarus and the Belarusian Government.
- *Programme and plan developers* including governmental officials and professionals involved in formulating national and sectoral policies, plans and programmes.
- *Environmental assessment practitioners* representing environmental authorities and special units within the structure of relevant sectoral ministries responsible for the efficient use of natural resources and environmental protection. These practitioners will conduct environmental assessments of proposed programmes in the future.
- *Academics* will provide expert input in specific fields of environmental and human health studies in the SEA process.
- *Lecturers of national universities* will insure the sustainability of domestic capacity in SEA through preparation of national specialists and professional training in this field.
- *The general public and environmental NGOs* will be involved in consultations within the framework of the SEA process, thus having an opportunity to take part in the decision-making process.

Belarus has taken steps towards SEA implementation in the country. The Belarusian National Strategy for Sustainable Development for the period of 2006-2020 implemented in 2005 recognizes the importance of improving the due consideration of environmental issues into the planning processes at all levels of governmental decision-making. The Strategy considers the implementation of SEA in Belarus among the main objectives of the development of the national environmental policy.

In the National Action Plan for the Efficient Use of Natural Resources and Protection of the Environment of the Republic of Belarus for the Period of 2006-2010, the MoEnv is preparing the necessary documentation to accede to the SEA Protocol during 2006-2007.

3. Capacity development needs

To introduce and effectively apply SEA in Belarus it is necessary to create a SEA sub-system and integrate it into the existing national environmental assessment system currently comprised of EIA and SER.

The existing Belarusian decision-making system and formulation of strategic initiatives does not provide an adequate policy framework for the effective application of SEA. As mentioned above, programme developers are obliged to seek approval of their proposed programmes with the MoEnv on issues that are within the competence of the Ministry. However, there are no clear requirements for consulting with the environmental authorities. In the Decree on Economic and Social Programmes the environmental authorities are referred to as “other governmental institutions responsible for implementation of national socio-economic policy in a particular sphere” but it is the programme developers who decide whether the authorities responsible for environmental protection should be consulted. Additionally, the time available for consultations is insufficient for the effective assessment of possible environmental consequences from programme implementation.

The existing legal framework with respect to SEA is weak and does not meet international standards. Development of a legal and regulatory basis for SEA is one of the main preconditions for successfully introducing SEA in Belarus. Enactments that should be amended include the Law on State Environmental Review and the Law on Environmental Protection. Provisions on SEA are also necessary to include into the Environmental Code currently being developed. Specific recommendations for strengthening the legal basis for SEA will be identified through a detailed analysis of the existing Belarusian environmental legislation over the course of implementing this strategy. Effective mechanisms to enforce the SEA related legislation to ensure the results of SEA are considered in the decision-making process should also be put in place.

A national regulation on SEA with a clear description of the SEA procedure and the roles of the main players in the SEA process, including a procedure describing the interaction with programme developers and a procedure for consultations with the main stakeholders and the general public should be developed and officially adopted by the MoEnv.

As previously mentioned, Belarusian professionals have limited knowledge of SEA methodologies and practical experience in applying SEA techniques. The “engineering” approach, based on technical norms and thresholds and used for assessment at the project level, is not effective at the strategic level. As a result, environmental assessment practitioners need to be educated and trained in contemporary SEA approaches and techniques. National guidelines on SEA methodologies and procedures should be developed to enhance knowledge of SEA practices in Belarus.

To ensure that national SEA capacity is sustainable, it is necessary to introduce SEA into the curricula of national universities. It is necessary to develop a system of professional education in SEA for national environmental assessment specialists.

An intensive information campaign explaining the SEA process and SEA benefits to decision-makers, programme developers, environmental assessment practitioners, and the general public and environmental NGOs should be conducted.

The objectives and tasks for the developing national capacity for SEA in Belarus and actions necessary resolve the problems described above are presented in the following sections.

4. Medium-term strategy for SEA capacity development to 2012

The medium-term strategy will be revised after five-years based on a progress evaluation of capacity development for SEA in Belarus.

The main goal of developing capacity for SEA in Belarus is to create sustainable domestic expertise to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of implementing proposed policies, plans and programmes and to ensure due consideration of environmental concerns in the formulation of strategic initiatives at national, sub-national and local levels.

This development requires the building of:

- *System capacity* that includes “frameworks within which institutions and individuals operate”,
- *Key institutional capacity* to “operate effectively within the given system”, and
- *Human capacity* identified as “skills and expertise of individual persons and their motivation” (Resource Manual to Support Application of the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment³).

The objective for developing system capacity is to create national policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that would enable effective operation of SEA, including public consultations and due consideration of SEA results by programme developers and decision-makers. The system should also ensure that national SEA capacity is sustainable.

The objective for developing the capacity of key institutions is to have national organizations, or special units within the organizations able to conduct environmental assessments of proposed strategic initiatives within the given system. This also includes effective interaction with programme developers and consultations with other key institutions in the SEA process.

The objective for developing human capacity is to have national practitioners knowledgeable of SEA approaches, methodologies and techniques and able to effectively apply their knowledge and skills.

The development of capacity for SEA in Belarus should be based on the following principles:

- Involvement of all the relevant stakeholders (see Section 2 above for a description of the main stakeholders).
- Strengthening existing capacities and building new capacities where appropriate.
- Reflection upon specific national needs while carefully considering relevant international experience.

To achieve the above stated objectives, the MoEnv plans to undertake the following tasks:

System capacity:

³ Resource Manual to Support Application of the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (2006). Chapter B2: Capacity development for the SEA Protocol. Draft.

- **To develop a conceptual model of a national SEA sub-system.** This will include developing a model of a national SEA sub-system and identifying ways to integrate the SEA sub-system into the existing environmental assessment system. In the process of developing the SEA concept, the current decision-making system and formulation of strategic initiatives in Belarus will also be considered to ensure the due consideration of SEA findings by programme developers and decision-makers (See Project fiche 1, Annex A).
- **To create the legal and regulatory basis for SEA.** This will require analyzing the current environmental assessment legal and regulatory framework, as well as the existing legal framework for formulating strategic initiatives and governmental decision-making. Based on the results of these analyses, legal and regulatory recommendations will be formulated. Provisions on SEA should be included in the Environmental Code, to be developed in 2006-2007, in the section devoted to environmental assessment. It is necessary to amend the Law on Environmental Protection and the Law on State Environmental Review. A regulation on SEA should be developed and officially adopted.
- **To create domestic mechanisms for sustaining and developing SEA capacity** in the long term. This requires creating a system of professional training for environmental assessment practitioners on SEA and introducing SEA into university curricula.

Capacity of the key institutions:

- **To develop SEA methodological guidelines for specialists to be used in Belarus** (See Project fiche 1, Annex A).
- **To develop a regulation that describes SEA procedures.** The regulation will define the role of each player involved in the SEA process, including procedures of conduct between SEA and planning teams and stakeholder and public consultations.

Human capacity:

- **To inform decision-makers and programme developers about the benefits of SEA.** The general public and environmental NGOs will be informed of the opportunities to influence the process of programme or plan formulation through the SEA process and how they can participate effectively in SEA. Raising awareness among decision-makers, programme developers and SEA practitioners of the benefits of public participation in the SEA process will also be enhanced (please see Project fiche 2, annex B).
- **To develop professional knowledge and skills among practitioners to conduct environmental assessment of strategic initiatives** by means of a combination of (a) workshops and seminars on SEA methodology and techniques and (b) pilot SEAs providing practical training in applying acquired knowledge. The review of the current SEA status in the country revealed that SEA process management, scoping, impact analysis, comparison of alternatives, trans-border consultations and consultations with key stakeholders, including the general public require the most attention in terms of building human capacity (See Project fiche 3, annex C).
- **To develop special SEA courses for future professional environmentalists and introduce SEA into national university curricula.** Professional training courses on SEA targeting environmental assessment practitioners should be developed and introduced into the existing system of professional training for environmental specialists. Introductory SEA courses demonstrating the benefits of applying SEA for economic students are also necessary.

This medium-term strategy will be implemented in two stages. In the first stage, that is planned to last for two years, the most needed actions for building national SEA capacity will be undertaken. These actions are detailed in the following Section and in the short-term priority key actions provided in Annexes A, B and C.

In the second stage, actions related to development of the legal and regulatory basis for SEA, creation of a system of professional training of environmental assessment practitioners in SEA and introduction of SEA into university curricula will be undertaken.

5. Short-term priority actions for 2007-2008

The short-term priority actions are the most needed actions for developing SEA capacity in Belarus and are to be conducted in the first two years of strategy implementation. The following priority actions supporting the development of system, institutional and human capacities have been agreed upon:

Development of system capacity (Detailed in project fiche 1, Annex A) includes:

- Development of a conceptual Belarusian SEA sub-system, which will include creation of a SEA sub-system model and identification of ways to integrate the SEA sub-system into the existing environmental assessment system.

Development of institutional capacity (Detailed in project fiche 1, Annex A) includes:

- Development of national SEA methodological guidelines for specialists.

Development of human capacity (Detailed in project fiches 2 and 3, Annexes B and C) includes:

- Elaboration and dissemination of promotional materials on SEA,
- Development and operation of a web-site on SEA,
- Development of a manual on SEA for decision-makers and programme developers,
- Summer school on public participation in the SEA process,
- Study tours to the countries that have introduced SEA,
- Thematic workshops on SEA approaches, methodology and techniques combined with on-job training in pilot ex-ante SEAs,
- Training of a small group of Belarusian experts on SEA techniques at SEA centres of excellence.

All proposed actions would significantly enhance capacity for SEA in Belarus. However, the most effective way to build capacity is to undertake these actions in combination with each other under a single project. This will lower project implementation costs due to reduced administration. However, if necessary, it is also possible to separately support selected key activities and outputs outlined in the project fiches presented in the annexes.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Revision of the Strategy

Monitoring and evaluation of the progress of strategy implementation, and strategy revision are crucial elements for building SEA capacity in the long term.

Monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring the implementation of the strategy and of progress in building capacity for SEA will be conducted throughout the course of this strategy implementation.

Implementation and progress will be evaluated after the first two-year stage and at the end of the five-year period for which this strategy is designed. The strategy will be revised based on the results of the evaluation. Evaluation of the capacity development progress will be performed through a participatory process involving all relevant stakeholders (See Section 2 for a description of the main stakeholders), including NGOs.

A detailed set of indicators on capacity development progress and strategy implementation process that will be used to monitor and evaluate the progress in building capacity for SEA in Belarus has been proposed and is included in Annex D to this strategy:

Strategy revision. After the five-year period the strategy will be revised. A review of the state of SEA in Belarus after five years of capacity development will be conducted with the aim of identifying what was achieved, what did not work, and why. Changes to the capacity-development strategy will be suggested. New goals and objectives will be set and new actions to accomplish the new objectives will be planned.

7. Implementation arrangements

The MoEnv is responsible for overall coordination of implementing the strategy. The national focal point for the UNECE Espoo Convention is responsible for organizing and implementing the planned actions, as well as for monitoring, evaluating and revising the strategy.

The development of capacity for SEA in Belarus will be based on existing capacity; new capacities will be built only if necessary. Capacity development for SEA will reflect national needs and based on transferring international contemporary SEA expertise to Belarusian specialists. International consultants on SEA will be involved in the development of capacity for SEA. Belarusian experts who possess adequate knowledge and skills in environmental assessment of proposed strategic initiatives will be also involved in the SEA capacity-development process.

Financial resources necessary for developing SEA capacity will be provided from the Republican Environmental Protection Fund of the Republic of Belarus, the budget of the MoEnv (in-kind contribution) and by donors (to be identified).

Annex A. Project fiche 1: Improving system capacity and the capacity of the key organizations for SEA

Country of Implementation: Belarus	
Names and mailing address of lead agency	
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus Kollektornaya Str., 10. Minsk Belarus	Contact person: Mr. Alexander Rachevsky Tel.: +375 17 200 4328
Project Duration	No. month: 9
Project Vision	
<p>Development of system capacity and capacity of organizations to conduct SEA is a crucial precondition for successful introduction and effective application of SEA in Belarus. In terms of system capacity development attention should be given to creation of a favourable policy framework and sufficient legal and regulatory framework. Enhanced ability of national organizations to effectively conduct SEA in the given system will be also focused on.</p> <p>The project will focus on analysing the current environmental assessment and decision-making systems in Belarus and the practice of formulating strategic initiatives in the country. Suggestions for modifying the frameworks to introduce and apply SEA will be given. International experience in this field will be carefully considered. The ability of national organizations to effectively conduct SEA in the given system will be enhanced through development of a national SEA methodology.</p>	
Project Goals	
<p>The main goal of the project is to create a national SEA sub-system and to enhance the ability of national organizations to effectively conduct environmental assessment of newly proposed strategic initiatives.</p>	
Project's relation to the national priorities	
<p>The project will run in synergy with the first phases of <i>the Belarusian National Strategy for Sustainable Development for the period of 2006-2020</i> implementation. The Strategy recognizes the importance of improving mechanisms for integrating environmental concerns into policy formulation and planning processes at all levels of governmental decision-making. The Strategy considers implementation of SEA in Belarus among the main objectives of the development of the national environmental policy.</p> <p>In Belarus, certain elements of SEA are regulated by <i>the Law on State Environmental Review (1992, amended 2002)</i>. The Law stipulates that SER is mandatory for concepts and programmes for sectoral, land-use and urban development, natural resource use and protection.</p> <p>Belarus has elaborated <i>the National Action Plan for Efficient Use of the Natural Resources and Protection of the Environment of the Republic of Belarus for the period of 2006-2010</i>. The Action Plan schedules for 2006-2007 activities by the Belarusian MoEnv to prepare the necessary documents to join the SEA Protocol (2003) to the UNECE Espoo Convention (1991).</p>	

Project Description							
<p>The project will be carried out in Belarus in the framework of implementing the strategy for developing national capacity for SEA in Belarus. In the project's course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The existing environmental assessment and decision-making systems and the practice of formulation of strategic initiatives in the country will be carefully analysed. Based on the result of this analysis and international experience, a model of the national SEA sub-system will be developed. Suggestions for modifying the decision-making framework and practice of strategic initiatives formulation will be made to ensure due consideration of SEA findings in the decision-making process. ➤ A national SEA methodology will be developed. A pilot SEA (<i>ex-ante</i>) of a national programme will be conducted to test the proposed SEA methodology, including procedures for public participation. Based on the results of the pilot, the proposed SEA methodology will be amended (if necessary). 							
Project Responsibilities and Management							
<p>The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection – overall management of the project, logistical support and quality control of the expert work.</p> <p>Sub-contractors (international and national experts) will provide specific inputs.</p>							
Project Deliverables							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A model of the Belarusian SEA sub-system. ➤ National SEA methodological guidelines. ➤ SEA report and environmentally optimized selected strategic document. ➤ Evaluation report including recommendations for follow-up activities. 							
Time frame and budget							
Expected Output	Key activities	time frame			Respons. Party	Planned Budget	
		Q1	Q2	Q3		Budget Description	Amount USD
Developed national system capacity and capacity of key organizations to conduct SEA	Development of a conceptual Belarusian SEA sub-system. This will include elaboration of a model of the Belarusian SEA sub-system and identification of a way to integrate the SEA sub-system into the existing Belarus environmental assessment system.				MoEnv	Local consultants	5500
						International consultants	6720
						Contractual services-Companies	6000
						Supplies	400
						Miscellaneous expenses	280
	sub-total						18900
	Development of	X	X	X	MoEnv	Local consultants	11500

Capacity development strategy for Strategic Environmental Assessment in the Republic of Belarus
for the period to 2012

	national SEA methodological guidelines.					International consultants	8160
						Contractual services-Comp	6600
						Supplies	1000
						Miscellaneous expenses	390
	sub-total						27650
	Project administration	X	X	X			21736
sub-total						21736	
TOTAL						68286	

Annex B. Project fiche 2. Raising stakeholder awareness of the SEA process and benefits

Country of Implementation: Belarus	
Names and mailing address of lead agency	
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus Kollektornaya Str., 10. Minsk Belarus	Contact person: Mr. Alexander Rachevsky Tel.: +375 17 200 4328
Project Duration	No. month: 12
Project Vision Raising stakeholder awareness of the SEA process and benefits will provide support of the key players to successfully introduce and apply SEA in Belarus and contribute to effective participation of all stakeholders, including the general public in the SEA process.	
Project Goals The main goal of the project is to improve understanding by key stakeholders of the SEA process and benefits.	
Project's relation to national priorities The project will run in synergy with the first phases of <i>the Belarusian National Strategy for Sustainable Development for the period of 2006-2020</i> implementation. The Strategy recognizes the importance of improving mechanisms for integrating environmental concerns into policy formulation and planning processes at all levels of governmental decision-making. The Strategy considers implementation of SEA in Belarus among the main objectives of the development of the national environmental policy. In Belarus, certain elements of SEA are regulated by <i>the Law on State Environmental Review (1992, amended 2002)</i> . The Law stipulates that SER is mandatory for concepts and programmes for sectoral, land-use and urban development, natural resources use and protection. Belarus has elaborated <i>the National Action Plan for Efficient Use of the Natural Resources and Protection of the Environment of the Republic of Belarus for the period of 2006-2010</i> . The Action Plan schedules for 2006-2007 activities by the Belarusian MoEnv to prepare the necessary documents to join the SEA Protocol (2003) to the UNECE Espoo Convention (1991).	
Project Description The project will be carried out in the framework of implementing the strategy for development of national capacity for SEA in Belarus. The project will be focused on raising stakeholder awareness of the SEA process and benefits. The project will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preparation and dissemination among the relevant stakeholders promotional materials on SEA, ➤ Development of a manual on SEA for decision-makers and programme developers, ➤ Organising study tours to countries that have successfully introduced and applied SEA, ➤ Organising a summer school on SEA for environmental NGOs and the general public. 	

Project Responsibilities and Management									
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection – overall management of the project, logistical support and quality control of the expert work.									
Sub-contractors (international and national experts) for specific inputs.									
Project Deliverables									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promotional materials on SEA, ➤ Website on SEA, ➤ Manual on SEA for decision-makers and programme developers, ➤ Training materials and curricula on public participation in SEA, ➤ Evaluation report including recommendations for follow-up activities. 									
Timeframe and budget									
Expected Output	Key activities	Time frame				Respons . Party	Planned Budgeted		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Budget Description	Amount USD	
Increased stakeholders awareness of the SEA process and benefits and on the opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the SEA process.	Promotional materials will be prepared and disseminated - to promote SEA and outputs of the project and the pilot activities.	X	X	X	X	MoEnv		5000	
	sub-total							5000	
	Development of a manual on SEA for decision-makers				X	X	MoEnv	Local consultants	5000
								International consultants	9960
								Contractual services-Companies	8500
								Supplies	400
								Miscellaneous expenses	140
	sub-total							24000	
	A web site on SEA will be developed and maintained.		X	X	X	X	MoEnv	Local consultants	2600
								Communication & Audio-Visual Equipment	300
								Miscellaneous expenses	100
	sub-total							3000	
	Summer school on public participation in the SEA process			X			MoEnv	International consultants	12820
							Local consultants	2000	
							Contractual services-Companies	4700	
							Supplies	350	
							Miscellaneous expenses	230	

Capacity development strategy for Strategic Environmental Assessment in the Republic of Belarus
for the period to 2012

	sub-total					20100	
Study tours to the countries that have introduced SEA (e.g. Czech Republic and Hungary) will be organized						International consultants	4000
			X	X		Travel	28600
					MoEnv	Miscellaneous expenses	500
	sub-total					33100	
Project administration	X	X	X	X	MoEnv		27402
	sub-total					27402	
TOTAL						112602	

Annex C. Project fiche 3. Enhancing the capacity of specialists to conduct SEA

Country of Implementation: Belarus	
Names and mailing address of lead agency	
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus Kollektornaya Str., 10. Minsk Belarus	Contact person: Mr. Alexander Rachevsky Tel.: +375 17 200 4328
Project Duration	No. month: 18
Project Vision	
Developing human capacity is the key issue in developing the national capacity for SEA in Belarus. National environmental assessment practitioners representing environmental authorities, sectoral ministries and scientific institutes are among the main players in the SEA process. This project will focus on developing capacity of the Belarusian practitioners acting in the field of environmental assessment to conduct environmental assessment of strategic initiatives and who will be involved in SEA in the future.	
Project Goals	
The main goal of the project is to build the professional knowledge base and skills of Belarusian practitioners allowing them to effectively conduct assessments of possible consequences to the environment of implementing proposed national or sectoral policies, plans and programmes.	
Project's relation to the national priorities	
The project will run in synergy with the first phases of <i>the Belarusian National Strategy for Sustainable Development for the period of 2006-2020</i> implementation. The Strategy recognizes the importance of improving mechanisms for integrating environmental concerns into policy formulation and planning processes at all levels of governmental decision-making. The Strategy considers implementation of SEA in Belarus among the main objectives of the development of the national environmental policy.	
In Belarus, certain elements of SEA are regulated by <i>the Law on State Environmental Review (1992, amended 2002)</i> . The Law stipulates that SER is mandatory for concepts and programmes for sectoral, land-use and urban development, natural resources use and protection.	
Belarus has elaborated <i>the National Action Plan for Efficient Use of the Natural Resources and Protection of the Environment of the Republic of Belarus for the period of 2006-2010</i> . The Action Plan schedules for 2006-2007 activities by the Belarusian MoEnv to prepare the necessary documents to join the SEA Protocol (2003) to the UNECE Espoo Convention (1991).	
Project Description	
The project will be carried out in Belarus in the framework of implementing the strategy for developing national capacity for SEA in Belarus. The project will be focused on enhancing professional knowledge and skills of the national practitioners allowing them to effectively conduct environmental assessment of proposed strategic initiatives. The main targeted groups are environmental assessment practitioners representing the environmental authorities and scientific research institutes, as well as ministerial officials dealing with the issues of efficient use of natural resources and environmental protection in the process of formulating strategic initiatives.	
The project will include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Professional training and educating of the national practitioners on SEA approaches, methodology and techniques, ➤ Participation of national experts in international conferences, seminars and workshop on SEA, 	

- Pilot SEAs of three strategic documents

Project Responsibilities and Management

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection – overall management of the project, logistical support and quality control of the expert work. Sub-contractors (international and national experts) will provide specific inputs.

Project Deliverables

- Training materials, and training and seminars,
- SEA reports and environmentally optimized selected strategic documents,
- Evaluation report including recommendations for follow-up activities.

Timeframe and budget

Expected Output	Key activities	time frame						Respons. Party	Planned Budget	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6		Budget Description	Amount USD
Enhanced professional knowledge base and developed skills of national practitioners allowing them to effectively conduct assessment of possible consequences to the environment from implementation of proposed national or sectoral policies, plans and programmes.	Thematic workshops on the SEA approaches, methodology and techniques and on-job training in pilot ex-ante SEAs							MoEnv	Local consultants	27300
									International consultants	47175
									Contractual services-Companies	21400
		X	X	X	X	X	X		Supplies	2700
									Miscellaneous expenses	1125
	sub-total									99700
	Training of a small group of national experts on SEA techniques at the SEA centres of excellence	X						MoEnv	Travel int.	27200
									International consultants	15000
									Miscellaneous expenses	400
	sub-total									42600
Project administration		X	X	X	X	X	X	MoEnv		37224

Capacity development strategy for Strategic Environmental Assessment in the Republic of Belarus
for the period to 2012

	sub-total	37224
	TOTAL	179524

Annex D. Indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the strategy implementation

Type of capacity	Indicators	
	Capacity development progress (core indicators)	Strategy implementation process
System capacity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National SEA sub-system developed and integrated into the national environmental assessment system. 2. National SEA legal and regulatory framework is in place. 3. SEA introduced into in the curricula of national universities. 4. SEA introduced into the existing system of professional training of environmental specialists. 5. Belarus has joined the UNECE Protocol on SEA. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A model of the national SEA sub-system is designed. 2. Detailed analysis of the existing legal and regulatory basis for environmental assessment conducted. 3. Recommendations for the legal and regulatory basis amendment are formulated and approved by the MoEnv.
Capacity of the key institutions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National regulation, establishing SEA procedure, is developed and officially adopted by the MoEnv. 2. National SEA methodological guidelines officially adopted by the MoEnv. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National regulation on SEA is developed and officially adopted by the MoEnv. 2. National methodological guidelines is developed and approved by MoEnv.
Human capacity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of national ministries to whom the manual on SEA was distributed. 2. Number of seminars and workshops on SEA approaches and technique that are evaluated positively by participants. 3. Number of national environmental assessment specialists involved in workshops and seminars on SEA. 4. Number of SEAs conducted in the country that is evaluated positively by programme developers and environmental assessment specialists involved in the SEAs. 5. Number of environmental assessment specialists involved in the SEAs. 6. Number of institutions (people if possible) involved in the consultation on the SEA findings. 7. Number of seminars, workshops and trainings on public participation in the SEA process that are evaluated positively by participants. 8. Number of NGOs whose representatives participated in seminars, workshops and trainings on public participation in SEA. 9. Number of environmental assessment specialists and programme developers participated in seminars, workshops and trainings on public participation in SEA. 10. Number of university students with high grades on SEA courses within the 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manual on SEA for decision-makers and programme developers is developed, published and distributed among the stakeholders. 2. Number of workshops and seminars on SEA approaches, methodology and technique organized. 3. Number of pilot SEAs conducted in the country. 4. Number of seminars, workshops and trainings on public participation in the SEA process organized. 5. Website on SEA is in place. 6. Number of promotional materials on SEA (e.g. leaflets, fliers) published and disseminated. 7. Number of university courses on SEA. 8. Number of national universities that run SEA courses. 9. Number of professional courses on SEA for environmental specialists.

Capacity development strategy for Strategic Environmental Assessment in the Republic of Belarus
for the period to 2012

Type of capacity	Indicators	
	Capacity development progress (core indicators)	Strategy implementation process
	evaluated period. 11. Number of environmental assessment practitioners who took professional courses on SEA and evaluated positively these courses within the evaluated period.	