



# Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Implementing the Espoo Convention and its Protocol  
on SEA in national legislation in Azerbaijan

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# Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)





# Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

- The Protocol was adopted by an Extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention, held on 21 May 2003 during the Ministerial “Environment for Europe” Conference (Kyiv)
- Entered into force in 11 July 2010
- Now has 26 Parties, any Member State of the United Nations may accede.





# Objectives

To provide for a high level of protection of the environment by:

- **Ensuring** that environmental, including health, considerations are thoroughly taken into account **in the development of plans and programmes**
- **Contributing** to the consideration of environmental, including health, concerns **in the preparation of policies and legislation**
- Establishing clear, transparent and effective **procedures** for strategic environmental assessment
- Providing for **public participation** in SEA
- **Integrating** by these means environmental, including health, concerns into measures and instruments designed **to further sustainable development.**





# Procedure

- Determination of whether SEA is required under the Protocol
- Determination of the scope of the Environmental report (and thus of the assessment)
- Preparation of Environmental report
  - Analyze the context & baseline
  - Contribute to the development & comparison of alternatives
  - Complete the environmental report
- Consultation with relevant authorities and the public
- Inputs into decision-making
- Environmental monitoring of implementation





# Benefits

- High level of environmental protection
- Better planning and programming
- More efficient decision-making
- Identification of new opportunities for development
- Preventing costly mistakes
- Strengthened governance
- Transboundary cooperation
- Climate change adaptation





# Cost of SEA

- SEA of regional & local land-use planning usually increased planning costs by 5-10%
- Main costs during initial applications of SEA, subsequent SEAs less costly
- Costs marginal compared with costs of implementation of the plan or programme





# For example...

- **Poland: Spacial Development Planning at regional level, Lubuskie Voivodship bording with Germany**
- Spacial development plan of 2002 needed to be updated, taking into account other national policy documents
- *National*: screening – scoping – environmental report (description of current state of environment, expected changes and impacts, prevention measures, alternative solutions, monitoring measures, recommendations) - consultations with public and environmental and health authorities
- *Transboundary*: cumulative effects of brown coal mining; resolved on grounds of existing bilateral agreement (notification – declaration of participation – public participation – governmental negotiations and agreement)







# Work under the Convention and the Protocol

- Meetings of the Parties adopt workplans for intersessional periods (3-4 years), and monitor their implementation
- Assisted by Bureau, Working Group on EIA, Implementation Committee
- Activities are demand driven or compliance
  - **Compliance & implementation**
  - **Subregional cooperation & capacity-building**
  - **Exchange of good practices**
  - **Promoting ratification & application of SEA Protocol**





# Guidance available...

## ➤ **Espoo Convention**

- Guidance on practical application of the Convention
- Guidance on public participation in transboundary context
- Guidance on notification for the Convention

## ➤ **SEA Protocol**

- Resource Manuals to support application of the Protocol, including Health chapter/annex (with REC-CEE); translated also into Azerbaijani Simplified Manual
- Training courses based on the Resource Manual and on the OECD/DAC guidance on SEA in development cooperation
- (Draft) Good practice guidance on public participation in SEA

## ➤ **Both**

- Decisions by Meetings of the Parties (e.g. notification formats)
- Opinions of the Implementation Committee (2001-2010)
- Reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol

