Practical application of SEA in the renewable energy sector

Start-up workshop: SEA scoping and baseline analysis

3 – 4 March 2015
Baku, Azerbaijan
Introduction to SEA

Marina Khotuleva, Ecoline
Martin Smutny, Integra Consulting
What is SEA

• SEA is a systematic & anticipatory **process**, undertaken to analyse **environmental effects** of proposed plans, programmes & other strategic actions and to **integrate findings into decision-making**

• In the Protocol on SEA:
• SEA means the evaluation of likely environmental, **including health**, effects, which comprises determination of **scope of an environmental report & its preparation**, carrying-out of **public participation & consultations**, and taking into account of the environmental report & the results of the public participation & consultations in a plan or programme (art. 2, para. 6).
Main tasks for SEA

• To analyse the environmental and health effects of proposed development
• To suggest measures to mitigate adverse effects
• To bring stakeholders’ opinions/input into planning
• To inform planners, decision-makers and other stakeholders of likely effects / issues
Why we need SEA

• To support the preparation (i.e. planning) and implementation of good quality planning documents

• To ensure that sustainability considerations inform & are integrated into planning and decision-making

• To ensure that economic planning is consistent with environmental obligations and policies (e.g. regarding climate change, air quality, biodiversity)
Why we need SEA

SEA makes good Political / Business sense:

• Improves competitiveness and potentially reduces costs

• Increases transparency and reduces risk for proponents/investors since SEA can facilitate better decisions at the project level

• Reduces the timeframes for project finance approval

• Is consistent with requirements given by the International Financial Institutions (ADB, WB, EBRD etc.)
Costs of SEA

Main costs during initial applications of SEA:
• appropriate approaches & tools tested & developed
• basic data sets compiled

Subsequent SEAs less costly
• build on previous experience
• may require only standard analytical work & process management

SEA of regional & local land-use planning usually increased planning costs by 5-10% (EC study)
Some good SEAs increased costs by less than 5% of the overall planning costs

SEA costs are marginal compared with costs of P/P implementation!!!
Guiding principles for SEA application

• Undertaken by the authority responsible for planning
• Applied as early as possible in decision-making process
• Focused on key issues
• Evaluates reasonable range of alternatives
• Provides appropriate opportunities for involvement of key stakeholders & the public
• Carried out with appropriate, cost-effective methods & techniques of analysis
Guiding principles for SEA application

Individual **SEA should be adjusted** to the plan & programme assessed, considering its **focus, planning process, structure of the document, governmental agencies and other stakeholders involved** etc.

SEA can address a wide range of issues

- Protection of environmental components (air, soil, water, biodiversity...)
- Environmental management (waste, energy, flood control...)
- Human health (mainly environmental health determinants)
- Social aspects (wellbeing, poverty, (un)employment...)
- Other sectors and approaches (sustainable transport, tourism, integrated coastal management...)
SEA and EIA

**Planning** analyses and proposes development interventions. **SEA** examines individual outputs of the planning process and it may propose any necessary amendments.

Optimally, SEA should be carried out in parallel with planning, when:

- The lead process is the planning process, and
- SEA fits into the logic and steps of the planning process.

Thus, both processes can be seen as mutually reinforcing tools within one robust planning system for more sustainable development.
SEA and planning

SEA is not a mega-EIA, it should not duplicate EIAs. It ideally covers strategic issues of concern that cannot be effectively addressed through project-level decision-making.

SEA should support efficient EIA application by providing guidelines for subsequent EIAs e.g.

- Identify **specific issues** to be investigated in detail within EIA
- **Propose optimal location** (or “no-go areas”) within wider territory
- Highlight likely **cumulative impacts** with other projects to be considered within EIA
River

Smaller Urban Centre

Upstream

Agroindustry / Agriculture

Upstream Coal Mining

Urban Expansion

Planned Industrial Area

Lake
Scope of SEA application

There is a wide range of strategic documents – plans, programmes, strategies, concepts

For only some of them SEA should be applied i.e.
- Having likely significant environmental effects
- Meeting administrative criteria:
  - Prepared by public agencies and formally adopted
  - Required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions
  - Setting framework for future development consent of projects likely requiring EIA...

**however, SEA Protocol recommends SEA also for policies and legislation!!!**
Typical SEA stages and analyses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screening</td>
<td>• Whether SEA is needed or not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scoping</td>
<td>• What SEA should focus on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline analysis</td>
<td>• What is the current status and likely future development without plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact assessment</td>
<td>• What are the significant impacts related to the plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitigation measures</td>
<td>• How impacts can be avoided or mitigated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA report</td>
<td>• Summary of all findings and recommendations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consultations

Integrating SEA results
Questions, comments?

Thank you for your attention!