STRATEGIC AND TRANS-BOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN WORLD BANK FINANCED PROJECTS

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World Bank safeguard policies:
Safeguarding investment projects from unintended negative side-effects on natural and social environment

OP/BP 4.01 Environmental Assessment
- Environmental impact assessment
- Strategic environmental assessment
- Programmatic environmental assessment
- Regional environmental assessment
- Sectorial environmental assessment
- Environmental audit
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Why SEA?

To look at impacts that are:

- multiple
- cumulative
- short-term and long-term
- induced
- spread over geographic area
Social aspect in EA – increasingly important

EIA ➔ ESIA
SEA ➔ SESA
Examples of World Bank assisted SEAs in Georgia:

Georgia’s Power Sector (Khudoni HPP) - Strategic Environmental Assessment 2006-2007

East-West Highway Improvement Projects - Regional Environmental Assessment 2009-2010

Main Directions of State Policy in Power Sector of Georgia - Under preparation
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Expectations from a SESA:
What does it say – yes or no? Wrong question

SESA reviews scenarios,
compares alternatives,
Lays out expected impacts,
Describes generic types of mitigation measures,
Estimates residual impacts,
Compares gains and losses,
Recommends preferable alternative(s)
Generates public input through consultations

Decision is a political choice
Trans-boundary aspects may be present in any type of EA –

Trans-boundary EA is not a self standing tool

OP/BP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways