

14 March 2012
English only

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
serving as the Meeting of the Parties
to the Protocol on Strategic
Environmental Assessment

Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

First meeting

Geneva, 24–26 April 2012

Items 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the provisional agenda

Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol

Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

Exchange of good practices

Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol

Implementation of the workplan activities

Note by the secretariat

This note summarises the present status (mid-March 2012) of the implementation of activities in the workplan (decisions V/9 and I/9). In addition, it presents related activities not included into the workplan but which are being or have been carried out by the secretariat in co-operation with other partners. To facilitate the review of the workplan, the following colours are used to indicate the degree of implementation.

<i>Degree of implementation</i>	<i>Workplan activities</i>	<i>Other activities</i>
No arrangements made, or no funding	18 (39%)	1
To be done, but not normally requiring funding	4 (9%)	0
Outline arrangements, including funding	5 (11%)	0
Firm arrangements with funding for 2012, or ongoing	17 (37%)	1
Completed	2 (4%)	5
Total	46	

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status</i>
Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol			Most items included in Implementation Committee and secretariat costs. Exceptions are identified below.	
1. Consideration by the Implementation Committee of received compliance submissions.	Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	2011–2014, presented to MOP6 ^a and the MOP/MOP2. ^b	Requires budget for translation of submissions: \$10,000.	Ongoing (and will be completed).
2. Report on the Committee's activities to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	2011–2014, presented to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	–	Ongoing (and will be completed by MOP6).
3. If necessary, review of the Committee's structure and functions and operating rules.	Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	2011–2014, presented to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	–	Initiated (and will be completed by MOP6).
4. Examination of the outcome of the third review of implementation.	Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	By the end of 2011.	–	Completed.
5. Simplification of the questionnaire for the report on implementation of the Convention, and its extension for the report on implementation of the Protocol.	Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat and, where appropriate, of WHO. ^c	Presentation of draft modified questionnaire to the Working Group by the end of 2012.	–	Ongoing (and will be completed in 2012). Draft (one questionnaire with two distinct parts) to be considered by Working Group in April 2012.

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6. Distribution of the questionnaire to the Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol for them to complete and return.	Carried out by the secretariat.	Issue of questionnaire, early 2013. Return of questionnaires by mid-2013.	–	To be done (but distribution will be completed by mid-2013).
7. Preparation of a draft review of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.	Carried out by the secretariat.	Presentation of draft review to the Working Group at the end of 2013 and to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	Requires an external consultant, budget: \$20,000.	To be done (but provide for in the budget and will be completed by MOP6).
8. Country-specific performance reviews and technical assistance in drafting legislation, in agreement with Parties wishing to strengthen their implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol. (a) Review would include a period in-country examining legislation, procedures and practice (case study), and would build upon earlier reviews further to decision IV/2. Parties experiencing similar problems might be assisted jointly.	Undertaken by external consultant(s) under supervision of members of the Committee, with support of the secretariat and, where appropriate, WHO. ^c	As decided by the Implementation Committee.	\$75,000 (approximately \$25,000 per review), plus in-kind contributions from Parties providing experts and from target country providing interpretation, translation, etc., and/or through the EnvSec Initiative with regard to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. ^d	If necessary. Provided for in budget, and likely to attract donor funding if required.

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(b) Development of general guidance on resolving a possible systemic inconsistency between the Convention and environmental assessment within the framework of State ecological expertise				Bureau agreed to hiring of consultant; arrangements initiated.
9. Pre-accession legislative assistance:	Uzbekistan	2012–2013.		Discussions with Uzbekistan and UNDP ongoing, with funding provided by Switzerland.
(a) Technical support to Uzbekistan to review its national legislation for implementation of the Convention and to propose amendments.	External consultant(s), with support of the secretariat, possibly UNDP ^e Uzbekistan.			
(b) (i) Technical advice to Belarus on improving legislation to implement the Protocol and advice in drafting necessary amendments.	Belarus External consultant(s), with support of the secretariat, UNDP Minsk, Zoi environment network	2012–2013.		Project starting in spring 2012, with EnvSec (Sweden) funding confirmed.
(b) (ii) Technical advice to Ukraine on improving legislation to implement the Protocol and advice in drafting necessary amendments.	Ukraine	2011–2012?		Status unclear, but possibly through EC. ^f
10. Collection of findings and opinions from the Committee regarding the Convention and the Protocol, posted on website.	Carried out by the secretariat.	Annual updates.		Ongoing. (Annual updates of online collection of the Committee's findings and opinions.)

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Subregional cooperation and capacity-building to strengthen contacts between the Parties and others, including States outside the ECE^g region				Expected outcome: Workshop reports and possible reports on specific issues.
South-Eastern Europe subregion 1. Workshop(s) on implementation of the Convention, Protocol and Bucharest Agreement in the subregion.	Lead country: Bosnia and Herzegovina, with support of the secretariat and UNEP. ^h	Possibly 2012?	EnvSec Initiative.	No funding available, but should arrange in cooperation with UNEP.
Mediterranean subregion, including Adriatic Sea 2. Workshop in France on practical application of the Convention on the basis of the results in the previous workshops	Lead country: France, in collaboration with Spain.	2012.		Funding available from France, but organization to be confirmed.
Carried forward workshop for Mediterranean	Lead country: Morocco previously indicated an interest, possibly with support of GIZ. ⁱ	2012.		Funding largely available in budget, but difficulties establishing practical arrangements.
Baltic Sea subregion 3. Holding at least two meetings (a)	Lead countries: Sweden, Poland, Germany, Estonia.	27–28 October 2011.	In kind	Completed.
(b)		20–21 September 2012.	In kind	Funding available from lead countries, and to be held in September 2012, Tallinn.

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(c)		Possible further meeting in 2012/13.	In kind	Funding available from lead countries, but date and location to be decided.
Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia			Donor or in-kind contributions by beneficiary countries.	
4. (a) Pilot transboundary EIA ^j , post-project analysis	Belarus with Ukraine External consultant(s), with support of the secretariat, UNDP Minsk, Zoï environment network.	2012–2013.		Project starting in spring 2012, with EnvSec (Sweden) funding confirmed.
4. (b) Pilot transboundary EIA	Kyrgyzstan with Kazakhstan.	2012.	Possibly through the EnvSec Initiative.	No funding identified, nor target project.
5. Subregional workshop for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia on EIA in the context of climate change, biodiversity, desertification	Lead country: Kazakhstan.	–		No funding identified.
6. Seminars for all Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries for the exchange of information, legislation and good practice between all States, followed by the dissemination of seminar results in each country, including to the public and NGOs. ^k	Dissemination of seminar results: All Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries.			

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(a) Exchange among those countries that reformed their national legislation and have experience in strengthening their professional potential (invite experts from the EU, ^l for example);	Georgia	2013.	Possibly through the EnvSec Initiative.	No funding identified, but possibly through EC (EuropeAid) project.
(b) On EIA, nature protection areas and mining, and guidance on sectors such as mining, energy, construction and agriculture.	Ukraine	2012.	Possibly through the EnvSec Initiative.	No funding identified, but possibly through EC (EuropeAid) project.
(c) -.	Belarus	2012.		Project starting in spring 2012, with EnvSec (Sweden) funding confirmed.
7. Conference on climate change and EIA.	Lead country: Republic of Moldova, with the support of the secretariat.	2012.	Possibly through the EnvSec Initiative. ^c	No funding identified but possibly through EC (EuropeAid) project, and beginning to define scope.
8. Conference “Silk Road: development and environmental protection in EIA”.	Lead country: Uzbekistan.	2013.	Possibly through the EnvSec Initiative. ^c	No funding identified but possibly with UNDP.
Exchange of good practices			\$40,000 (approximately \$10,000 per seminar, with up to four seminars)	Expected outcomes: From each workshop or seminar, a brief, clear document presenting advice on the most important identified problems for the theme in question.

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1. Biodiversity;	Lead country: Belgium, with support of EC	2013.	In kind.	Re-confirmed for spring 2013, with funding.
2. Renewable energy: wind farms, renewable fuels (including biomass) and large-scale solar;	Lead country: Poland and Portugal, with support of REC-CEE. ^m	Spring/ autumn 2013.	In kind.	Re-confirmed for autumn 2013, with funding.
3. One-day workshop on the long-range impacts of nuclear energy-related activities.	Lead countries: Austria, Finland and Sweden.	Spring 2013.	In kind.	To be agreed, but perhaps free-standing and in late 2012; perhaps spring 2013. Funding of participants uncertain.
Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEAⁿ				Expected outcomes: Ratifications
1. Maintenance of the Resource Manual, including its health annex.	Lead: secretariat with the support of WHO.	Ongoing.		Ongoing. Resource Manual published electronically in English (and Russian?)
2. Elaboration of compact and simplified version of the Resource Manual that focuses on the practical application of the Protocol.	Lead: secretariat with the assistance of an editorial group comprising, Austria, Finland, the Netherlands, EC, WHO and REC-CEE. ^m	–		Draft to be considered by Working Group in April 2012. Expect paper and electronic forms.
3. Preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in SEA practice (e.g., how to diversify alternatives, stakeholder engagement, assessment tools, and health and SEA).	Lead organization: the IAIA, ^o with the support of WHO, SEA and health experts, and the secretariat.	Ongoing.		Ongoing, with IAIA drafting.

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4. Workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol for countries in the ECE region and other Parties to the Protocol, in particular countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.	Lead country: organizing country (for training), with support of experts from Austria and Slovenia, and from REC-CEE and WHO ^c invited to share their experience.	–		
(a)	Armenia	2012–2013.	Possibly through the EnvSec Initiative. ^d	No funding identified but possibly through EC (EuropeAid) project, and beginning to define scope.
(b)	Belarus	2012.		Project starting in spring 2012, EnvSec (Sweden) funding confirmed.
(c)	Georgia	?		No funding identified, but possibly through EC (EuropeAid) project.
(d)	Kazakhstan	2012?		No funding identified, but initial discussions with EBRD. ^p
(e)	Republic of Moldova	2012	Possibly through the EnvSec Initiative. ^d	No funding identified but possibly through EC (EuropeAid) project, and beginning to define scope.
(f)	Russian Federation	?		Funding possibly from Sweden, but no arrangements made.
(g)	Ukraine	2012.		No funding identified, but

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				possibly through EC (EuropeAid) project.
5. Pilot SEAs in selected countries, in selected sectors.	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Republic of Moldova, in collaboration with WHO, where relevant.		Possibly through the EnvSec Initiative with regard to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. ^c	
(a)	Republic of Moldova	2012.		No funding identified but possibly through EC (EuropeAid) project, and national waste management strategy identified as possible subject for SEA.
(b)	Armenia	2012–2013		No funding identified but possibly through EC (EuropeAid) project, and landfill plan in Sevan Basin identified as possible subject for SEA.
(c)	Azerbaijan	2012–2013		No funding identified but possibly through EC (EuropeAid) project. No pilot subject identified.
6. Preparation of a format for SEA notification.	Lead: secretariat with assistance of an editorial group comprising Austria and Germany.	–		Draft to be considered by Working Group in April 2012.

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7. Development of legislation on SEA.	Lead country: Republic of Moldova.	2013.		No funding identified but possibly through EC (EuropeAid) project, and beginning to define scope.
8. Joint workshop on public participation in SEA in accordance with the Protocol and article 7 of the Aarhus Convention.	Lead: Bureau in collaboration with Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making under the Aarhus Convention.	29–30 October 2012.		Preparations ongoing, hiring of consultant and possible funding of participants agreed by Bureau.
Other activities (not listed in the workplan)				
Side event at 'Environment for Europe' Ministerial Conference, Kazakhstan.	Secretariat	21–23 September 2011		Completed.
Participation at IAIA conference on SEA in Europe.	Secretariat	21–23 September 2011		Completed.
Providing input for 8th training workshop on transboundary EIA in Northeast Asia, Vladivostok (Russian Federation).	Secretariat	12–14 October 2011		Completed.
Input to Rio+20 preparatory process.	Secretariat	1–2 December 2011		Completed.

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Technical advice to the Government of Ukraine to assist it in bringing its legislation into line with the provisions of the Convention.	EU	?		EU project underway.
Pilot SEA in Kyrgyzstan?		2012?		To be discussed with possible donors (GIZ, USAID ^o), but concept outlined.
SEA training in Uzbekistan.	Secretariat, UNDP, GIZ	9–12 November 2011		Completed.

^a Sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

^b Second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

^c World Health Organization, subject to the availability of funding.

^d Environment and Security Initiative, subject to the availability of funding.

^e United Nations Development Programme.

^f European Commission.

^g Economic Commission for Europe.

^h United Nations Environment Programme.

ⁱ German Agency for International Cooperation.

^j Environmental impact assessment.

^k Non-governmental organizations.

^l European Union.

^m Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, subject to the availability of funding.

ⁿ Strategic environmental assessment.

^o International Association for Impact Assessment.

^p European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

^q United States Agency for International Development.