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Working meeting on
SEA for the General National
Territorial Plan of Albania

Introduction to SEA

Tirana, September 9 – 10, 2015

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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

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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 (WB, EBRD, EIB etc.)

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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

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Principles of efficient SEA

- 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

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Principles of efficient SEA

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...)

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SEA and planning

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 EIA

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
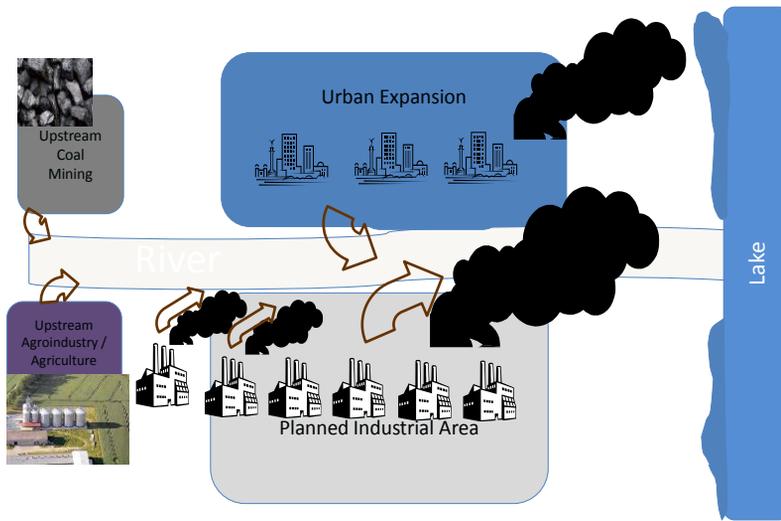
Typical SEA steps and analyses
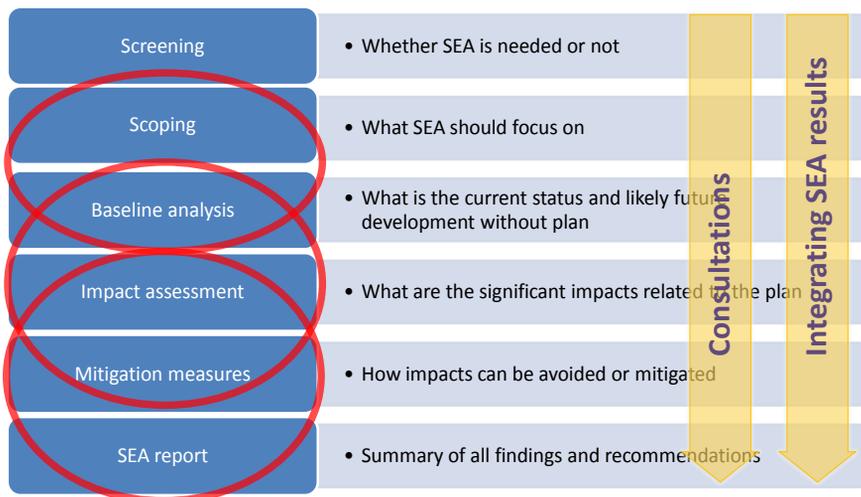
Screening	• Whether SEA is needed or not
Scoping	• What SEA should focus on
Baseline analysis	• What is the current status and likely future development without plan
Impact assessment	• What are the significant impacts related to the plan
Mitigation measures	• How impacts can be avoided or mitigated
SEA report	• Summary of all findings and recommendations

Consultations

Integrating SEA results

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SEA in spatial planning

- Spatial planning is one of the most important planning schemes
- SEA is widely applied for spatial plans at all levels – national, regional, local
- Preparation of spatial planning is usually well designed and structured procedure including
  - Certain environmental analyses (water, land, soil etc.)
  - Consultations with stakeholders
- SEA design has to consider this to avoid duplications

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Questions, comments?