

Introduction to SEA



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WHAT IS SEA

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is an efficient procedural tool to integrate environmental and health considerations into plans, programmes as well as to policies and legislation alongside the economic and social considerations



WHAT SEA SHOULD DO

- Inform the decision-making through
 - a robust assessment of the likely environmental and health consequences, and of their relationship with the objectives and development proposals of the plan/programme;
 - identification of development alternatives; and
 - outcomes of the consultations;
- Enable consultations with governmental agencies as well as public in the preparation of plans, programmes and policies, including, if relevant, a transboundary aspect;
- Ensure that the results of assessment and debate are taken into account during decision-making and implementation.

SEA BENEFITS



- Provides for a high level of environmental and health protection
- Improves the quality of planning
- Facilitates identification of new development opportunities
- Helps to prevent costly mistakes
- Increases the efficiency of decision-making and strengthens governance

PRINCIPLES OF 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
- Individual SEA adjusted to the document assessed, considering its focus, planning process, structure of the document, governmental agencies and other stakeholders involved etc.

MAIN ACTORS IN SEA

- Planning agencies (sectoral ministries, regional and local authorities)
- Environmental and health authorities
- The public (natural or legal persons, civil society, non-governmental organizations, etc.)
- Decision-makers (government, parliament, regional or municipal councils)
- Other governmental institutions
- Consultants and experts

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**

A photograph of an industrial facility, likely a power plant or refinery, with several tall smokestacks emitting thick, white plumes of smoke that rise into a clear blue sky. The smokestacks are arranged in a line, and the smoke plumes are dense and billowing. The overall scene is hazy and atmospheric. The text "THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image. A white L-shaped graphic element is positioned in the bottom right corner, partially overlapping the text and the image.

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION!**