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Strengthening environmental assessment systems in Kazakhstan by integrating modern SEA and EIA procedures

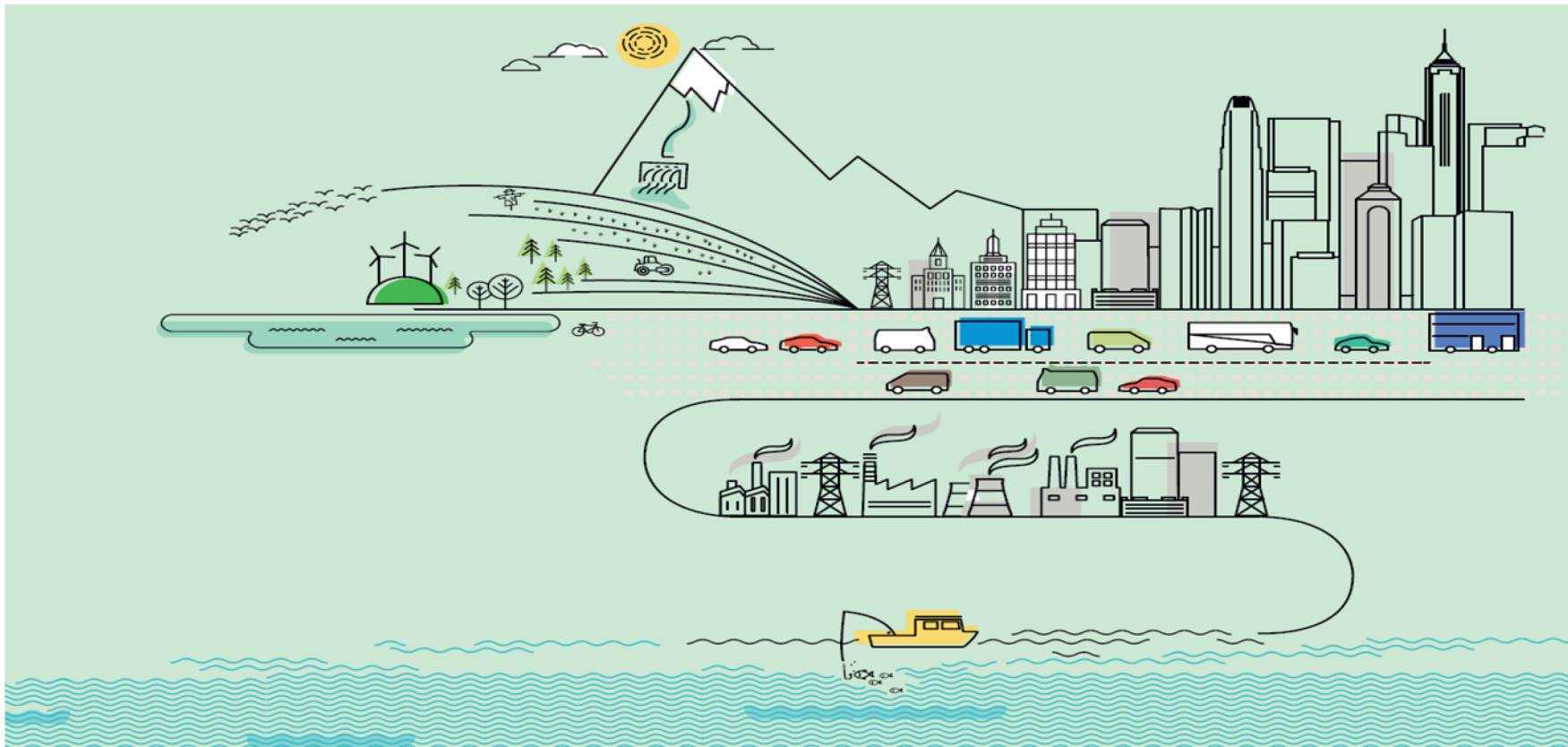
Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa
Regional Adviser
Environment Division
UNECE

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UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA)

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAOkskySYto>

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment: Towards an Integrated Approach

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- more environmentally sensitive decisions;
- increased accountability and transparency during the development process;
- reduced environmental damage;
- more effective projects in terms of meeting their financial and/or socio-economic objectives

SEA and EIA

- SEA ideally covers strategic issues of concern that cannot be effectively addressed through project-level decision-making.
- SEA can facilitate EIA by providing “guidance” for the project level development.

Procedures set by the Protocol on SEA

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Introduction of environment and health protection aspects into the strategic development planning



СЭО обязательна для планов и программ в следующих отраслях:

- Сельское хозяйство
- Лесоводство
- Рыболовство
- Энергетика
- Промышленность, включая горнодобывающую
- Транспорт
- Региональное развитие
- Управление отходами
- Водное хозяйство
- Телекоммуникации
- Туризм
- Городское и сельское планирование
- Землепользование

SEA to promote Green Economy

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

SEA and EIA Activities in Kazakhstan (October 2017-October 2018)

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Since 2016, the UNECE and the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan implement activities to introduce modern EIA and SEA systems in Kazakhstan under the project ‘Supporting Kazakhstan’s Transition to a Green Economy Model’ with the funding from EU and the OSCE Programme Office in Astana.

The activities envisage:

- (a) review and revision of the existing EIA and SEA legislation and procedures; and
- (b) pilot application of the SEA procedure to Concept for development of fuel and energy complex until 2030 (‘SEA pilot’).



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SEA and EIA Legal Drafting Activities



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Project outcomes:

- **Review of legislative aspects** of the Republic of Kazakhstan in relation to provisions of the UNECE Protocol on SEA to the Espoo Convention.
- **Review of legislative aspects of environmental impact assessment of the Republic of Kazakhstan** in relation to the implementation of the provisions of the Espoo Convention.
- The **draft Law on SEA** with amendments to Environmental Code and sectoral legislation of Kazakhstan.
- A **separate Chapter on transboundary procedure** in the Environmental Code of Kazakhstan.

SEA Pilot Project

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- pilot application of the SEA procedure to Concept for development of fuel and energy complex until 2030

Main activities within the SEA pilot include:

- preparation of the scoping and SEA reports including all relevant analyses;
- organizing consultations with relevant stakeholders;
- communication with the Ministry of Energy and experts responsible for the amending the Concept



SEA pilot – expected outputs



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- Identification of environmental and health risks related to the Concept
- Recommending measures and actions to avoid or mitigate these risks, which may include:
 - Formulation of alternative priorities/objectives/measures to be considered in the Concept
 - Recommendations for future development of energy sector
 - Suggestions for implementing the Concept
 - Priority projects
 - Identification of areas potentially problematic for energy development
 - Identification of environmental risks which may affect energy production

SEA and EIA Activities



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Implemented activities since October 2016

- Round table and two working group meetings on SEA and EIA legal drafting were held;
- Two working level meetings of the SEA team, public hearings with presentation of the Scoping report and consultations were implemented.

Upcoming events:

- Working level meeting of the SEA team and back-to-back public hearings with presentation of the Environmental report – end of July 2018;
- Working group meeting on SEA and EIA legal drafting and back-to-back public hearings – end of August 2018;
- Final Round table with presentations of the SEA and EIA project results and lessons learnt (October 2018)

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**More information on the SEA and EIA activities is
available at the Ministry's of Energy website:
<http://energo.gov.kz/index.php?id=19167>**

Thank you for your attention!

