



Section A4.7: SEA of plans & programmes – Monitoring

Resource Manual to Support
Application of the UNECE Protocol on
Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Protocol on SEA

- Legal obligations
- Possible practical considerations



- Article 12 – Monitoring
 1. Each Party shall monitor the **significant** environmental, including health, **effects of the implementation** of the plans and programmes, adopted under article 11 in order, inter alia, **to identify**, at an early stage, **unforeseen adverse effects** and to be able **to undertake appropriate remedial action**.
 2. The **results** of the monitoring undertaken shall be made **available**, in accordance with national legislation, **to the authorities** referred to in article 9, paragraph 1, and **to the public**.
- In Directive, see Article 10
- *inter alia* means ‘among other things’



- Benefits
 - Identify, at an early stage, unforeseen adverse effects
 - Be able to undertake appropriate remedial action
- Monitoring might also be used to
 - Compare predicted & actual effects
 - provides information on P/P implementation
 - Provide experience to help improve future SEAs
 - i.e. as quality control tool
 - Check compliance with environmental conditions imposed by authorities
 - Check that P/P implemented as described
 - including measures to prevent / reduce / mitigate adverse effects



- Who, what, where, when, how of monitoring
 - who is to undertake it
 - who is to make results available
 - what to monitor (P/P's significant environmental effects)
 - what to make available (raw results / analyses thereof)
 - where to monitor
 - what frequency & for how long
 - when to make results available
 - how to monitor (methods)
 - how to make results available
- Might exploit existing monitoring & information access arrangements or strengthen them for SEA



- Nature of monitoring will vary, e.g.
 - For regularly revised land-use plan, monitoring whether predicted environmental effects realized as means of improving next plan version
 - difficult to establish cause-effect relationship at P/P level
 - monitoring results made available at start of next plan-revision cycle
 - For transport infrastructure programme, monitoring focused on dealing with unexpected implementation effects, taking immediate action through modifying programme or its individual projects
 - duration of monitoring might be significantly longer
 - public availability of monitoring results might be through programme-specific website



- Methods
 - Available & suited to testing whether assumptions & predictions made in environmental assessment correspond with environmental effects when P/P implemented
 - Able to provide early warning of unforeseen adverse effects of P/P so timely remedial action can be taken
- Nature (i.e. detail & whether quantitative / qualitative) of environmental information to be monitored depends on
 - corresponding character & detail of P/P
 - its predicted environmental effects



- Requirement to identify unforeseen adverse effects
 - but can be based on significant environmental effects identified in environmental report
- *Unforeseen* might refer to unforeseen magnitude / intensity of foreseen effect
- Can include elements in monitoring programme that might identify truly unforeseen effects
- *Implementation covers*
 - realization of projects envisaged in P/P (construction & operation)
 - other activities (such as behavioural measures / management schemes) forming part of P/P (or its implementation)
- *Remedial action*
 - If modify P/P as a result, may require further SEA (if articles 2.5 & 4 satisfied)



- Significant effects monitored might include **transboundary** effects
- See post-project analysis in Espoo Convention (Art. 7)
- No requirement to share monitoring results with affected Party, but
 - monitoring results should be in public domain
 - might need affected Party's assistance in setting up monitoring in its territory



- Further sources of information
 - *Chapter A5* on tools
 - *EC Guide* (section 8 & appendix I)
 - EU Network for the Implementation & Enforcement of Environment Law (IMPEL)

