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Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

Introduction of the UNECE Activities with support from the EU4Environment Programme

Awareness-Raising Event on the SEA and EIA Component of
the EU4Environment Programme (Ganja, 29 September 2023)

Mr. Michal Musil, International SEA Consultant to UNECE for
EU4Environment

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Azerbaijan

- In the area of SEA and transboundary EIA, UNECE has been providing technical assistance and capacity-building to Azerbaijan with funding from the European Union (EaP GREEN 2013 – 2018; EU4Environment (2019 – 2023)) since 2013.
- Through these, Azerbaijan has been supported in preparing to become Party to the UNECE Protocol on SEA when the country decides so in the future.

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- **Objective:** help the beneficiary (Eastern Partnership) countries preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

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EU4Environment (cont'd)

Programme component UNECE in charge of implementing aims to ensure that the newly established national legislative frameworks on SEA and EIA are:

- *complemented with detailed secondary legislation, as relevant*
- *fully aligned with the Protocol on SEA, Espoo Convention, EU Directive on SEA and EU Directive on EIA; and*
- *systematically and effectively applied by the countries in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus*

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EU4Environment funded legislative support (2020)

Legislative support in drafting two pieces of the secondary implementing legislation in 2020 (both adopted):

- Regulation for Conducting of Environmental Impact Assessment, including Transboundary Impact Assessment and its Duration
- Regulation for Conducting Strategic Environmental Assessment

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EU4Environment funded subregional workshops on SEA and EIA (2020; 2022)

Azerbaijan's representatives of authorities and experts took an active part in:

- Two sub-regional workshops on the practical application of SEA and transboundary EIA (26-27 October 2020; 29 June 2022)
- A total of eleven participants from Azerbaijan

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EU4Environment funded national training workshops on SEA (2021)

- Training Workshop on the Practical Application of SEA in Regional and Spatial Planning (26-27 April 2021)
- Second Training Workshop on the Practical Application of SEA in Regional and Spatial Planning (15 October 2021)
- More than 70 persons trained in both

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EU4Environment funded video about the Espoo Convention in Azerbaijani (2021 - 2022)

- **an introductory video on transboundary EIA / Espoo Convention: dubbed into Azerbaijani in 2021 – 2022**

Available in Azerbaijani at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Yk2TaaB8xs>

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EU4Environment funded model for a SEA database (2023)

- **an introductory video on transboundary EIA / Espoo Convention: dubbed into Azerbaijani in 2021 – 2022**

Available in Azerbaijani at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Yk2TaaB8xs>

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Pilot SEA project in Azerbaijan (2022 – 2023)

- Subject to SEA is a draft Master Plan for Azerbaijan's second-largest city Ganja (centre of the Ganja-Gazakh economic region)
- The master plan (once finalized and adopted) will provide a lay-out to guide development of the city until 2040
- Objectives of the pilot SEA: to provide hands-on learning for applying SEA in urban planning, to further build national capacities on SEA procedures and to demonstrate sector-specific benefits of SEA
- First-ever SEA in the Ganja-Gazakh economic region

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Master Plan (Spatial Planning): Why SEA?

- Environmental issues without clear spatial dimension tend to get neglected
- Spatial planning tend to take into account only formal spatial limits (regulations)
- Environmental data often outdated/not reflecting reality (i.e. where the biodiversity hot-spots really are)
- Specific expertise often not available (i.e. biodiversity, air quality, hydrology,..)
- Planning process too long and complicated for non-specialist to participate: SEA simplify and singles out the key concerns and communicates them to the relevant stakeholders

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Master Plan (Spatial Planning): Why SEA? (2)

- SEA should not duplicate the analyses made during the planning process. Instead:
 - Verify the baseline conditions description and complement with additional information where necessary
 - Identify key environmental concerns (already existing problems as well as where the potential for negative impacts lays) and focus on those
 - Offer recommendations and opinion on feasible spatial alternatives, conditions for development, no-go areas for certain activities, etc.
- Nevertheless, for the SEA Report – the environmental baseline information can be (selectively) adopted from the planning analyses as appropriate (i.e. the SEA Report shall make use of already existing material).
- Working cooperation between Planners and SEA team crucial

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Pilot SEA project: milestones

- The pilot SEA was preceded by two SEA trainings for urban planners and other stakeholders in 2021
- Kicked-off in July 2022
- New significant changes to the draft master plan under development made by Azerbaijan in fall 2022
- SEA team: a group of national experts and one international expert established in October 2022

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Pilot SEA project: milestones (cont'd)

- Draft and final Scoping Report prepared in 2023 incl. inputs from the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
- The pilot SEA is in its concluding phase: a draft SEA report is currently being finalized by a team of national experts and guidance from the international expert; to be followed by public hearing and finalization of the SEA Report before the end of 2023.

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ÜSAS ÜZÜM



Əhali (nəfər)
2020 - 335 600
2040 - 500 000

Ərazi (ha):
2020 - 12 500
2040 - 13 400

--- Layihə sərhədi	
Yaşayış zonası	
- Çoxmərtəbəli yaşayış binaları	150 ha
- Orta mərtəbəli yaşayış binaları	890 ha
- Azmərtəbəli yaşayış binaları	101 ha
- Fərdi yaşayış evləri	4639 ha
- Ehtiyat yaşayış əraziləri	145 ha
- Təhsil müəssisələri	315 ha
- Səhiyyə müəssisələri	103 ha
İctimai-işgüzar zona	
- Çoxfunksiyalı ictimai - işgüzar zona	520 ha
- İxtisaslaşdırılmış ictimai - işgüzar zona	341 ha
- İdman kompleksi	77 ha
İstehsalat zonası	
- Sənaye	1160 ha
- Elmi-istehsalat	147 ha
- Kommunal-anbar	88 ha
Xüsusi qonunan ərazi zonaları	
- Gəncə Dövlət Tarix-Mədəniyyət qoruğu	914 ha
- Xüsusi əhəmiyyətli tarixi-memarlıq ərazisi	487 ha
Xüsusi şərtlərlə istifadə olunan zona	
- Yaşıllaşdırılan ərazilər	912 ha
- Partladıcı maddələr müəssisəsinin istisna ərazisi	277 ha
Kənd təsərrüfatı zonası	603 ha
Rekasiya zonası	1630 ha
Hərbi və digər rejimli zona	308 ha
Nəqliyyat infrastrukturu zonası	888 ha
Mühəndis infrastrukturu zonası	26 ha

- 1 Xan bağı
- 2 Heydər Əliyev parkı
- 3 İmamzadə kompleksi
- 4 Nizami məqbərəsi
- 5 Det-al Alüminium MMC
- 6 Nizami Bağları layihəsi
- 7 Layihələndirilən Meşə-park ərazisi
- 8 Layihələndirilən təhsil ərazisi
- 9 Layihələndirilən sənaye ərazisi
- 10 Hava limanı
- 11 Dəmiryol vağzalı
- 12 Avtovağzal

Ganja city Master Plan

Content

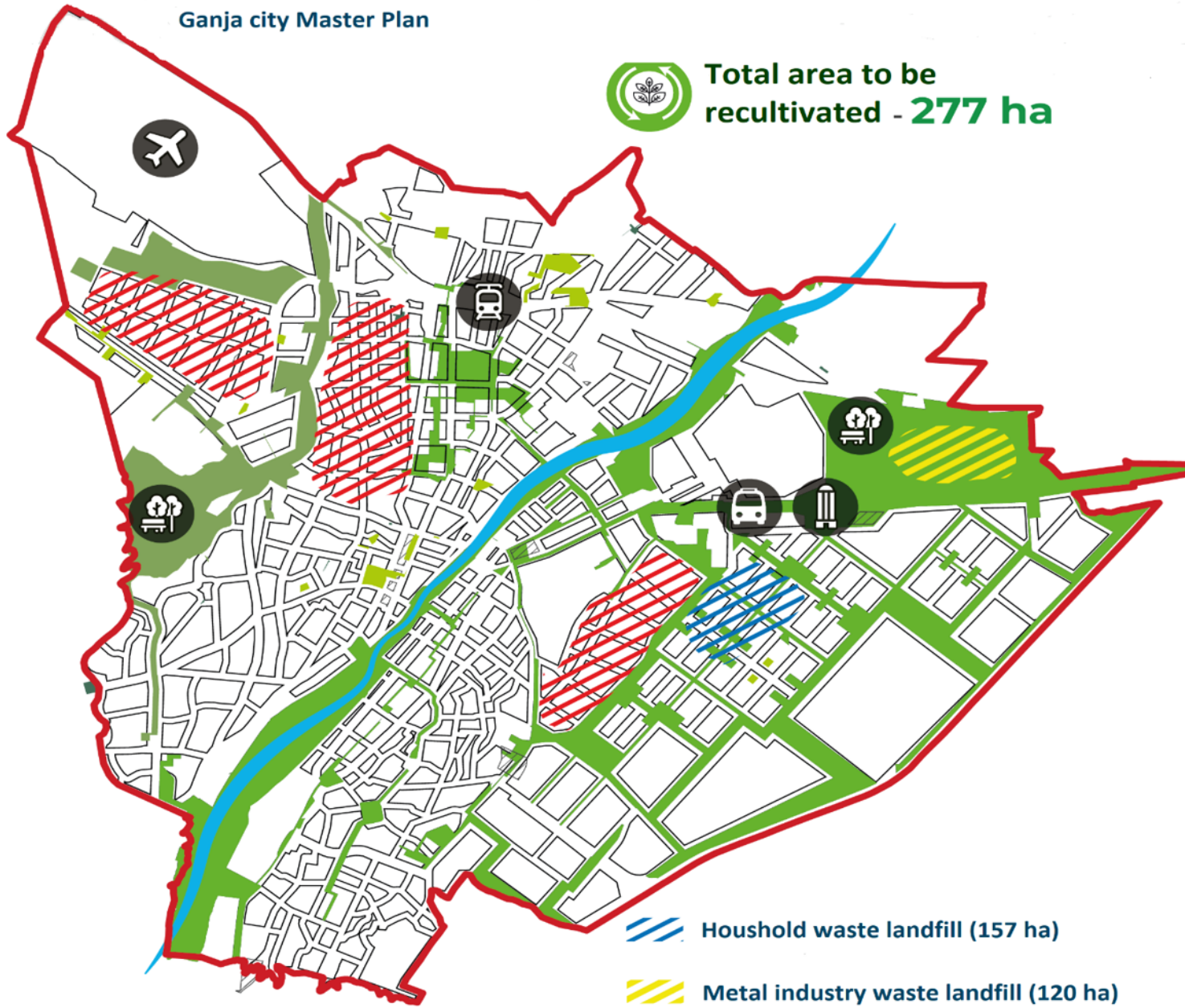
Target 1 City with strong economic profile and sustainable to risks	Target 2 Preservation of environmental balance	Target 3 Compact city	Target 4 Socio-oriented city	Target 5 Improvement of city transport
Creation of common industrial district	Increasing green spaces in the city	Regulating the growth of Ganja within its administrative boundaries	Development of attractive open public spaces	Prevalance of public transport
Converting the city to into a tourist centre	Development of suburban agriculture	Organization of the planning structure by preserving the historical heritage	Creation of mix-used residential areas (business + housing, etc.)	Ensuring inclusiveness
Establishment of scientific-research park and education cluster	Recultivation of existing ecologically polluted areas in the city	Efficient land use inside the boundaries of the city	Creation of greenery, recreation and sports network	Creation of pedestrian-oriented urban infrastructure
Establishment of transport-logistics centre	Restoration of Ganjachay and its surroundings	Discovering the compositional axes and nodes of the city, creating a new silhouette of the city	Allocation of land for educational campus	Improvement of international, national and regional transport opportunities
The development of an economically active zone in the bank of the river	Application of environmental friendly and circular industry types	A new look at the riverfront	Ensuring the accessibility of secondary schools	Designing bicycle paths
Allocation of land for vocational schools near industrial districts	Proper management of solid waste and sewage water	Creation of sub-centers	"Healthy city" – establishment of a single area where the medical university and health centers are located	Providing tourism routes
		Increasing green line and public spaces	Preservation of buildings of historical and architectural importance	Making proposals to combat global warming

Ganja city Master Plan



Total area to be
recultivated - **277 ha**

the



 Household waste landfill (157 ha)

 Metal industry waste landfill (120 ha)

 Areas having no sewage system



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SEA Approach

- Identification of relevant proposals/land-use changes that can bring about significant environmental effects
- E.g.:
 - Development areas (housing, production and business, recreational, waste management...)
 - Transport infrastructure corridors and areas
 - Energy infrastructure corridors and areas
 - Water management corridors and areas (water reservoirs, dry polders,...)
 - ...

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SEA Approach (cont'd)

Evaluation of compliance with Environmental policy objectives

- Based on stated objectives and priorities of the Plan
- Based on interpretation of the proposed changes in the spatial organization and land-use
- A set of Environmental objectives is compiled from national strategic documents defining objectives for individual environmental issues

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State Programs or Initiatives	Environmental issues to be addressed under those programs	Environmental impacts of Ganja city Master Plan Significant inconsistency issues	Recommendations
<p>"National Strategy for 2018-2022 on the improvement of solid household waste management in the Republic of Azerbaijan"</p>	<p>Plan focused on institutional and legal capacity building, including maintenance.</p> <p>It also envisaged findings and recommendations towards management of waste and attracting investments in that sphere and maintain circular and green economy, improve the quality of life and ensure safe environment and human health.</p> <p>First phase of the program implementation include in identification major areas and proposing concept future locations and management.</p> <p>In the second phase of the Regional Strategy (2026-2030), it will cover almost the entire region construction and management of collection, transportation systems, transmission points, construction of waste landfills and operation is planned.</p>	<p>Programs Action Plan clearly indentified hot-spot areas for waste management and regional treatment plans.</p> <p>There might be inconsistency with Master Plan.</p> <p>Determined places and tools waste management need to be integrated with this plan, as transport and storage areas for waste has been already identified in state program and Ganja city should transfer wastes to regional treatment area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure consistency while developing the Ganja Master plan and make recommendations while SEA process - Transport of solid wastes to regional sanitar poligons (considerd in Shamkir region) need to be considered - Propose on reception and sorting tools of wastes; collection and temporary storage (storage) areas and its features – which routes from city centre, transportation to Shamkir. <p>Treatment facility need to be agreed with other planning authority – Ministry of Economy developed the</p>



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Anticipated benefits of the pilot SEA

- Raising the awareness of the SEA, particularly among local stakeholders, as a participatory tool for identification, prioritization and addressing environmental concerns in urban planning
- Supporting a Master Plan development team in the identification of the priority environmental challenges and issues, including visualizing those on GIS maps

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Anticipated benefits of the pilot SEA (cont'd)

- Providing an independent expert opinion on likely key environmental effects of the Master Plan, and proposing measures to optimize the implementation of the Master Plan, as well as recommendations for the monitoring of its environmental impacts in the future
- Catalysing the involvement of the public concerned/local stakeholders in commenting on the draft Master Plan and the associated draft SEA Report.

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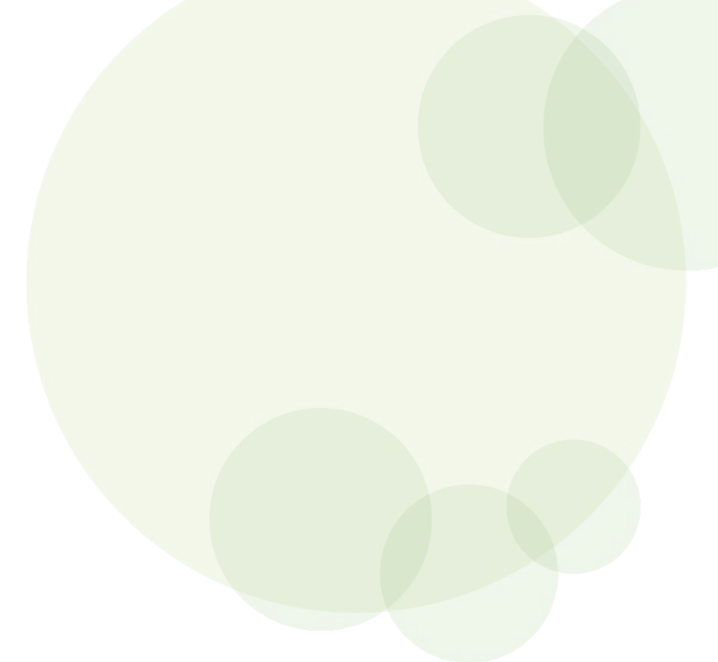


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Thank you for your attention!

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