

UNECE Espoo Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals



UNECE Espoo Convention

The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA) provide a legal framework and clear procedures for the comprehensive integration of environmental and health concerns into a wide range of development activities, plans, programmes, policies and legislation in all economic sectors.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development enshrines an ambitious and transformational global vision to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. It includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.



How do the Espoo Convention and in particular its Protocol on SEA help help to achieve the SDGs?

Because they mainstream environmental and health considerations into development processes, the Espoo Convention and its Protocol actively contribute to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda. Through legal and technical support, pilot projects, capacity-building activities and the exchange of information and practices, these two treaties contribute to the attainment of almost all of the SDGs.

How the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA contribute to attaining the SDGs (selected examples)



Reduce health hazards by ensuring that environmental and health considerations are taken into account when planning potentially polluting economic activities.



Contribute to government energy plans and programmes, as well as policies and legislation, that meet renewable energy targets.



Integrate green economy considerations into development plans and make production patterns more sustainable.



Drive the discovery of more sustainable alternatives and best available technologies.



Improve development planning and enhance sustainable urbanization and human settlements.



Reduce related environmental impacts of economic activities.



Ensure integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into national planning, strategies and policies.



Protect biodiversity and natural habitats.



Render decision-making on economic activities more inclusive, participatory and representative.

Further information

For questions and further information contact the Convention secretariat or visit the Convention's website: eia.conv@unece.org
www.unece.org/env/eia/welcome.html