

Documentation of the results in the BHP "Integration of ecological concerns into territorial planning of Ukraine at the level of United Territorial Communities (UTC)".

Preliminary note: The following text is in large parts a translation of the original Russian text of the Ukrainian project partners. For better comprehensibility, modifications were made in individual places by Anja May and Stefan Heiland.

(3) Environmental assessment of the UTC Stepancy territorial plan.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of plans and programs is one of the requirements of the Association Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine, signed in 2014 but fully entered into force only on 01 September 2017, to be implemented in national law (see Ch. 6 Environment Art. 363 Harmonization of Environmental Legislation).

After several related national bills were rejected in 2015-2016, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Law of March 20, 2018 (No. 2354-VIII) entered into force at the start of the project in late 2018.

In 2019, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine (now the Ministry of Energy and Environmental Protection) developed methodological recommendations for conducting Strategic Environmental Assessments, but their application in practice revealed numerous gaps. The recommendations are general and do not consider the specifics of territorial plans, the different levels of detail of information and data at different planning levels, or the methodological approaches to assessing the impacts of plans on different subjects of protection (Soil, Water, Biodiversity etc.).

The Ukrainian project partners took a multi-pronged approach: They analyzed German methodological and practical examples, which were compiled and translated for them by Technische Universität Berlin. They transferred suitable methodological approaches to the legal framework and the planning system in Ukraine. In parallel, they prepared the environmental report on the territorial plan of the United Territorial Community (UTC) of Stepancy. An important basis for this were the results and experiences of the previous project, especially with the environmental report on the territorial plan of Cherkassy oblast.

The contents and structure of the environmental report at the level of the UTCs are based on the requirements of Ukrainian legislation and thus cover the entire range of tasks of an SEA, from the objectives of the planning, the description of the current state of the environment, the description and assessment of the likely environmental impacts of the planning to the consideration of reasonable alternatives and to mitigation and compensation measures.

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The result of the environmental assessment was a summarizing overall evaluation of the likely impacts, broken down by the land categories of the territorial plan such as residential, industrial and commercial areas, or transport, technical and social infrastructure. The following impacts on different subjects of protection were assigned to a five-point rating scale:

- Population and human health: life expectancy, diseases, noise;
- Climate / air: greenhouse gas emissions, pollutant emissions;
- Land: land consumption; amount of waste produced;
- Soil: pollution, water retention capacity;
- Ground and surface water: water resources, pollutant discharge;
- Species and biotopes (corresponds to biological diversity): Impairment of habitats of red-listed animal and plant species, overuse and impairment of forests;
- Landscape (cultural landscapes and recreational potential): Overuse and impairment of landscapes.

Significant adverse impacts are expected to result from the following planning activities: Logistics center, motor vehicle repair shop, bus stop, gas station, regional roads of local importance, industrial roads, main roads, sewage treatment plants, waste sorting plant, and poultry farm. Positive effects on the environment are expected from the green areas and vacation facilities in the rural environment.

As a result of the comprehensive plan review and consideration of potential compensatory mitigation measures, it is anticipated that the proposed Territorial plan projects will not result in significant adverse impacts overall.

One of the new methods tested was the summary presentation of conservation concerns and impacts in fact sheets, e.g., for proposed poultry farm subdivisions and proposed residential development.

The result of the environmental assessment of the territorial plan is available as an environmental report in Ukrainian language and contains 76 pages. The appendix on the following page contains the table of contents of the environmental report.

Attachments

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