First National Consultation (NC) on Synthesis of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) and the Sustainability Outlook (SOM)

Dr. Aida Karazhanova, SUDS/EDD, ESCAP
22-23 August, 2017
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Ministry of Environment and Tourism
NC Objectives

• Review the first draft of EPR
• Go through methodologies of SOM
• Initiate identification of integrated policy options and leverage points for mainstreaming the SDGs into national development planning and
• simultaneously support implementation of international MEAs in Mongolia.
The National Consultation (NC) process is an interactive series of workshops. This NC is utilizing the results of the ToT workshop, the draft EPR and zero draft inputs to SOM chapters.

“Pathways document” is a document that will be developed based on EPR and SOM, in a participatory way, with messages and contents, addressing achieving commitments of international MEAs and implementation of Agenda 2030.

We shall be using systems thinking process and tools for identifying linkages and key high impact leverage points for policy intervention with support from impactful investment schemes.

The expected outcome will contain compiled views and inputs of national experts, stakeholders and peers to the first draft EPR and SOM provided and used for further work and the development of “Pathways document”.
Session 1: Methodologies and Overview of SOM and EPR, inputs to SOM Chapter 1

✓ S1.1 Overview of macro-economic perspectives and recent economic and social developments of Mongolia
✓ S1.1 Sustainable Development Vision of Mongolia and Overview of Three MEAs and SDGs
✓ S1.2 Methodologies of development of integrated EPR and SOM based on ToT recommendations
✓ S1.3 Review of EPR for Mongolia

Session 2: Quantitative and Qualitative SDG profiling and integration with EPR and RSEA (inputs to SOM Chapter 2)

✓ S2.1 Framing the group assignment of the methodologies to review the mid term Goals and Targets, available indicators within 3MEAs and reflection on the EPR / RSEA findings
✓ S2.2 Group Work on 4 Integrated Goal Statements, methodology of SDG profiling, peers list
✓ S2.3 Group presentations and wrap up

Session 3: Formulation of SOM Content Statements and SDG interaction Scoring (inputs to SOM Chapter 2)

✓ S3.1 Roles of national institutions, collaborative approaches for the indicator framework. Introduction to scenario building
✓ S3.2 Framing/group work on the integrated goals by (a) leveraging policy entry points, (b) respective scenarios process for identification of high impactful policy levers (scoring technique), (c) SDG target interaction scoring of SDG inter-linkages: relationships and trade-off implications
✓ S3.3 Group work presentations and wrap up.
NC scope: Day 2

Session 4: Visualizing of 4 Goals with Integrated Policy Frameworks
✓ S4.1 Framing group discussions to elicit strategies for financial schemes and impactful investments
✓ S4.2 Role of spatial planning tools: databases and remote sensing tools

Session 5: Systems Mapping of Leveraging Policies for Elicited Sectors of Cross-Sectoral Intervention
✓ S5.1 Group work: advancing the sector based system mapping from three case studies of ToT to the practical level
✓ S5.2 Group Work: to bring cross cutting environmental and economic perspectives, such as (tbd):
  (a) macroeconomic policies; (b) favorable business environment; (c) energy, transportation and Water Infrastructure; (d) industrial sector
✓ S6.3 Group presentation before lunch

Session 6: Scenarios/roadmaps and Institutional Arrangements for 3 MEAs implementation and for SDG-readiness within 4 thematic goals
✓ S5.1 Review of existing sectoral set up and strategies and building systems mapping
✓ S5.2 Group Work to map out institutional strategies (pathways) to engage with and support SDG implementation and achievement of SDV 2030 facilitated by ESCAP
✓ S5.3 Group presentations

Session 7: Synthesis of EPR, RSEA and SOM structure and the way forward
✓ S7.1 Wrap up on contents of the second draft SOM integrated with EPR
✓ S7.2 Wrap up on process and the work plan for national peers to complete SOM development

Session 8: Wrap up of NC by MoET and NDA
The ESCAP and ECE collaboration with MoET and NDA

The Purpose:

- To strengthen the capacity of the government of Mongolia and relevant stakeholders and institutions in conducting a comprehensive review to gain understanding of the patterns of changes in nature and environment over the last 30 years.
- To provide a strong basis of integrating Mongolia’s relevant policies and strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs

January-May 2017

ToT Outcome: improved policies for integrating environment into development, management of energy and water resources and urban development

June-August 2017

Consultation PROCESS

December 2017

Main Output: a report on the integrated Environmental Performance Review and Sustainability Outlook for Mongolia to help integrate Mongolia’s relevant policies and strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs
Rapid Strategic Environment Assessment (RSEA): Results based on perceptions vs. factual performance

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
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<td>+ 2</td>
<td>Represents a very negative impact of respective national policies, plans and strategies on the question item goals and targets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>+ 1</td>
<td>Represents slightly negative impact of respective national policies, plans and strategies on the question item goals and targets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Means that nothing has happened in this area due to national policies and plans – no negative impacts and no positive impacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 1</td>
<td>Represents slightly negative impact of respective national policies, plans and strategies on the question item goals and targets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 2</td>
<td>Represents a very negative impact of respective national policies, plans and strategies on the question item goals and targets.</td>
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RSEA perception based results in 3D
(perceptions of ToT)

RSEA Survey Summary

Sectors:
- Economic Impacts (Q. 21-30)
- Environmental Impacts (Q. 1-10)
- Social Impacts (Q. 11-20)
S1.3 Review of EPR for Mongolia

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Relationships between Various Assessments in Three-Dimensions (ToT on SOM methodologies, July 2017, UB)
S1.2 Methodologies for SOM development and integration with EPR. Development of the Pathways for Implementation of Internationally Agreed Commitments

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Integrating EPR, SOM and “Pathways” (feedback loops and implementation cycles)

Starting Point

- National Vision
- Commitments to MEAs & SDGs
- Guiding Questions for EPR and SOM

Situation analysis for EPR & SOM

- Current strategies, policies, regulations for EPR + SOM
- Baseline data for SDGs and 3MEAs

Implementation framework

- Targets, Responsible Groups
- Indicators of Progress
- Accountability mechanisms

SOM and “Pathways” with a Feedback Loop (Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism)

- SOM + “Pathways” scenario, based on EPR&SEA tools
- Set up Monitoring & Evaluation Mechanisms through application of Remote Sensing and Spatial Planning Tools

Guiding Questions for EPR and SOM

- Current strategies, policies, regulations for EPR + SOM
- Baseline data for SDGs and 3MEAs
Mongolia’s SDG Outlook: Prerequisite and the way forward for the implementation in Chapter 2

The reflection on Insights, Bright and Hot Spots will help to enlighten **Key** and **Emerging** issues.

Where are the **Key** and **Emerging** issues?
Assessment of SDG readiness

• SDG baseline data and the gap analysis

SDGs’ aspirational state

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG’s baseline</th>
<th>1987 - 30 years</th>
<th>2017 present state</th>
<th>2030 + 13 years</th>
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Timeline

• Systems thinking approach to integrated SDG planning

☑ ESCAP methodology is providing tools to analyze the types of inter-linkages between the targets of 17 SDGs, strengths and directions.

☑ Planners can identify and analyze the leverage points for most effective interventions for the new dynamics of the 17th indivisible SDG’s system.

United Nations ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Elements of Systems Thinking

Create Systems Diagram
- Baseline system model/ Casual Loop design

Systems Model
- Identified leverage points

Qualitative modelling
- Apply data to qualify the casual effects
- Noise residuals
Agriculture (Livestock)
Mining
Tourism
S3.3 Group work

Identify high impact policy leverage points and scenarios, by using ToT materials and zero draft SOM and ToR for EPR.
Integration of three dimensions of sustainable development: Understanding and dealing with trade-offs

Between competitiveness and decent jobs; between capital-intensive investments and employment creation.

**Economic activity**
(energy, resource extraction, manufacturing)

**Social welfare**
(disease, poverty, productivity)

**Healthy ecosystems**

Climate change caused transboundary externality and economic development.

Between environmental and social values (i.e. activity harmful to the environment but strongly generator of employment).

= Trade-offs
Leveraging policy entry points

Small Actions can yield large results:

A “leverage point” is a place in a system where a large change towards desired behavior or results can be accomplished by applying relatively few resources.

(Picture source: http://thwink.org/sustain/glossary/LeveragePoint.gif)
The main question that we look to answer in a systems analysis is:

“How do we change the structure of systems to produce more of what we want and less of that which is undesirable?”
Scenario building — a qualitative tool for compelling narratives

What is scenario building?

Scenario thinking is defined as a “structured process of generating imagined future possibilities” with inherent characteristics: 

• A method that enables non-specialists to influence and interact with technical discussions and specialists from different disciplines to understand each other;

• Flexible and applied in diverse applications, ranging from community visioning to detailed narratives accompanying quantitative models; and

• Applicable at various scales of policy intervention. Scenario work can focus on alternative futures of an issue, region or organization and is considered from multiple levels.
Scenario building — a qualitative tool for compelling narratives

(1) Use scenarios to support science-based exploration of uncertainty and complexity

Complexity – we do not understand the system

Uncertainty – we cannot predict the outcome; it is indeterminate

Source: Henrichs et al. 2010
Sustainability Outlook of Mongolia: Chapters 1-3

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Chapter 1: Sustainable Development Aspirations of Mongolia:

This chapter describes the government’s long-term vision and objectives for sustainable development on the basis of its key strategies and policies and proposes alignment with a newly defined medium-term goals and targets, namely:

- **Mongolia’s 2030 Sustainable Development Vision** endorsed by the Parliament in 2016, identifying national priorities with emphasis of accountability and sectors, including agriculture, tourism, industry, mining, energy and infrastructure, integrated water resources management, climate change and ecosystem balance, etc.

- **Green development strategy** to harmonize multiple sustainable development-related commitments in a common policy framework, defines inter-ministerial coordination and accountability for more efficient and sustainable development.

- **Law on Development Policy and Planning**, which determines the stages of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Development Policy of Mongolia for a unified development policy planning system.
Chapter 2: SDGs’ baseline status for SOM and prospects of customised indicators:

- This chapter provides the Mongolian SDG status of 2017, both qualitative and quantitative based on existing data and methodology:
  - 2.1 Insights
  - 2.2 Hot Spots
  - 2.3 Bright Spots
  - 2.4 Emerging issues
  - 2.5 Interventions and recommendations for the way forward within each SDG

- The chapter would be illustrating the current institutional frameworks that are potentially supporting the SDG’s implementation process and describing the relevant inter-ministerial mechanisms and frameworks.

- The chapter also analyses and compares the national SDG progress vis-à-vis different groups of countries (LLDCs, etc.), where relevant. (The content of the chapter provides inputs to the reports on SDGs National Voluntary Review process.)
Chapter 3: Analysis of the sectoral priorities and relations and commitments to international agreements:

- The focus of this Chapter is on the priority sectors, that are already identified by Mongolia in current laws and policies, aligned with SDGs, including: Natural Resource Based Industry; Agriculture; Mining; Tourism; Green Finance; Water etc.

- The objective of this chapter is to explore the key linkages and interactions of the priority sectors with specific SDG targets included, as well as objectives/targets of the Paris Agreement (NBAP, and other MEAs), including through:
  - Mapping of environment, social and economic aspects of the national vision across sectors and policy integration at national and local levels,
  - Assessment of resources and capacities for socio-economic development in the specific sectors.
S2: Quantitative and Qualitative SDG profiling and integration with EPR and RSEA

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S2.1 Group assignment

Group 1 SDG cluster goals: 6, 16, 17
Group 2 SDG cluster goals: 2, 1
Group 3 SDG cluster goals: 15, 14
Group 4 SDG cluster goals: 12, 8, 9, 11
Group 5 SDG cluster goals: 7, 13
Group 6 SDG Cluster Goals: 3, 4, 5, 10
S2.2 Group Discussions (optional)

Group 1 SDG cluster goals: 1, 2, 3
Group 2 SDG cluster goals: 4, 5, 10
Group 3 SDG cluster goals: 8, 9, 12
Group 4 SDG cluster goals: 6, 14, 15
Group 5 SDG cluster goals: 7, 11, 13
Group 6 SDG Cluster Goals: 16, 17
Integrating EPR, SOM and “Pathways” (feedback loops and implementation cycles)

Outline for SOM

Outline for EPR

Outline for Pathways