Environment Division

Evidence-Based Environmental Governance and Sustainable Environmental Policies in Support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe

2018-2021

Montenegro

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Contents

Introduction

Background

Strengthening environmental governance and development of sustainable environmental policies plays an important role in the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The aim of the UNDA project "Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe" is to support Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in formulating actions on the basis of their Environmental Performance Reviews (EPR) in order to achieve relevant SDGs.

The project should assist national stakeholders, in particular the ministries responsible for environmental issues, to building their national capacities to assess priority needs in environmental governance and facilitating the national action to integrate evidence-based environmental policies into sector-specific and cross-sectoral strategies aimed at the achievement of SDGs. This assessment report aims to contribute to the first step of the UNDA project and facilitates recognition of the right outcome for Montenegro by developing a set of policy packages to enable implementation of the EPR recommendations and relevant SDGs.

This assessment report presents results of a mapping exercise of the EPR recommendations vis-à-vis relevant SDGs; review of the EPR recommendations implementation; SDGs needs assessment and gaps; and propose a set of policy packages for their implementation. The proposed policy packages will serve as a concrete roadmap for implementation of EPR recommendations, therefore increasing the likelihood of their effective implementation.

Environmental Performance Review of Montenegro

Environmental Performance Review (EPR) is an assessment of the progress of countries of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region in reconciling their environmental and economic targets and in meeting their international environmental commitments. They do not cover the whole range of issues addressed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development but support the achievement and monitoring of those Goals and/or targets from the 2030 Agenda that are relevant for the particular review content requested by the country under review. However, in the majority of cases, the relevant Goals and/or targets would be environment-related. The related recommendations provided in the EPR reports should aim to support the achievement of relevant Goals and/or targets by a country under review. Such recommendations can provide advice, for example, on the need to improve legislation and its enforcement or on additional and/or alternative measures to support the achievement of the relevant SDGs and/or targets.

The 3rd EPR of Montenegro includes a set of recommendations to the country on legal and policy frameworks, regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms, economic instruments, environmental monitoring and information, education for sustainable development, international cooperation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, water management and waste management.

Since 2017, all EPRs include a review of the relevant Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and provide recommendations to the countries on reaching SDGs. As the 3rd EPR of Montenegro was carried out in 2014, it was not aligned with SDGs. Hence, a mapping exercise needs to be carried out to align the 3rd EPR recommendations with the relevant SDGs prior to carrying out a review of their implementation.

Accession to the European Union

Since 2012, Montenegro has been a European Union (EU) candidate country, and the EU accession processes have been a key development driver. Therefore, Montenegro has decided to integrate its EU accession policy with the global Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, in particular through its National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD), National programme for integration to the EU, Montenegro's Development Directions 2015-2018, recognizing a number of complementarities on its road to embrace European values and to achieve progress in the implementation of SDGs.

This is particularly important for the negotiation of Chapter 27 (Environment and Climate Change) of the EU accession process. In its last Progress Report for Montenegro (2019), European Commission highlights the following short-term priorities regarding Chapter 27: "In the coming year, Montenegro should in particular: accelerate implementation of the national strategy for transposition, implementation and enforcement of the EU acquis on environment and climate change, especially in the waste, water and nature protection sectors; take urgent measures to preserve and improve the ecological value of protected areas and potential Natura 2000 sites such as Ulcinj Salina, Lake Skadar, the Tara river and other river courses; develop its National Energy and Climate Plan in line with the Energy Community recommendations."[1]

At the twelfth meeting of the Accession Conference with Montenegro at Ministerial level, held on 10 December 2018 in Brussels to open negotiations on Chapter 27, the EU has closely examined Montenegro's present state of preparations. On the understanding that Montenegro has to continue to make progress in the alignment with and implementation of the acquis in this chapter, the EU noted that there are benchmarks that need to be met for the provisional closure of this chapter.[2]

[1] European Commission (EU) (2019) Montenegro 2019 Report, available from: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20190529-montenegro-report.pdf, accessed on 1 June 2019.
[2] EU (2018) Twelfth meeting of the Accession Conference with Montenegro at Ministerial level, Brussels, 10 December 2018, available from:https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/12/10/twelfth-meeting-of-the-accession-conference-with-montenegro-at-ministerial-level-brussels-10-december-2018/, accessed on 22 December 2018.

The benchmarks for the chapter opened are as follows:

- Montenegro continues to align with the horizontal Directives and demonstrates that it will be fully prepared to ensure their effective implementation and enforcement at the date of accession.
- On air quality, Montenegro fully aligns with the revised Directive on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (NEC Directive 2016/2284/EU). Montenegro presents an analysis of cost-effective emission control strategies for 2020 and 2030, which shall serve as a basis for final agreement between the EU and Montenegro on its reduction obligations under the NEC Directive. Montenegro reports on an annual basis its emissions, in line with the Directive and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and develops a National Air Pollution Control Programme. Furthermore, Montenegro enhances the preparation for the implementation of the acquis in this area, by regularly taking measures to reduce national air pollution, particularly in zones where EU limit values for air quality are exceeded, and by developing or updating air quality plans, as envisaged by the Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (Directive 2008/50/EC).
- Montenegro decides on its waste management system and dedicates appropriate funding to infrastructure investments, in line with relevant EU legislation, including the waste hierarchy. Montenegro establishes waste prevention programmes, prepares waste management plans (WMP), and adopts measures for the separate collection of waste for paper, metal, plastic and glass.
- Montenegro makes significant progress on acquis alignment in the water sector, including drinking water legislation, and Directive 2008/56/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of marine environmental policy. Montenegro designates the competent drinking water authorities and develops river basin management plans for each river basin district lying entirely within its territory, including the portions of international river basin districts falling within its territory.
- In the area of nature protection, Montenegro submits the list of proposed Natura 2000 sites, sufficiently covering the habitat types and species in line with the requirements of the Birds and Habitats directives, to the Commission. Montenegro demonstrates the capacity to manage the Natura 2000 network, including by affording the Ulcinj Salina the appropriate protection status and effectively implementing the necessary conservation measures leading to the improvement of its conservation status.
- Montenegro continues its alignment with the acquis in the chemicals, noise and civil protection sectors, and demonstrates that it will be fully prepared to ensure the implementation and enforcement of the EU requirements at the date of accession.
- On climate change, Montenegro continues its alignment with the acquis, notably by adopting legislation on the functioning of the European Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), in line with the EU ETS Directive 2003/87/EC and its successive amendments. Montenegro further aligns with relevant secondary legislation on monitoring and reporting, accreditation and verification, the Union Registry, free allocation, and auctioning. Montenegro makes sure that the appropriate framework is in place to implement the EU ETS in its entirety regarding the monitoring, reporting, and verification of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Montenegro, in line with the Action Plan for the transposition, implementation and enforcement of the EU acquis on environment and climate change, significantly enhances the capacity of the administrative bodies at all levels, including inspection services, further improves coordination of work and demonstrates that all appropriate administrative structures and adequate training will be in place in good time before accession to enable implementation and enforcement of the acquis in all sectors of this chapter.

All of above will need to be taken into account while prioritising possible actions for a successful outcome of this project. They can be easily mapped with relevant SDGs/targets and corresponding EPR recommendations when developing relevant policy packages Therefore, additional SDG target which may not be in the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, but is undoubtedly contributing to the improvement of environmental performance and progress in approximation to the EU, may be taken into consideration as well as other SDGs targets that are deemed to be undividable from the achievement of other SDGs targets and thus addressing SDGs inter-related nature.

National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Montenegro

Montenegro is in the group of 22 United Nations (UN) members that volunteer to conduct national review of its planning process to enable implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2016. In 2016, Montenegro adopted the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) until 2030 which is explicitly aligned with SDGs and also includes an implementation plan. The NSSD 2030 envisages

the reform of the National Council for Sustainable Development into the Council of State, with the additional strengthened participation of civil society, business and scientific sectors. The country is in the process of harmonization of sector-specific strategies with the 2030 NSSD.

Guided by the national needs that were identified in responding to the challenges introduced by 2030 UN Agenda on Sustainable Development, the central place in new NSSD is given to determination of the strategic goals and measures as to define answers on how to achieve sustainable management of four groups of national resources - human capital, social capital and values, natural capital and economic capital, as well as on how to achieve good governance and sustainable financing for sustainable development of Montenegro in period until 2030. Hence the most complex element of this methodological approach was related to the transposition of the requirements of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda with recommendations for financing sustainable development into NSSD`s strategic goals and measures.

The NSSD analyses alignment of the Montenegrin strategic framework with SDGs, target by target, but also provides very valuable information on institutional responsibilities towards SDGs implementation and monitoring. The NSSD also introduces complex-cumulative indicators, applying the concept of resource efficiency and domestic resource consumption to capture the 'ecological footprint', a country's impact on the planet's natural environment. An integrated NSSD monitoring framework proposes using 231 global SDG indicators, 281 national indicators, 9 composite indicators, and 36 other indicators provided by international organizations that are relevant to Montenegro.

Overall, 42.3 per cent of the global set of SDG indicators will be tracked through existing or newly accessible data by 2018, since the preparation of the First National Report on NSSD implementation is planned in 2019. It is anticipated that by 2024, 74.7 per cent of SDG indicators will be regularly monitored and reported on. Specific tasks are being assigned for the collection and storage of input data for the statistical indicators, as well as protocols for exchanging data and ensuring compatibility. The need for improved capacity is highlighted if reporting on the full range of indicators of sustainable development is to be realized.

The UN contributed to the development of the new NSSD, and it is expected to be further involved in setting up a national monitoring and evaluation system to track progress in implementing the NSSD Action Plan. Moreover, the government and UN Montenegro developed a new plan of cooperation for 2017–2021, taking the 2030 Agenda as a starting point for UN interventions in the country. They are currently working on developing an online hub that will inter alia help to communicate the SDGs and engage with partners in their implementation of the NSSD.[3]

SDGs in Montenegro and institutional coordination

Montenegro's ambitions as an 'ecological state' pursuing a sustainable development path stem from the 1992 text of the Constitution. This interest was further demonstrated through the country's high level of participation in global debates on the formulation of the SDGs, particularly through the Open Working Group, where the views of 12,000 people from national consultations "Montenegro – the Future I Want" were presented. In close cooperation with the UN, the government launched the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the UN, using a jointly developed animation entitled "We have a plan".

The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism is the main governmental authority responsible for policymaking on the environment and sustainable development. The National Council for Sustainable Development was established in 2002 as a cross-sectoral advisory body on issues of sustainable development. It was later reformed into the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Changes and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, covering more diverse and integrated issues. It provides recommendations to the government for implementing sustainable development policies; harmonizes sectoral policies with the principles, objectives and measures of sustainable development, climate change and integrated coastal zone management; and amends the existing regulations and adopts new regulations for the harmonization of socio-economic development and

[3] United Nations Development Group (2016) The Sustainable Development Goals are Coming to Life, Stories of country implementation and UN support. Available from: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/SDGs/English/SDGs_Coming_to_Life_rev_Oct2018.pdf, accessed on 20 November 2018.

conservation of natural resources with sustainable development policies.

Need for this study

Montenegro is currently undertaking the SDG nationalization process. However, the national capacities in evidence-based environmental governance in the country require further strengthening to ensure effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Although some progress has been achieved with the integration of environmental requirements into sector-specific policies, much more needs to be done to enhance the environmental dimension of sectoral policies and ensure implementation and enforcement of environment-related provisions in sectoral policies and legislation.

The underlying issue contributing to the problem is the relatively weak position of Ministries responsible for environmental issues within the national Governments. Although green economy and sustainable development are recognized nowadays as priorities in the targeted countries, there is little knowledge and capacity to enable practical implementation. The actual implementation of environmental requirements of the sector-specific legislation represents a challenge when it comes to large-scale investments since the environmental requirements are often viewed as obstacles for economic development projects important for the country.

Aims of the study

This study aims to contribute to the first step of the UNDA project and has an overall objective to enhance national capacities of Montenegro to assess the most critical aspects and priority needs in the country's environmental governance and policies. To this end, the study will develop policy packages with potential priority actions to implement EPR recommendations and relevant to them SDGs. The proposed policy packages will also contribute to improvement of the country's strategic planning within the EU Chapter 27 and increase in national capacities of Montenegro to develop and integrate environmental policies into sector-specific strategies thus facilitating achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

CHAPTER 1: EPR recommendations mapping vis-à-vis SDGs and their implementation

1.1Mapping of the EPR recommendations vis-à-vis relevant SDGs

Need for mapping of the EPR recommendations

The 3rd EPR of Montenegro was conducted in 2014, prior to Montenegro along with 192 other UN member states, committed to the implementation of Transforming Our World—The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Therefore, the 3rd EPR report did not contain elaboration on relevant SDGs and targets in its respective chapters; no linkages between EPR recommendations and SDGs targets and indicators were established in the 3rd EPR report of Montenegro. To address this, a mapping exercise would need to be undertaken to identify a connection between EPR recommendations and relevant SDGs targets.

SDGs mapping methodology

Mapping of the EPR recommendations against relevant SDGs targets is a multi-step analytical process, with the objective to identify linkages between EPR recommendations and relevant SDGs. It entails a number of further siefting and prioratization steps to review SDGs targets agaisnt a number of criteria, such as the scope of the study, relevancy of the SDGs targets to the work of the Ministry of Sustainble Development and Tourism, and the importance of the country's obligations under the EU accession process, e.g Chaper 27.

The first step to mapping EPR recommendations against relevant SDGs targets was to compile a list of all EPR recommendations contained in the 3rd EPR of Montenegro in 2014. The 3rd EPR of Montenegro is comprised of eight chapters and covers various topics including legal and policy framework, compliance and enforcement mechanisms, greening the economy, environmental monitoring and implementation of international environmental agreements. Furthermore, the 3rd EPR report addresses issues of specific importance to the

country related to climate change, water, waste and chemicals management. In total, the 3rd EPR report of Montenegro includes 32 recommendations, the full list of which can be found in **Annex I, Table 1.** Once the list of all 32 recommendations was compiled, a mapping exercise was carried out to link each recommendation with a related SDG, targets and indicators.

Due to the fact that some recommendations provided in the 3rd EPR of Montenegro could be connected with various SDGs targets, an attempt was made to find a direct link with SDGs and targets for each of the EPR recommenation, whereby an EPR recommendation directly promoted and facilitated acheivement of a specific SDG and its associated target(s). The linkages between the EPR recommendations and their relevant SDGs targets are also presented in **Annex 1, Table 1.**

Following this exercise, a full list of SDGs and targets covered by the 3rd EPR of Montenegro has been derived. This list contains a total of **12** SDGs and **25** targets that are covered by the 3rd EPR of Montenegro and is provided in **Annex I, Table 2.** Further prioritisation steps then have been taken in order to narrow down the focus on the most relevant actions which could be realized within the scope of this project. To this end, the SDGs targets and indicators under the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and Nature and Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) have been identified using recently published literature sources and information obtained from the officials at the Ministry. **Annex I, Table 3** presentes the full list of SDGs targets and indicators under the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism.The SDGs targets that were not identified in the 3rd EPR Report of Montenegro but fell under the primary responsiblity of the Ministry of Sustaianble Development and Tourism, were highlighted in green and were not taken forward to the next steps of the SDG targets selection process.

To address the importance of the EU accession process and the country's need to be in conformity with meeting its obligations under Chapter 27, the next step in mapping exercise was carried out with the view to identify the SDGs indicators that were relevant to the implementation of Chapter 27 requirements. To this end, a list of global SDGs indicators related to Chapter 27 was compiled and can be found in **Annex I, Table 4** of this report. The joint findings from **Tables 3** and **4** were later inserted into **Annex I, Table 1** in the last two columns to enable prioritise further SDGs targets that would form the main focus of the subsequent needs assessment study.

Results of the EPR recommendations mapping exercise

Following a multi-step process of identifying, filtering and prioritizing relevant SDGs and targets covered by the 3rd EPR report of Montenegro, a total of **7** SDGs and associated **11** targets were shortlisted to be taken to the SDGs needs assessment presented in **Chapter 2** of this report. The full list of the shortlisted SDG goals and indicators is presented in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Shortlisted SDGs and relevant targets to be taken to the needs assessment and gaps analysis

Goals	Description	Targets	Description
	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	3.9	By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13.2

Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

15.1

By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

Although, several SDGs targets, such as **3.9, 6.1, 6.3, 6.6, 7.2 and 7.3** may not be falling under the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, it was decided to take them forward to the needs assessment exercise. The decision was based on the acknowledgement of the existing undividable and re-enforcing interlinkages between them, which was considered to be particularly pertinent to the country's context and the findings of the 3rd EPR recommendations, alongside the country's obligations with regards to global SDGs indicators related to Chapter 27. The SDGs targets 7.2 and 7.3 relate to the energy sector and the SDG 7 *Affordable and Clean Energy* and have been directly linked with the 3rd EPR recommendation 6 *Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption* through SDGs mapping exercise.

Energy sector has a big opportunity to mobilize significant human, physical, technological and financial resources to advance the SDGs and carries strong interlinkages with SDG targets, 3.9, 6.6, 11.6, 13.2, and 15.1 which is discussed in more detail in the next section of the report. Energy industry is global and is often located in remote and less-developed areas including many indigenous lands and territories. When managed appropriately, it can create jobs, spur innovation and bring investment and infrastructure at a game-changing scale over long time horizons. If managed poorly, energy sector development can also lead to environmental degradation, displaced populations and increased conflict, among other challenges. These attributes make energy sector a major potential contributor to the achievement of SDGs. For these reasons, SDG7 and targets 7.2 and 7.3 have been included in the scope of this study alongside SDG target 3.9.

The next section of this report details further important interactions between identified SDG targets which will guide development of potential policy options to facilitate their achievement.

Mapping important interactions among identified SDGs targets

The new agenda denotes that it is clearly insufficient to achieve SDGs on a goal-by-goal or target-by-target basis. SDGs require an integrated approach that identifies sets of development interventions that can unleash progress across multiple goals and targets – across sectors – at the same time. While accountability will continue to reside in a particular sector, understanding how to promote an integrated approach and policy coherence to inform better planning through cross-sectoral collaboration is key to success and is the overall objective of this project.

The interlinked nature of SDGs requires implementation of an approach that is holistic, multi-sectoral and multidimensional. As current administrative structures are largely based on divided sectoral policies, such an

approach challenges conventional processes and requires different sectors to seek synergies between their individual sectoral development plans and to simultaneously deal with trade-offs that will occur inevitably as a result.

Some SDG targets must be realized in order for another target to become viable, some targets impose constraints, some targets reinforce each other, and trade-offs may also occur.[4] Many of the SDG targets may also contribute to several goals, and some goals and targets may conflict. Action to meet one target could have unintended consequences on others if they are pursued separately.[5]By tackling targets in an integrated way, the desired results can be achieved for many targets and can increase the effectiveness of development interventions.[6]

Equally important is the analysis of interactions, trade-offs, and synergies among SDGs goals and their targets in the implementation of Montenegro's NSSD. Policymakers usually lack tools to identify which interactions are the most important to tackle, and evidence to show how particular interventions and policies help or hinder progress towards the goals. If countries ignore such synergies (or conflicts) and start trying to tick off targets one by one, they will likely risk divergent outcomes.

Taking into account the aforementioned considerations, an attempt was made in this study to identify which interactions were the most important to tackle in the context of Montenegro. To this end, key interactions and implications for policy options development were identified and taken into consideration. This exercise enabled to identify the complex dynamics between SDG targets, i.e. targets that contribute to the achievement of other targets and targets that may conflict with other targets, if pursued separately. The full results of key interactions between identified SDG targets can be found in **Annex II.**

The analysis of the SDG targets interactions demonstrates that the five SDGs were identified to be particularly strong in their interlinkages and potent to the context of the country: the water and sanitation goal SDG 6, which includes improvement of water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals (6.3), protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes and materials (6.6) and the goal to preserve life on land SDG 15, which includes the protection, restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems (15.1). The goal to deliver affordable and clean energy SDG 7, which includes increase in the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix (7.2), improvement in energy efficiency (7.3) , the goal SDG 3 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, which includes reduction of the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination (3.9), and the goal SDG 11, including the reduction of the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management (11.6). This means that any action taken with regard to one of these four goals is likely to have direct implications for one or all of the other goals.

1.2Assessing implementation of the EPR recommendations

To assess the status of the EPR recommendations since the 3rd EPR, a review of **9** EPR recommendations mapped against relevant SDG targets potent to the scope of this study has been carried out. The results of a review suggest that, since 2014, some progress has been achieved in implementing the 3rd EPR recommendations, where implementation of the majority of recommendations is still ongoing. The EPR recommendations assessment exercise was carried out in the context of the country's alignment with the EU acquis and reflecting the interlined nature of the SDG targets. **Annex III** provides a detailed overview of the EPR recommendations implementation, identifies main issues, tensions between relevant SDG targets, alignment with the NSSD strategic goals, and outlines the status of relevant SDG indicators in the country.

[4] http:// http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/publications/WAT_55_NexusSynthesis/ECE-MP-WAT-55_NexusSynthesis_Final-for-Web.pdf www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/SDGs/RIA%20Tool%20-26.12.201-Final.pdf

[5]ICSU, ISSC (2015): Review of the Sustainable Development Goals: The Science Perspective. Paris: International Council for Science (ICSU).https://council.science/cms/2017/05/SDG-Report.pdf

[6] Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) Facilitating mainstreaming of SDGs into national and local plans. UNDP (2017), http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/SDGs/RIA%20Tool%20-26.12.201-Final.pdf.

Health and air quality

Target 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

Target 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

Overview

Main contributors to poor air quality in the region are the burning of coal in thermal power plants (TPPs), for electricity production, household burning of fossil fuels or biomass, and transport. The use of solid fuels in households for heating such as lignite, especially in Pljevlja is a significant challenge contributes to poor air quality alongside the use of fuel-inefficient ovens, heaters and stoves in poorly insulated and substandard houses. Montenegro does not have pipeline access to natural gas and the systesm for distric heating are not developed.

The National Strategy for Air Quality Management with Action Plans for 2017-2020 was adopted in 2013. First implementation period was from 2013-2017 and some 76.9 per cent of measures were implemented in that period, while the rest were reviewed and transferred into the next implementation period (2017-2020).

In accordance with the Directive 2008/50/EC and the national legilstion, three Air Quality Plans prepared for the cities of Pljevlja, Nikšić and Podgorica. All three plans ware designed to reduce air concentrations of PM_{10}. On ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe, a short-term action plan to tackle air pollution in Pljevlja was adopted, in case of exceedance of the information and/or alert threshold for SO_2.

Alignment with the directive on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (NEC Directive 2016/2284/EU) is still pending as Montenegro is not reporting its emissions on an annual basis to the CLRTAP.

Work has been carried out by Montenegro to further align its legislation with the acquis in the field of air quality. In 2017, Montenegro adopted a new Decree on Limit Values of Pollutants in Liquid Fossil Fuels, transposing the Sulphur in Fuels Directive (EU) 2016/802 and Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/253.

Work on further improving air quality monitoring system is progressing and the number of monitoring stations has increased from five to ten in 2019.

Waste management

Target 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Target 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

Overview

According to MONSTAT, in 2017, the total collected quantity of urban solid waste was 292,762 tonnes representing 90 per cent of the total quantity of urban solid waste collected. In 2017, some 10 per cent of solid urban waste was recycled or reused.

Montenegro remains partially aligned with the EU acquis. Considerable efforts in terms of strategic planning and investments are needed to implement the national strategy for waste management until 2030 and the 2015-2020 national waste management plan. Amendments to the 2015-2020 national waste management plan were adopted in May 2018 but did not clarify the country's basic waste management model, although four waste management centres are envisaged for the whole country
(Podgorica, Nikšić, Bijelo Polje and Bar).

Some progress has been achieved on managing municipal waste and separate waste collection in the municipalities of Gusinje, Danilovgrad and Tivat.

The ambitious target of 25 per cent of waste to be recycled stipulated by the Law on Waste Management is likely not to be met.

There is still very low recycling rate, the lack of adequate statistical data on waste quantities and the incompatibility of these data between the competent institutions, as well as the poor communal infrastructure.

Statistics on waste management is not produced or is not of a good quality at municipal level.

At present, there is no evidence-based data on the effects on human health in Montenegro of non-sanitary landfills, illegal dumpsites or other illegal activities of throwing waste onto the roadsides and especially into rivers and onto riverbanks.

EPR Recommendation 8.1:
The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with the municipalities of the mountain region, should develop a new sanitary landfill in that region.

At present, there are only two modern sanitary landfills in Podgorica and Bar, while most waste is disposed of in open landfills or multiple unauthorised sites. As of 2019, no new sanitary landfill was developed in the mountain region.

EPR Recommendation 8.1 is not implemented.

EPR Recommendation 8.2:
The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, should elaborate schemes for stimulating market-based mechanisms for the recycling and reusing of waste.

In 2016, a 2.5 million euro waste recycling centre was launched in the northern town of Zabljak. Furthermore, a number of measures have been implemented to encourage the reuse, recycling and selective collection of waste materials, including: (i) International Coastal Clean-up Days, organized by NGO Zero Waste Montenegro, in partnership with NGO Nasa Akcija (Our Action), the EU Delegation and the EU Info Center in Montenegro; (ii) Zero Waste Critical Mass Events; and (iii) Waste Management Capacity Building project to support municipalities to implement their Waste Management Plans.

In 2019, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism announced that it planned to introduce additional measures to reduce the use of plastic bags, which would no longer be free of charge at point of sale of goods and products, in order to motivate citizens to reduce their use.

EPR Recommendation 8.2: implementation is ongoing.

Nature protection

Target 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements

Overview

Montenegro is partially aligned with the EU acquis. Work continued on the designation of future Natura 2000 sites. In the period from May 2015 until July 2018 the state invested some 920.000 € in protection of ecosystems and renewal of infrastructure in Ulcinj Salina.

However, temporary management of the potential Natura 2000 site Ulcinj Salina through the public enterprise for national parks achieved no tangible progress on protecting the site, which continues to require resolute and urgent action. The responsibility lies now with the municipality of Ulcinj to take the necessary measures to declare Ulcinj Salina a protected area.

Montenegro has no nationally proclaimed Marine Protected Areas (MPA). In cooperation with UNEP, the project "Promotion of Management of Protected Areas through Integrated Protection of Marine and Coastal Ecosystem of Montenegro", was approved by GEF in August 2017. It is expected that this project will result with establishment of three integrated marine and coastal protected areas (M/CPA), thus substantially contributing to the establishment of marine N2000 network.

EPR Recommendation 5.2:
The Government should ensure that adequate funding is made available for implementation of the country's commitments on MDG7.

According to the Law on the Budget for 2018, the amount of € 1.43 million or 0.09 per cent of total expenditures of the current budget funds were allocated for the Program "Environmental Protection and Communal Development", in 2017 the amount of € 1.8 million or 0.09 per cent were allocated for carrying out the strategic and legislative activities in this area. The "polluter pays principle "still exists, however, the funds collected on this basis are far less than what is needed to cover the minimum needs estimated for the successful implementation of environmental projects. A review of the existing system of pollution charges has not been carried out, no has the stronger incentives for enterprises to adopt pollution abatement measures been employed. The Fund for Environmental Protection as an additional sources of financing, has been established in November 2018 and is operational.

EPR Recommendation 5.2: implementation is ongoing.

Water quality

Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

Target 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

Target 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

Overview

According to Monstat, the proportion of wastewater safely treated water has increased from 30 per cent in 2014 to 56 per cent in 2017. Alignment with the EU acquis on water quality remains limited. The national strategy for water management of Montenegro for the period 2016-2035 was adopted in 2017. The law on urban wastewater management was adopted in December 2016. Programmes of measures for water protection

will be developed after the completion of the Water Management Plans. The development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan (WBIF) and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive - the Danube and Adriatic basin (IPA 2014) is in progress.

EPR Recommendation 5.3
As soon as appropriate capacities for implementation are available, the Government should accede to the following protocols:

(b) The Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

The country has not yet acceded to the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. On 6th December 2018, there was an initial meeting organized by UNECE and WHO with representatives of all relevant institutions in Montenegro dealing with waters. The meeting purpose was to agree on steps for ratification of the Protocol and its implementation, once ratified.

EPR Recommendation 5.3: implementation is ongoing.

EPR Recommendation 7.1:
The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and related bodies, should develop:
(a) A water master plan;
(b) River basin management plans for the Adriatic and Black Sea River Basin districts;
(c) A national information system for water planning and use.

Development of the Water Information System (WIS) is ongoing in the framework of the project Strengthening of capacities for implementation of WFD in Montenegro". It is planned to be implemented by the end of 2020. Preparations have started for a water status monitoring system and for improved quality monitoring of surface and ground waters. The implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive remains at an early stage. The River Basin Management Plans are expected to be adopted by the 2020. However, competent management authorities are yet to be operational.

EPR Recommendation 7.1 implementation is ongoing.

EPR Recommendation 7.2:
The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, should implement:
(a) Sustainable solutions for municipal and industrial wastewater treatment and sludge valorization;

The construction of urban WWTPs in many municipalities and construction/reconstruction works on sewerage systems with EU standards is under way. Montenegro has secured most of the needed funds for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant in Podgorica, worth EUR 50 million. The international tender for the construction of the plant is expected to be published in the first quarter of 2018.

EPR Recommendation 7.2: implementation is ongoing.

Climate change and energy

Target 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

Target 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

Target 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

Overview

Climate change

As for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Montenegro has so far submitted two national communications and its second bi-annual report was submitted in April 2019. The Law on the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC was adopted in October 2018.

EPR Recommendation 6.1:
The Government, through the National Council on Sustainable Development and Climate Change, should:
(a) Ensure that priority areas for further actions, measures and instruments to reach climate change mitigation and adaptation targets, as well as implementation plans, are integrated into the strategy on climate change and secure funding for its implementation;
(b) Ensure the integration of climate change adaptation issues into sectoral policies and strategies, especially for agriculture, health and transport.

The National Climate Change Strategy, adopted in 2015, provides guidelines in the field of climate, energy and other policies and a large number of initiatives for the direct development of the state towards low carbon technologies. However, implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy has not yet achieved the goal of adequately integrating climate policy into other sectors' policies.

The Law on Climate Change, which will, among others, incorporate elements of the EU emissions trading system (ETS), the Effort Sharing Regulation and the monitoring and reporting mechanism (MMR) is currently in the form of draft.

EPR Recommendation 6.1: implementation is ongoing.

Energy efficiency

Some progress was made, especially on further legislative alignment with the EU acquis related to energy efficiency. The 2016-2018 energy efficiency action plan aims to achieve nine per cent savings of the average five-year final energy consumption by 2018 and to renovate one per cent of central government buildings by February 2016. The annual energy efficiency operating plan for public administration institutions was adopted in March 2018. Montenegro submitted its second annual report under the Energy Efficiency Directive in November 2018.

The Energy Development Strategy until 2030 defines long-term targets for the utilisation of renewable energy, but not for energy efficiency improvements. Montenegro is not fully compliant with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

Regarding energy efficiency investment in public sector facilities, Montenegro has achieved significant progress. The 2017-2019 plan for reconstruction of state-owned buildings was adopted in December 2016. The annual energy efficiency operating plan of public administration institutions was adopted in March 2018.

A World Bank supported project "energy efficiency in public buildings" was completed in March 2018. The project retrofitted 26 facilities with energy efficiency improvement schemes. Based on the experience of the project, the Ministry of Economy (MoE) established standards (e.g. technical audits and designs, material standards, and commissioning protocols) for energy efficiency investments. Under the Efficient Use of Energy Law (LoEE, 2010), the corresponding secondary legislation regarding reconstruction of public buildings (article 5) and energy efficiency in public procurement (article 6) were adopted.

In addition, The Municipality of Pljevlja supported more than 2.500 households with 50 per cent subsidy for wood brickets and pellets and improvement of energy efficient of houses.

EPR Recommendation 6.2:
The Ministry of Economy should:
(c) Develop, in cooperation with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, a national low interest loan programme to rehabilitate buildings to improve their energy performance and to waive legal fees for the regularization of illegal housing where the occupants have introduced energy-saving equipment;

In the previous period support was provided mainly to residential sector though donor-funded projects which mainly targeted switching to more efficient RES technologies. As of 2019, a national low interest loan programme to rehabilitate buildings has not been established.

EPR Recommendation 6.2 (c): implementation is ongoing.

Renewable energy

The renewable energy national action plan aims to achieve a target of 33 per cent of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption by 2020. In 2017, 40 per cent of gross final consumption of energy came from renewable sources, largely due to the revision of biomass data. Some secondary legislation was adopted to further align with the EU Renewable Energy Directive, mainly on the mandatory share of biofuel in the transport sector and sustainability criteria for biofuels and bio-liquids.

In 2018, regulations were adopted on (i) issuing, transferring and withdrawing guarantees of origin of electricity produced from renewable energy sources and high efficiency cogeneration, and (ii) an incentive fee to foster energy production. Support to renewable energy producers is based on feed-in tariffs.

The Energy Law provides for priority access and priority dispatch for the privileged renewable energy producers. However, the requirements related to access to and operation of the grids as well as rules for connection to the grids for renewable energy producers provided for in Article 16 of Directive 2009/28/EC are still not entirely implemented. Due to lack of transmission and distribution capacities, applications for connections to the grids are on hold which is deterring investors.

According to the Energy Law, the costs associated with grid reinforcements have to be supported by the grid operators, however, this is not the case in practice. Developers are required to bear the cost of connection including grid reinforcement, if applicable, and then transfer the assets to transmission or distribution network operators in exchange for compensation paid over maximum 20 annual instalments. The system operators have to develop plans and foster investments in the grids in order to accommodate and integrate more renewable energy in the system.

The Energy Development Strategy by 2030 envisage construction of hydropower plants on the Morača river (construction by 2022) and hydropower plants on the Komarnica river (construction by 2026). The planned construction of gas pipeline across the territory of Montenegro will enable its gasification. A solar plant with an installed capacity of 250 MW is planned at Briska Gora (near Ulcinj).

EPR Recommendation 6.2:
The Ministry of Economy should:
(b) Further improve the conditions for investors in renewable electricity production by verifying and, if necessary, adapting requirements on grid connection to avoid exceeding connection costs;

Montenegro is yet to adopt rules for auctions for granting support to renewable energy producers compliant with the 2014-2020 guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy.

EPR Recommendations 6.2 (b): implementation is ongoing.

EPR Recommendation 6.2:
The Ministry of Economy should:
(d) Develop alternatives to lignite-fired power plants, by developing scenarios with high efficiency step-up technology and enhanced use of renewable energy, taking into account environmental impacts.

Twelve small HPPs, with total installed capacity of 24.1 MW, and the Krnovo windfarm, with installed capacity of 72 MW, were put into operation during 2014–2018. Apart from completed projects, there are also a number of ongoing projects, including the Možura windfarm, with installed capacity of 46 MW and a solar power plant in the Briska Gora Locality, with installed capacity of 250 MW. As for the latter, the project is being implemented without any support from the Government of Montenegro in the form of the FITs. Despite the progress in promoting solar power plants, the use of solar thermal systems is not well developed, as there exist no state incentives for the utilisation of these systems in Montenegro.

EPR Recommendations 6.2(d): implementation is ongoing.

CHAPTER 2: SDG targets and indicators needs assessment

2.1 Identifying gaps between current conditions and designed achievements

Prior to the development of a detailed proposal for the preparation of a national action plan or policy packages, issues and gaps between current conditions and the desired achievements to implement SDG targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda relevant for the EPR must be established. To this end, following the review of the 3rd EPR recommendations implementation, several challenges and gaps have been identified.

The results of the proposed needs assessment exercise will guide the country to achieve desired conditions for the implementation of each relevant SDG target outlined in the previous section.

2.2 Presenting needs assessment results and gaps

The limited financial resources allocated to the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, NEPA, and other administrative bodies remain a matter of serious concern, especially with regard to the overall capacity of these institutions to ensure an effective implementation and enforcement measures envisaged in strategic environmental documents.

Administrative capacity still has to be strengthened, in particular for inspection supervision and local administration. Measurement and data collection are still challenging. Furthermore, there is a scope to expand strategic activities between the environmental and transport sectors to improve air quality. A lack of cooperation between state and local authorities, e.g. inter-municipal cooperation in waste management remains an issue.

The following challenges and gaps have been also identified between current conditions and designed achievements that may inhibit effective implementation of the 3rd EPR recommendations and relevant SDG targets:

Health and air quality

- Alignment with the directive on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (NEC Directive 2016/2284/EU) is still pending.
- Montenegro is not reporting its emissions on an annual basis to the LRTAP Convention.

Waste management

- Poor quality statistics on waste at municipal level.
- No studies on the effects of non-sanitary landfills on human health.
- Low recycling rates.
- Lack of investments to implement the national strategy for waste management until 2030 and the 2015-2020 national waste management plan.

Nature protection

- No nationally proclaimed Marine Protected Areas (MPA).
- Slow progress on protecting potential Natura 2000 site Ulcinj Salina.
- No adequate funding available for implementation of the country's commitments on SDG targets 15.1 and 6.6.

Water management

- Competent management authorities are yet to be operational to oversee implementation of the River Basin Management Plans.
- Ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes is still pending.

Climate change and energy

- The Law on Climate Change is still in the form of a draft.
- Energy efficiency implementation instruments (such as the Energy Efficiency Fund and/or Energy Efficiency Agency) have not yet been established.
- The energy efficiency obligation schemes have not been established.
- Montenegro is not fully compliant with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

Despite the progress in promoting solar power plants, the use of solar thermal systems is not well developed, as there exist no state incentives for the utilisation of these systems in Montenegro.

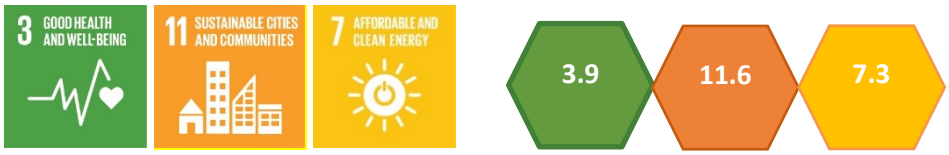
CHAPTER 3: Proposed policy packages

3.1Policy packages development

Once different types of needs were identified and assessed, thematic policy packages were developed to enable the country to make focused efforts to address SDGs covered by the 3rd EPR. Keeping in mind that the overall aim of the project was to enhance national capacities of Montenegro in order to assess the most critical aspects and the priority needs in its environmental governance and policies, the proposed policy packages do not solely seek to resolve issues of the EPR implementation or achievement of the individual SDG targets in isolation. Instead it sets out a detailed approach to development of an enabling framework that facilitates achievement of SDGs as well as EU Chapter 27 obligations in a manner that addresses the SDG targets' interrelated nature, as well as the complexity of their, at times, conflicting interactions. The proposed approach is, therefore, seeking to achieve a reduction in trade-offs as well as enhancement of synergies by introducing measures for additional policies, research studies, adoption of a coherent inter-sectoral policy, and establishment of effective inter-ministerial coordination. The policy packages give regard to SDGs' integrated nature by establishing an approach that is holistic, multi-sectoral and multidimensional. The EU benchmarks that need to be met for the provisional closure of chapter 27 on environment and climate change have also been taking into account when developing policy packages.

The results of the proposed policy packages are presented below:

Policy package theme 1: Health, air quality and energy



EPR recommendations	EU benchmarks for the provisional closure of Chapter 27
Recommendation 6.2: *The Ministry of Economy should:* *(c) Develop, in cooperation with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, a national low interest loan programme to rehabilitate buildings to improve their energy performance and to waive legal fees for the regularization of illegal housing where the occupants have introduced energy-saving equipment;* *d) Develop alternatives to lignite-fired power plants, by developing scenarios with high efficiency step-up technology and enhanced use of renewable energy, taking into account environmental impacts.*	*1.Montenegro fully aligns with the revised Directive on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (NEC Directive 2016/2284/EU).* *2.Montenegro presents an analysis of cost-effective emission control strategies for 2020 and 2030, which shall serve as a basis for final agreement between the EU and Montenegro on its reduction obligations under the NEC Directive.* *3.Montenegro reports on an annual basis its emissions, in line with the Directive and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and develops a National Air Pollution Control Programme.* *4. Montenegro enhances the preparation for the implementation of the acquis in this area, by regularly taking measures to reduce national air pollution, particularly in zones where EU limit values for air quality are exceeded, and by developing or updating air quality plans, as envisaged by the Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (Directive 2008/50/EC).*

Policy package options

This policy package which can be realised in order to achieve progress in implementation of targets 3.9, 11.6 and 7.3 can contain any combination of the following:

Air quality element

- Draft legislation transposing EU Directive 2016/2284 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (NEC Directive 2016/2284/EU), which is directly connected to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone;
- Prepare analysis of cost-effective emission control strategies for 2020 and 2030, which shall serve as a basis for final agreement between the EU and Montenegro on its reduction obligations under the NEC Directive. The analyses should also serve for the National Air Pollution Control Programme planned for 2019 by Montenegro, setting direction for actions to reduce emissions towards 2020 and 2030.
- New national emission ceilings shall be presented to the Secretariat of CLRTAP in order to gain full membership in Gothenburg Protocol by 2019.
- Develop a National Air Pollution Control Programme.
- Monitoring of Emissions to Air and Water from IED Installations.

- Perform technical translation into Montenegrin and adaptation to Montenegrin legislative framework of the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/1442 of 31 July 2017 establishing best available techniques (BAT) conclusions, under Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, for large combustion plants and 2012/135/EU: Commission Implementing Decision of 28 February 2012 establishing the best available techniques (BAT) conclusions under Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on industrial emissions for iron and steel production;

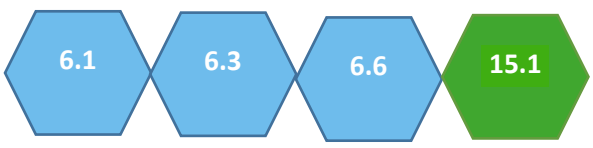
Health element

- Establish monitoring of the state of the environment in the context of the impact on human health (e.g. population exposure to PM particles).
- Facilitate timely introduction of SDG indicators 3.9.1, 3.9.2 and 3.9.3 into the national integrated monitoring framework.

Energy efficiency element

- Establish regulatory framework in full alignment with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Update the Minimum Energy Performance Requirements (MEPR) to include requirements on overall energy performance rather than provisions on separate building elements. Gradually develop more stringent MEPRs to achieve the nearly zero-energy building target according to the requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.
- Design the Energy Performance Certificates scheme as a self-funding mechanism, where the revenue from issuing Energy Performance Certificates covers all costs related to its management and quality assurance.
- Update the Energy Development Strategy until 2030 to include outcome-oriented, long-term targets and objectives for energy efficiency and demand-side management.
- New energy efficiency action plan for use of alternatives to solid fuels used for domestic heating through implementation of energy efficiency measures creation of a supporting mechanism for the installation of the solar thermal systems in the residential and service sector giving priority to the households in fuel poverty.
- Create additional incentives for local producers of solar water heating systems and introduce incentives for local authorities and the owners of public buildings to reduce energy consumption and implement energy efficiency measures.
- Establish energy efficiency obligation schemes.
- Establish a separate specialized Energy Efficiency Agency and Energy Efficiency Fund.

Policy package theme 2: Water quality and water-related ecosystems



EPR recommendations	EU benchmarks for the provisional closure of Chapter 27

Recommendation 5.3 (b): *As soon as appropriate capacities for implementation are available, the Government should accede to the following protocols:*

(b)The Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

Recommendation 7.1: *The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and related bodies, should develop:*

(a) A water master plan;

(b) River basin management plans for the Adriatic and Black Sea River Basin districts;

(c) A national information system for water planning and use.

Recommendation 7.2: *The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, should implement:*

(a) Sustainable solutions for municipal and industrial wastewater treatment and sludge valorization.

Recommendation 5.2:

The Government should ensure that adequate funding is made available for implementation of the country's commitments on MDG7.

1. Montenegro makes significant progress on acquis alignment in the water sector, including drinking water legislation, and Directive 2008/56/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of marine environmental policy. Montenegro designates the competent drinking water authorities and develops river basin management plans for each river basin district lying entirely within its territory, including the portions of international river basin districts falling within its territory.

2. In the area of nature protection, Montenegro submits the list of proposed Natura 2000 sites, sufficiently covering the habitat types and species in line with the requirements of the Birds and Habitats directives, to the Commission. Montenegro demonstrates the capacity to manage the Natura 2000 network, including by affording the Ulcinj Salina the appropriate protection status and effectively implementing the necessary conservation measures leading to the improvement of its conservation status.

Policy package options

This policy package which can be realised in order to achieve progress in implementation of targets 6.1, 6.3, 6.6 and 15.1 can contain any combination of the following:

- Prepare an Action Plan for the accession to the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.
- Prepare an Action Plan for Equitable Access to Water.
- Draft the Marine Strategy for the Danube and Adriatic basins.
- Prepare river basin management plans for the Adriatic and Black Sea River Basin districts.
- Conduct needs assessment on improvement of water quality monitoring in order to enable monitoring of indicator 6.3.2.
- Complete and submit a revised protection study and the detailed action plan for its implementation for Natura 2000 site Ulcinj Salina.

- Legislative package for further alignment with EU Water framework Directive or other water related acquis which are considered a priority.

- Adopt all missing sub-laws acts and work on further harmonization of the Law on Municipal Waste Water Management with the Law on Waste Water (OJ MNE No. 02/17) and the Directive on Wastewater Treatment.
- Continue work on the implementation of the EPR recommendation 7.2: Implement sustainable solutions for municipal and industrial waste wastewater treatment and sludge valorization.

Policy package theme 3: Waste management

EPR recommendations	EU benchmarks for the provisional closure of Chapter 27
Recommendation 8.1: *The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with the municipalities of the mountain region, should develop a new sanitary landfill in that region.* **Recommendation 8.2:** *The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, should elaborate schemes for stimulating market-based mechanisms for the recycling and reusing of waste.* **Recommendation 8.3:** *The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, together with the local self-governments, should:* *(a) Negotiate the creation of regional waste management companies;* *(b) Support inter-municipal cooperation in waste management.*	*1.Montenegro decides on its waste management system and dedicates appropriate funding to infrastructure investments, in line with relevant EU legislation, including the waste hierarchy.* *2.Montenegro establishes waste prevention programmes, prepares waste management plans (WMP), and adopts measures for the separate collection of waste for paper, metal, plastic and glass.*

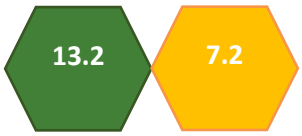
Policy package options

This policy package which can be realised in order to achieve progress in implementation of targets 12.4, and 12.5 can contain any combination of the following:

- Draft policy paper on recycling and re-use.
- Draft Strategy on investments in infrastructure for resource efficiency.
- Elaborate schemes for stimulating market-based mechanisms for the recycling and reusing of waste.

- Develop a campaign to promote the reduction of the amount of deposited biodegradable waste at landfills, reuse of waste, recycling and prevention of waste generation.
- Promotion campaign for circular economy activities.
- Monitor the implementation of local waste management plans, especially in the part of achieving the set targets for recycling.
- Establish waste prevention programmes.
- Adopt the missing local waste management plans (WMP) that include information on all waste streams (including hazardous waste, construction and demolition waste and industrial waste) and the solutions to manage them in conformity with the National Waste Management Plan.
- Prepare an inventory of accumulated 'historical' hazardous waste, to improve hazardous waste characterisation and categorisation in industries; to secure and mark sites where hazardous waste is stored; to create a register of polluters.
- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1147 of 10 August 2018 establishing best available techniques (BAT) conclusions for waste treatment, under Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;
- Perform an analysis of the potential for valorisation of red mud (industrial waste)
- Draft an information pack (brochure, or PowerPoint presentation, or flyer) on hazards and potentials of red mud

Policy package theme 4: Climate change mitigation and adaptation



EPR recommendations	EU benchmarks for the provisional closure of Chapter 27
Recommendation 6.1: *The Government, through the National Council on Sustainable Development and Climate Change, should:* *(a) Ensure that priority areas for further actions, measures and instruments to reach climate change mitigation and adaptation targets, as well as implementation plans, are integrated into the strategy on climate change and secure funding for its implementation;* *(b) Ensure the integration of climate change adaptation issues into sectoral policies and strategies, especially for agriculture, health and transport.* **Recommendation 6.2 (d):** *The Ministry of Economy should:*	*1.Montenegro needs to ensure that the national climate change strategy is implemented in a way that is consistent with the EU 2030 framework on climate and energy policies and well integrated into all relevant sectors.* *2.Montenegro continues its alignment with the acquis, notably by adopting legislation on the functioning of the European Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), in line with the EU ETS Directive 2003/87/EC and its successive amendments.* *3.Montenegro further aligns with relevant secondary legislation on monitoring and reporting, accreditation and verification, the Union Registry, free allocation, and auctioning. 4.Montenegro makes sure that the appropriate framework is in place to implement the EU ETS in its entirety*

(d) Develop alternatives to lignite-fired power plants, by developing scenarios with high efficiency step-up technology and enhanced use of renewable energy, taking into account environmental impacts.

regarding the monitoring, reporting, and verification of greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy package options

This policy package which can be realised in order to achieve progress in implementation of targets 13.2 and 7.2 can contain any combination of the following:

- Finalize the Law on Climate Change with accompanying by-laws, the Low Carbon Strategy and the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (NAP).
- Design comprehensive awareness-rising campaign with an action plan.
- Establish a national register for the EU emissions trading system (ETS).
- Adopt rules for auctions for granting support to renewable energy producers compliant with the 2014-2020 guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy.
- Conduct a study on the potential utilisation of solar thermal systems especially in the regions with high solar radiations and a deficit of the network capacity. Evaluate the potential of solar water systems to contribute to the electricity system development in a more cost-effective way, comparing to supply-side option.

CHAPTER 4: Conclusions

Strengthening environmental governance and development of sustainable environmental policies plays an important role in the achievement of many of the SDGs in Montenegro. The overall objective of this study was to assist national stakeholders, in particular the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro, to improve its national capacities to assess priority needs in environmental governance and to facilitate the national action to integrate evidence-based environmental policies into sector-specific and cross-sectoral strategies aimed at the achievement of SDGs.

In order to identify and assess the priority needs for Montenegro in environmental governance, a mapping exercise of the EPR recommendations vis-à-vis relevant SDGs was carried out. As a result, 7 SDGs and 11 targets relevant to the scope of the study, context of the country, and priorities within the EU Chapter 27 have been identified. In addition, a review of nine EPR recommendations that previously have been mapped against relevant SDG, has been conducted to establish the status of their implementation and identify gaps between current conditions and designed achievements. The results of this analysis pointed to some progress in implementation of the 3rd EPR recommendations since 2014, with some recommendations are still being in the process of implementation. Main issues with implementation were identified within the thematic areas of air quality, waste and water management.

Following the review of the EPR recommendations implementation, a needs assessment exercise was carried out. The results pointed to a need to strengthen administrative capacity, in particular for inspection supervision and local administration and further expand strategic activities between the environmental and transport sectors to improve air quality. A lack of cooperation between state and local authorities, e.g. inter-municipal cooperation in waste management was also noted.

To address findings of the needs assessment, a set of policy packages for implementation of the 3rd EPR recommendations and relevant SDGs have been developed. The proposed policy packages aim to represent priorities in environmental governance for Montenegro in the global context, context of the EU integration and

alignment of national agenda with the Agenda 2030. At the same time, they will enable their delivery within the scope of this particular project, taking into account their cross-cutting nature.

Considering the level of alignment of the national policy framework of Montenegro with SDGs, the priority should be given to the progress in achievement of the targets related to SDGs 3.9, 7.2, 7.3 and 11.6. In accordance with the NSSD and the Voluntary National Review, these SDGs have the lowest harmonisation level with the national policy framework, and at the same time are considered to be very important for the country. This also was supported by the findings of the latest EU Progress Report 2019 on Montenegro's ability to assume the obligations of membership in EU within the thematic area of air quality. When the proposed actions are realized, significant improvement could be expected in the domain of air quality, human health and climate change mitigation.

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ANNEXES

Annex I: Mapping of existing EPR recommendations vis-à-vis relevant SDGs

Annex II: Identifying key interactions between SDG targets identified through the mapping exercise

Annex III: Implementation of the EPR recommendations and relevant SDG targets and indicators

Annex I: Mapping of existing EPR recommendations vis-à-vis relevant SDGs

Table 1: Mapping EPR recommendations against relevant SDG targets and indicators

Chapter	Recommendation	Recommendation description	Goals	SDGs targets	Description	SDGs targets under the primary responsibility of the MSDT	SDGs indicators related to EU Chapter 27
1.Legal, policy and institutional framework	Prioritize implementation of environment-related legislation	**Recommendation 1.1:** *The Government should:* *(a) Ensure that decisions on the development and adoption of new environment related laws are taken carefully and that the political will is in place to implement and enforce the adopted legislation;* *(b) Prioritize implementation of environment-related legislation, in particular the Law on Environment, the Law on Nature Protection, the Law on Water, the Law on Chemicals and the Law on GMOs.*	17 	17.14	Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	X	
	Achieve stronger coherence between strategic documents	**Recommendation 1.2:** The Government should improve the quality of strategic planning documents, their implementation and review, and in particular:	17 	17.14	Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	X	

		(a) Achieve stronger coherence between strategic documents; (b) Allocate adequate resources for the implementation of measures envisaged in strategic documents; (c) Ensure regular and timely preparation of implementation reports.					
	Strengthen capacity for conducting SEA at local level	**Recommendations 1.3:** *The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism should:* *(a) Consider amending the Law on SEA, and in particular:* *(i) Introduce mechanisms, including financial ones, to ensure the availability of multidisciplinary professional expertise for the evaluation of SEA reports;* *(ii) Ensure consistent application of SEA procedures in relation to strategies;* *(b)Raise the awareness of environmental NGOs about SEA procedures and opportunities to participate.*	12 	12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature		
		Recommendation 1.4: *The Government, in cooperation with the Union of Municipalities, should strengthen capacity for conducting SEA procedures at the local level.*	-	-	-		

	Integrate the green economy concept into strategic documents	**Recommendation 1.5:** *The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with other relevant ministries, should ensure that:* *(a) The green economy concept has a prominent place in the revised National Strategy for Sustainable Development for the period 2014–2020;* *(b) Green economy transition approaches are integrated into other relevant strategic documents under development.*	17	17.14	Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	X	
	Assist local self-government authorities to implement environment-related responsibilities	**Recommendation 1.6:** *The Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and relevant authorities, should:* *(a) Analyze and optimize the environmental responsibilities of local self-government authorities;* *(b) Assist local self-government authorities in the implementation of their environmental responsibilities through the provision of necessary guidance and training, including on how to access donor funding;* *(c) Optimize and streamline, for efficiency purposes, the amount of strategic environment-related documents required from the local level and support the preparation of local strategies, plans and programmes through the provision of guidance (e.g.,*	-	-	-		

		development of model documents); *(d) Ensure regular two-way exchange of information with local self-government authorities in charge of environmental issues and involve them in the development of policies and legislation under their purview.*					
2.Compliance and enforcement mechanisms	Operationalize the integrated register of environmental polluters	**Recommendation 2.1:** The Government should establish mechanisms that will improve communication and coordination within the environmental compliance system, and strengthen capacity at all levels, with a focus on environment-related inspections, by: (a) Enhancing information management and sharing among the different agencies responsible for compliance assurance, and developing more structured coordination and cooperation mechanisms; (b) Operationalizing the integrated register of environmental polluters; (c) Centralizing responsibilities on IPPC matters at the national level, and systematically assessing human capacity for environmental regulation,	-	-	-		

		implementation and enforcement.					
	Further increase the transparency and cost recovery of EIA and permitting Centralize responsibilities on IPPC matters	**<u>Recommendation 2.2:</u>** *In order to further increase the procedural soundness, transparency and cost recovery of EIA and permitting:* *(a) The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism should improve capacity to conduct project screening, especially at the local level, thus reducing the excessive use of EIA procedures;* *(b) The Environmental Protection Agency should develop schemes for payment to independent experts who are members of EIA commissions and IPPC technical committees, ensuring that the integrity of these bodies is not jeopardized;* *(c) The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in cooperation with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, should take legislative steps to ensure that water permits are integrated into IPPC permits.*	-	-	-		
	Develop a clear and transparent approach for inspection planning and reporting	**<u>Recommendation 2.3:</u>** *The Administration for Inspection Affairs should focus environment-related inspection on performance, and enhance its transparency and accountability by:* *(a) Developing a clear and transparent approach for inspection planning and*	-	-	-		

		reporting, backed by the enactment of relevant standard operating procedures; *(b) Building capacity in and strengthening the practice of joint and integrated inspections, especially for IPPC installations;* *(c) Enhancing the system of data collection and analysis in support of inspection;* *(d) Revising the frequency of inspection.*					
		Recommendation 2.4: *The Government should assess the effectiveness of compliance promotion mechanisms, identify relevant measures, define responsibilities and start implementing compliance promotion activities.*	-	-	-		
	Provide joint capacity-building for inspectors and judges	**Recommendation 2.5:** *The Administration for Inspection Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, the Ministry of Justice and the judicial authorities, should:* *(a) Provide joint capacity-building for inspectors and judges and strengthen communication mechanisms between them;* *(b) Develop manuals on environmental misdemeanours and crime to facilitate evidence gathering and prosecution.*	4 	4.7	By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development		

3.Economic instruments, environmental expenditure and investments for greening the economy	Review the system of pollution charges and ensure their effective collection	**Recommendation 3.1:** *The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Finance should:* *(a) Conduct a review of the existing system of pollution charges, keeping in mind medium-term strategies, ensuring an adequate gradual increase of such charges;* *(b) Create stronger incentives for enterprises to adopt pollution abatement measures,* *(c) Take into account the complementary roles of pollution charges and stringent regulation of pollution sources in achieving an effective environmental policy mix;* *(d) Ensure a regular and automatic flow of information from the State Treasury to the Environmental Protection Agency about pollution charges collection;* *(d) Ensure an effective collection of pollution charges by the State Treasury;* *(e) Make information on aggregate revenues from pollution charges publicly available.*	8 	8.4	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production		
	Create stronger incentives for enterprises to take pollution abatement measures	**Recommendation 3.2:** *The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and local self-*	8 	8.3	Promote development-oriented policies		

	Regionalize community utility services	*governments, should design mechanisms that aim at:* *(a) Phasing out the current tariff policy for utility services and introducing effective measures to ensure the affordability of higher tariffs for low-income households, if needed, by involving independent regulatory agencies (e.g., the Energy Regulatory Agency);* *(b) Ensuring the financial viability of utility companies and internalizing externalities by gradually raising tariffs to levels that allow for full cost recovery and reflect the real supply costs of services provided to the main customer groups;* *(c) Regionalizing communal utility services to exploit the scope for public-private partnerships in the provision of these services;* *(d) Increasing bill collection rates, notably from households;* *(e) Introducing in the waste sector (in the more advanced regions) more innovative tariffs (such as per capita-based or weight-based tariffs).*	1 	1.4	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance		
			8 	8.4	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production		
	Ensure the financial viability of utility companies	**<u>Recommendation 3.4:</u>** *The Government and the local self-government authorities should:* *(a) Integrate medium-term environmental investment plans with the annual and multi-annual budget processes and allocate the necessary funds for*	8 	8.3	Promote development-oriented policies		

		prioritized, results-oriented programmes, taking into account the results of a cost-benefit analysis; *(b) Strengthen the capacities at the municipal level for managing the budget cycle of projects, such as budget preparation, planning and implementation, and financial reporting;* *(c) Consider the possibility of entrusting a governmental institution to act as an environmental investment centre able to implement medium-term environmental investment plans.*					
4.Environmental monitoring, information and education	Ensure necessary funding for monitoring activities	**<u>Recommendation 4.1:</u>** *The Government should increase the performance and efficiency of environmental monitoring activities, in particular by:* *(a) Ensuring the necessary funding to perform these activities;* *(b) Ensuring the continuity of monitoring activities through necessary adjustments to administrative procedures;* *(c) Acquiring the necessary monitoring equipment,* *(d) Considering the need to establish a laboratory for the calibration of analysers.*	12 	12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.		
	Clarify responsibilities for monitoring of soil and water	**<u>Recommendation 4.2:</u>** *The Government should clarify responsibilities related to environmental monitoring (of soil and water) and amend*	-	-	-		

		accordingly the related legislation to provide an effective legal basis for monitoring activities.					
	Accelerate the development of an integrated environmental information system Enforce reporting by enterprises	**Recommendation 4.3:** *The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, through the Environmental Protection Agency, and in cooperation with relevant environment data holders, should:* *(a) Accelerate the development of the integrated environmental information system and establish protocols for data and information flows;* *(b) Establish data collection and processing for indicators where such data are not available;* *(c) Improve the indicator-based state-of-the-environment report by making it more oriented towards policymaking;* *(d) Enforce reporting by enterprises.*	12 	12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature		
	Improve online accessibility of environmental information and data	**Recommendation 4.4:** *The Government should improve the online accessibility of environmental information and data, including by providing direct access to monitoring data and information as well as to the indicators.*	12 	12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature		
		Recommendation 4.5: *The Ministry of Education, with the support of the Bureau for Education Services and the*	4	4.7	By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills		

		Centre for Vocational Education, should accelerate teacher training for the effective introduction of the new curricula related to environment and sustainable development.			needed to promote sustainable development		
5.Implementation of international environmental agreements	Reduce the country's dependence on international aid in fulfilling international obligations	**Recommendation 5.1:** *The Government should systematically and gradually reduce the country's dependence on international aid in order to fulfil its obligations under multilateral environmental agreements, and aim to raise its capacity to act within a scenario in which most of the funds are provided from domestic sources.*	-	-	-		
	Ensure adequate funding to reach Montenegro's commitments on MDG7	**Recommendation 5.2:** *The Government should ensure that adequate funding is made available for implementation of the country's commitments on MDG7.*	6 	6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable accesss to safe and affordable drinking water for all	X	X
				6.2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations		X
			8 	8.3	Promote development-oriented policies		

			15 	15.1	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements	X	X
				15.2	By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally		
				15.b	Mobilize resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation		
	Accede to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers	**Recommendation 5.3:** *As soon as appropriate capacities for implementation are available, the Government should accede to the following protocols:*	3 	3.9	By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil		X

	Accede to the Protocol on Water and Health	*(a) The Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters;* *(b) The Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.*			pollution and contamination		
			6 	6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	X	X
				6.5	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate		X
	Ensure implementation of MARPOL Annex VI	**<u>Recommendation 5.4:</u>** *The Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, should ensure the implementation of the Annex VI Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).*	3 	3.9	By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination		X
6.Climate change mitigation and adaption	Adopt a national strategy on climate change and secure	**<u>Recommendation 6.1:</u>** *The Government, through the National Council on*	13	13.2	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	X	

	funding for its implementation Integrate climate change adaptation into sectoral policies	*Sustainable Development and Climate Change, should:* *(a) Ensure that priority areas for further actions, measures and instruments to reach climate change mitigation and adaptation targets, as well as implementation plans, are integrated into the strategy on climate change and secure funding for its implementation;* *(b) Ensure the integration of climate change adaptation issues into sectoral policies and strategies, especially for agriculture, health and transport.*					
			11 	11.b	By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels		
	Reduce losses in electricity transmission and the distribution grid Further improve conditions to invest in	**<u>Recommendation 6.2:</u>** *The Ministry of Economy should:* *(a) Increase investments to reduce losses in the electricity transmission and distribution grid and ensure that grid improvements are in line with the targets and needs of a higher share of variable renewable energy, and urge the Montenegrin Electric Enterprise (EPCG) to elaborate and implement a grid modernization plan;*	9 	9.1	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	X	
				9.4	By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater		

	renewable electricity production Develop alternatives to lignite-fired power plants	*(b) Further improve the conditions for investors in renewable electricity production by verifying and, if necessary, adapting requirements on grid connection to avoid exceeding connection costs;* *(c) Develop, in cooperation with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, a national low interest loan programme to rehabilitate buildings to improve their energy performance and to waive legal fees for the regularization of illegal housing where the occupants have introduced energy-saving equipment;* *(d) Develop alternatives to lignite-fired power plants, by developing scenarios with high efficiency step-up technology and enhanced use of renewable energy, taking into account environmental impacts.*			adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities		
			7 	7.2	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix		
				7.3	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency		
				11.6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management		
7.Water management	Develop a water master plan	**<u>Recommendation 7.1:</u>** *The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development,in collaboration with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and*	6	6.5	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary		X

	Develop river basin management plans Develop a national information system for water planning and use	*Tourism and related bodies, should develop:* *(a) A water master plan;* *(b) River basin management plans for the Adriatic and Black Sea River Basin districts;* *(c) A national information system for water planning and use.*			cooperation as appropriate		
				6.6	By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes		
	Implement sustainable solutions for municipal and industrial wastewater treatment and sludge valorization	**<u>Recommendation 7.2:</u>** *The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, should implement:* *(a) Sustainable solutions for municipal and industrial wastewater treatment and sludge valorization;*	6 	6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	X	X
8.Waste management	Develop a new sanitary landfill in the mountain region	**<u>Recommendation 8.1:</u>** *The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with the municipalities of the mountain region, should develop a new sanitary landfill in that region.*	12 		By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment		X

	Elaborate schemes to stimulate market-based mechanisms for recycling and reuse	**Recommendation 8.2:** *The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, should elaborate schemes for stimulating market-based mechanisms for the recycling and reusing of waste.*	12 	12.5 12.5.1	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse		X
	Support inter-municipal cooperation on waste management	**Recommendation 8.3:** *The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, together with the local self-governments, should:* *(a) Negotiate the creation of regional waste management companies;* *(b) Support inter-municipal cooperation in waste management.*	12 	12.4 12.4.1	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	X	X
	Improve collection and verification of waste data	**Recommendation 8.4:** *The Statistical Office and the EnvironmentaL Protection Agency should improve the collection and verification of waste data.*	12 	12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	X	X
	Perform a country-wide inventory of equipment containing PCBs	**Recommendation 8.5:** *The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and the Administration for Inspection Affairs should perform a detailed, countrywide inventory of equipment containing PCBs .*	12 	12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	X	X

Table 2: List of Sustainable Development Goals and targets covered by the 3rd EPR of Montenegro

SDGs		Targets	Description
1	**End poverty in all its forms everywhere**	**1.4**	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
3	**Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**	**3.9**	By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
4	**Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**	**4.7**	By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
6	**Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**	**6.1**	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
		6.2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
		6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
		6.5	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
		6.6	By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
7	**Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**	**7.2**	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
		7.3	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
8	**Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic**	**8.3**	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

SDGs		Targets	Description
	growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	**8.4**	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10- Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead
9	**Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**	**9.1**	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
		9.4	By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
11	**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**	**11.b**	By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.
		11.6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
12	**Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**	**12.4**	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
		12.5	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
		12.8	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
13	**Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**	**13.2**	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
15	**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage**	**15.1**	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements
		15.2	By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

SDGs		Targets	Description
	forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	**15.b**	Mobilize resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
17	**Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**	**17.14**	Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

Table 3 – SDGs targets under the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism

Goal		Target	Description
8. Decent work and economic growth	**Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**	**8.4**	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10- Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead
		8.9	By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
11.Sustainable cities and communities	**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**	**11.3**	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
		11.4	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
		11.6	By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
		11.7	By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
		11.a	Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
12. Responsible consumption and production	**Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**	**12.4**	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Goal		Target	Description
		12.5	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
		12.a	Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
		12.b	Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
13. Climate action	**Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**	**13.1**	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
		13.2	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
		13.3	Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
		13.a	Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly $100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible
		13. b	Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities
15. Life on land	**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**	**15.1**	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements
		15.3	By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
		15.8	By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
		15.9	By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
17.Partnerships for the goals	**Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**	**17.14**	Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
		17.16	Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
		17.18	Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

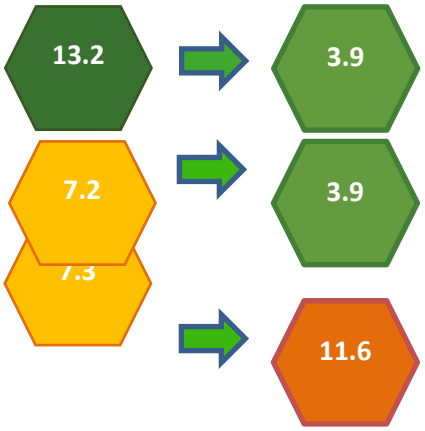
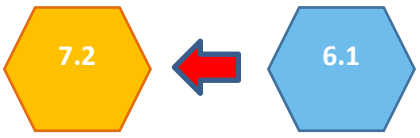
Goal		Target	Description
		17.19	Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

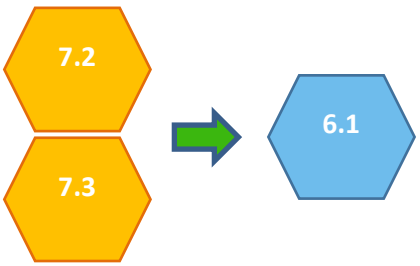
Source: Report "Think globally, act locally: Implementing the sustainable development goals in Montenegro", 2018. Environmental Science and Policy

Table 4 – List of global SDGs indicators related to Chapter 27

Indicator	Description
3.9.1	mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
3.9.2	mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene
6.1.1	proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
6.2.1	share of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water
6.3.1	share of wastewater safely treated
6.3.2	share of bodies of water with good ambient water quality
6.4.1	change in water-use efficiency over time
6.4.2	level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources
6.5.1	degree of integrated water resources management
6.5.2	share of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation
6.6.1	change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time
6.a.1	amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan
6.b.1	share "of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management
11.5.1	number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population
11.5.2	direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters
11.6.1	share "of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities
11.6.2	annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)
12.4.2	hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment
12.5.1	national recycling rate, tons of material recycled
13.1.3	share "of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies
15.1.1	forest area as a proportion of total land area
15.1.2	share "of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type"

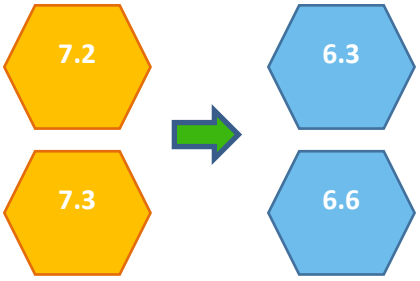
Annex II: Identifying key interactions between SDG targets identified through the mapping exercise

SDG targets	Key interactions	Policy options
	Integration of climate change measures into national policies will support improvements in air quality. Efforts to expand renewables and promote energy efficiency will lead to simultaneous reductions in air pollutant emissions.	Develop a strategic policy that recognize co-benefits from simultaneously mitigating climate change and reducing air pollution. Draw up legislation promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency across multiple sectors to reduce negative impacts on the health of rural and urban populations. Developing policies that promote the use of cleaner energy will subsequently significantly reduce premature mortality. Prioritize sectors that are currently the most energy-intensive and energy-polluting in densely populated urban areas, as well as those rural areas with a high use of chemicals for agricultural production.
	Increased electricity demands from the water sector could enable the integration of variable wind and solar resources, if developed in combination with real-time demand-side power management of water-related infrastructure and equipment.	Enable policy framework that can integrate water and energy systems development planning in order to capture the benefits of real-time demand-side power management of water process equipment for the integration of intermittent solar and wind resources.
	Increased utilisation of unconventional water supply options to satisfy growing demands for safe, affordable freshwater supplies could constrain renewable energy deployment if those options (e.g. desalination) are highly energy-intensive.	Ensure that unconventional water supply options (e.g. desalination, wastewater recycling and inter-basin water transfers) do not generate excessively high loads on regional power systems, particularly if the goal is to integrate high shares of renewables into those systems.



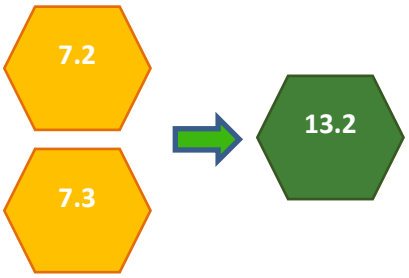
Renewables and energy efficiency will, in most instances, reinforce targets related to water access, scarcity and management by lowering water demands for energy production (compared to a less-efficient fossil energy supply system).
Electricity generation could be increased by coordinating the operation of hydropower plants and optimizing the flow releases, while taking different water needs into account could bring different co-benefits.

Effective coordination and coherence of energy policies and water resource management plans for renewable energy options, such as bioenergy and hydropower, should be established in order for them not to result in adverse side effects either nationally or beyond national borders, particularly in water scarce regions. Policies that promote energy efficiency in the electricity generation, buildings, transport, agriculture and industry sectors should not temper growth in water demand.



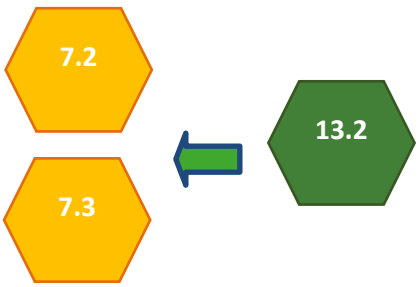
Renewables and energy efficiency will, in most instances, reinforce targets related to water pollution and aquatic ecosystems by reducing levels of chemical and thermal pollution (compared to a less-efficient fossil energy supply system).

Align energy and water management policies so that negative effects on aquatic ecosystems are minimised, such as thermal and chemical pollution.



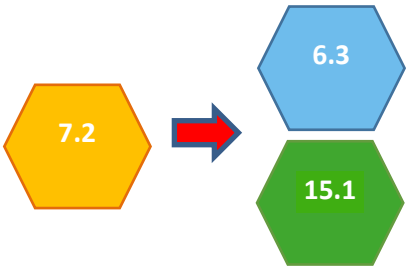
Decarbonising energy systems through an up-scaling of renewables and energy efficiency will contribute to combatting climate change, since less fossil energy means lower GHG emissions[7].

To achieve the temperature targets outlined in the Paris Agreement, all countries will need to decarbonise their energy systems through an up-scaling of renewables and energy efficiency. The pledged Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) provide a good start, but these will need to be strengthened considerably over time.
Conduct assessments of high impact areas for climate action and identify where the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency can make the most cost effective interventions.
Design policies to promote the incorporation of this knowledge into national and regional strategies and planning. Energy and climate policies must be interlinked and must consider the entire lifecycle of energy services in order to avoid policy inconsistencies between reaching NDCs.



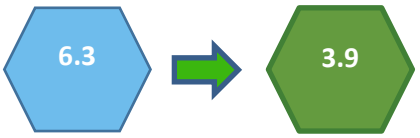
To aid the rapid deployment of renewables and energy efficiency measures, countries will benefit from integrating climate change measures such as carbon pricing into national planning, improving relevant education and awareness, and mobilising funds for mitigation.

[7] *The 2030 Agenda text on SDG13 does not specifically mention a long-term temperature goal, but it does refer to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, and the stated objective of the 2015 Paris Agreement is "well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C"



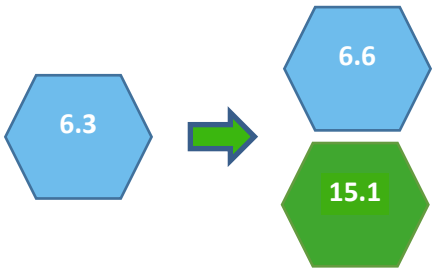
Some renewable energy sources, including hydropower and bioenergy can also have significant negative impacts on land and water resources and ecosystems.

Effective coordination between renewable energy and environmental policy needs to be established in order to avoid significant negative impacts from hydropower and bioenergy on land and water resources and ecosystem.



There are also strong synergies between wastewater treatment and achieving reduction in the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and water pollution and contamination.

Collect data on the monitoring of environmental pollution effects on population health. Provide analysis of the impacts from hazardous chemicals and water pollution and contamination on health, including also assessment of overall damages that economy is suffering due to environmental pollution.



Improved water quality and wastewater management are mutually supportive of ecosystem and biodiversity protection, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services.

Wastewater treatment levels should be matched with the quality of water needed for its next use, for example, for ecosystems, SDG target 15.1 and 6.6.

Annex III: Implementation of the EPR recommendations and relevant SDG targets and indicators

Target 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
3.9	**Recommendation 5.3** As soon as appropriate capacities for implementation are available, the Government should accede to the following protocols: (a) The Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters; **Implementation:** Montenegro ratified the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters on 11 October 2017. Ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) by Montenegro follows the country's active support to activities under the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol. On the basis of the Law on Environment, the Ministry adopted Rulebook on content and method of compilation of PRTR. There is a plan to establish PRTR by 2020. **Implemented.** (b) The Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. **Implementation:** The country has not yet acceded to the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. On 6th December 2018, there was an initial meeting organized by UNECE and WHO with representatives of all relevant institutions in Montenegro dealing with waters. The meeting purpose was to agree on steps for ratification of the Protocol and its implementation, once ratified. **Not implemented.**
	Recommendation 5.4: The Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, should ensure the implementation of the Annex VI Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
	Implementation: Montenegro is signatory to the Annex VI to the MARPOL Convention. Provisions of the Directive 1999/32/EC relating to the Sulphur content in marine fuels have been implemented in Montenegro since 2011. In 2017, Montenegro adopted a new Decree on Limit Values of Pollutants in Liquid Fossil Fuels, transposing the Sulphur in Fuels Directive (EU) 2016/802 and Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/253. Annual Programme for quality control of fuels for 2017/2018 contains control of marine fuels at distribution points, while port authorities of Montenegro control quality of fuel through ships logbooks and bunker notes as prescribed by MARPOL VI. Sampling and analysis of fuel is done by accredited laboratories in line with the methods required in Article 6 of the Directive. Overall, Montenegro's alignment with the Directive on Sulphur content in liquid fuels is advancing, but implementation is at an early stage and is mainly limited to the control of automotive fuel quality. Following full training of port authorities on how to control marine fuels and equipment for emission prevention in accordance with the legislation of Montenegro, which is harmonised with the Directive and provisions of Annex VI to the MARPOL Convention, full implementation is expected by the end of 2018. **Implemented.**
	Recommendation 8.1: The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with the municipalities of the mountain region, should develop a new sanitary landfill in that region. **Implementation:** Currently there are only two modern sanitary landfills in Podgorica and Bar, while most waste is disposed of in open landfills or multiple unauthorised sites. Four sanitary landfills are planned to be built and are at different stages of design and funding. These proposed landfills will be developed in Niksic (located in Budos), Herceg Novi (located in Duboki Do), Bijelo Polje (located in Celinska Kosa), and Berane (located in Vasov Do). As of 2018, no new sanitary landfill was developed in the mountain region. **Not implemented.** **SDG targets and indicators** As of 2018, Montenegro does not currently measure indicator 3.9.2: Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe WASH services), nor does it measure SDG indicator 3.9.3: Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning. It is planned to introduce indicator 3.9.3 by 2019. There is no evidence-based data on the effects on human health in Montenegro of non-sanitary landfills, illegal dumpsites or other illegal activities of throwing waste onto the roadsides and especially into rivers and onto riverbanks. This is mostly because infection, and especially mortality, are indirectly connected to exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services, thus, it rarely appears as the cause of death. No research or study is carried out to estimate the country's performance in this field. **Alignment with NSSD**

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
	Implementation of these EPR recommendations and related SDGs target 3.9 contributes to achievement of the NSSD strategic goals: **"Stop degradation of the values of renewable natural resources - biodiversity, water, air and soil" and "Enabling the symbiosis of effects of environmental status and human health protection".**

Target 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

Target 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

Target 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
6.1	**Recommendation 5.2**: The Government should ensure that adequate funding is made available for implementation of the country's commitments on MDG7. **<u>Implementation:</u>** Taxes account for more than 40 per cent of water sector funding. Revenues generated by water tariffs are not sufficient to cover operation and maintenance costs. As a result, operating costs are covered by national and local subsidies, and investments are funded by international loans and grants, complemented by subsidies from both national and local budgets. Half of current investments are funded by international loans. Water and wastewater Master Plans estimate that to reach EU standards and directive requirements, Montenegro will have to invest nearly €640 million from 2013 to 2029 (€54 per capita per year). Of this amount, 60 to 70 per cent of the investment funding will be provided by international loans, 10 to 20 per cent by central government grants, and 10 to 30 per cent by local government budgets. In addition, substantial financial support will also come from EU funds. Through IPA funds for 2014-2020 1,9 million EUR was allocated to project "Strengthening of capacities for implementation of WFD in Montenegro". The Fund for Environmental Protection as an additional sources of financing, has been established in November 2018 and is operational. **Not implemented.**

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
	Recommendation 5.3 As soon as appropriate capacities for implementation are available, the Government should accede to the following protocols: (b)The Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. **<u>Implementation:</u>** The country has not yet acceded to the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. On 6th December 2018, there was an initial meeting organized by UNECE and WHO with representatives of all relevant institutions in Montenegro dealing with waters. The meeting purpose was to agree on steps for ratification of the Protocol and its implementation, once ratified. **Not implemented.** **<u>SDG targets and indicators</u>** One of the MDG7 target 7.C: 'Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation' now translates into the SDG target 6.1. The relevant indicator for the implementation of SDG 6 is 6.1.1: 'Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services'. This indicator is not currently used and is due to be introduced in 2019-2024. The closest national indicator is a NIP17 V04, EPA, 'Drinking water quality'. **Potential tensions with other SDG targets** Increased utilisation of unconventional water supply options to satisfy growing demands for safe, affordable freshwater supplies could constrain renewable energy deployment (SDG target 7.2) if those options (e.g. desalination) are highly energy-intensive.
	**Recommendation 7.2:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, should implement: (a) Sustainable solutions for municipal and industrial wastewater treatment and sludge valorization; **<u>Implementation:</u>** The construction of urban WWTPs in many municipalities and construction/reconstruction works on sewerage systems with EU standards is under way. Montenegro has secured most of the needed funds for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant in Podgorica, worth EUR 50 million. The national strategy for water management until 2035 was adopted. The law on urban wastewater management was adopted in December 2016. Programmes of measures for water protection will be developed after the completion of the Water Management Plans. According to Monstat, the proportion of wastewater safely treated water has increased from 30 per cent in 2014 to 56 per cent in 2017. **Implementation is ongoing.**

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
	SDG targets and indicators Relevant indicators for this target is indicator 6.3.1:'Proportion of wastewater safely treated', and indicator 6.3.2:'Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality'. The indicator 6.3.1 is tracked.
	**Recommendation 7.1:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and related bodies, should develop: (a) A water master plan; (b) River basin management plans for the Adriatic and Black Sea River Basin districts; (c) A national information system for water planning and use. **Implementation:** Strategy for water management of Montenegro for the period 2016-2035 was adopted in 2017. The development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan (WBIF) and the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive - the Danube and Adriatic basin (IPA 2014) is in progress. The River Basin Management Plans are expected to be adopted by the 2020. Work on river basin management plans is ongoing, but the competent management authorities are yet to be operational. Development of the Water Information System (WIS) is ongoing in the framework of the project Strengthening of capacities for implementation of WFD in Montenegro". It is planned to be implemented by the end of 2020. **Implementation is ongoing.** **SDG targets and indicators** Relevant indicator for this SDG target is 6.6.1:'Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time' is not currently tracked but is planned to be introduced in 2019-2019. **Potential tensions with other SDG targets** SDG target 6.6 may cause tensions with the achievement of the SDG target 7.2 'By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix'. **Alignment with NSSD** Implementation of these EPR recommendations and related SDGs targets, 6.1, 6.3 and 6.6 facilitates achievement of the NSSD strategic goal: **"Enabling efficient natural resources management"** and associated measure to enable resource-efficient use of water resources.

Target 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

Target 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
7.2 7.3	**Recommendation 6.2:** The Ministry of Economy should: (b)Further improve the conditions for investors in renewable electricity production by verifying and, if necessary, adapting requirements on grid connection to avoid exceeding connection costs; **Implementation:** The Energy Law provides for priority access and priority dispatch for the privileged renewable energy producers. However, the requirements related to access to and operation of the grids as well as rules for connection to the grids for renewable energy producers provided for in Article 16 of Directive 2009/28/EC are still not entirely implemented. Due to lack of transmission and distribution capacities, applications for connections to the grids are on hold which is deterring investors. The transparency of the network operators towards investors and new users has to increase. A clear, predictable and transparent connection timetable has to be provided to applicants. According to the Energy Law, the costs associated with grid reinforcements have to be supported by the grid operators, however, this is not the case in practice. Developers are required to bear the cost of connection including grid reinforcement, if applicable, and then transfer the assets to transmission or distribution network operators in exchange for compensation paid over maximum 20 annual instalments. Support to renewable energy producers is based on feed-in tariffs. Montenegro is yet to adopt rules for auctions for granting support to renewable energy producers compliant with the 2014-2020 guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy. **Not implemented.** (c)Develop, in cooperation with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, a national low interest loan programme to rehabilitate buildings to improve their energy performance and to waive legal fees for the regularization of illegal housing where the occupants have introduced energy-saving equipment; **Implementation:** Some progress was made, especially on further legislative alignment related to energy efficiency. The 2016-2018 energy efficiency action plan aims to achieve 9 per cent savings of the average five-year final energy consumption by 2018 and to renovate 1 per cent of central government buildings by February 2016 The 2017-2019 plan for reconstruction of state-owned buildings was adopted in December 2016. The annual energy efficiency operating plan of public administration institutions was adopted in March 2018. Montenegro is not fully compliant with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. As of 2018, a national low interest loan programme to rehabilitate buildings has not been established. A World Bank supported project "energy efficiency in public buildings"[8] was completed in March 2018. The project retrofitted 26 facilities

[8] World Bank, ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS, http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/456181548970493167/pdf/Montenegro-ENERGY-EFFICIENCY-IN-PUBLIC-BUILDINGS.pdf

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
	with energy efficiency improvement schemes. Based on the experience of the project, the Ministry of Economy (MoE) established standards (e.g. technical audits and designs, material standards, and commissioning protocols) for energy efficiency investments. Under the Efficient Use of Energy Law (LoEE, 2010), the corresponding secondary legislation regarding reconstruction of public buildings (article 5) and energy efficiency in public procurement (article 6) were adopted. Other International Financial Institutions (IFIs) started financing the energy efficiency improvement in the public sector, which indicated the continuity and scaling up of an energy efficiency program in the public sector in Montenegro. For example, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) provided US$45.3 million (€36.2 million) for schools (hence the Bank focused on supporting in the health sector at the additional financing) and the government routinely incorporated energy efficiency investments as part of its capital building works. The government demonstrated a strong commitment to energy efficiency, by requesting the Bank for an US$7.39 million (€6 million) Montenegro Second Energy Efficiency Project, which was focused on the public health sector and approved on June 4, 2018. The energy efficiency fund has not been established. Amendments to the Law on efficient use of energy to ensure further alignment with the EU Energy Efficiency Directive were not adopted. **Implementation is ongoing.** (d) Develop alternatives to lignite-fired power plants, by developing scenarios with high efficiency step-up technology and enhanced use of renewable energy, taking into account environmental impacts. **Implementation:** Twelve small HPPs, with total installed capacity of 24.1 MW, and the Krnovo windfarm, with installed capacity of 72 MW, were put into operation during 2014–2018. Apart from completed projects, there are also a number of ongoing projects, including the Možura windfarm, with installed capacity of 46 MW and a solar power plant in the Briska Gora Locality, with installed capacity of 250 MW. As for the latter, the project is being implemented without any support from the Government of Montenegro in the form of the FITs. Despite the progress in promoting solar power plants, the use of solar thermal systems is not well developed, as there exist no state incentives for the utilisation of these systems in Montenegro. **Implementation is ongoing.** **SDG targets and indicators** The progress towards SDG target 7.2 is measured with indicator 7.2.1:'Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption'. It is currently partially available in the country. The achievement of SDGS target 7.3 is measured with indicator 7.3.1:'Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP'. This indicator is currently partially available in the country. **Alignment with NSSD** Implementation of these EPR recommendations and SDGs targets 7.2 and 7.3 promotes achievement of the NSSD strategic goal: **"Reduce greenhouse gases emissions by 30 per cent until 2030 compared to baseline 1990"** and associated measure to increase the share of renewable energy sources and promote rational use of energy.

Target 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
11.6	**Recommendation 6.2:** The Ministry of Economy should: (d) Develop alternatives to lignite-fired power plants, by developing scenarios with high efficiency step-up technology and enhanced use of renewable energy, taking into account environmental impacts. **Implementation:** The Energy Development Strategy by 2030 envisage construction of hydropower plants on the Morača river (construction by 2022) and hydropower plants on the Komarnica river (construction by 2026). The first wind farm in Montenegro in Krnovo with a capacity of 72MWh has been constructed, produced 12,468 MWh of electricity in June 2018, up 58.5 per cent on the month, while the second wind farm in Mozura, with a capacity of 46MWh is under construction. The planned construction of gas pipeline across the territory of Montenegro will enable its gasification. A solar plant with an installed capacity of 250 MW is planned at Briska Gora (near Ulcinj). The national target for Montenegro is determined in accordance with the decisions taken at the 10th meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community, which stipulates that share of renewable energy in the total energy consumption in Montenegro reaches the level of 33 per cent. In 2016, 41.6 per cent of energy gross final consumption came from renewable sources, thus exceeding the 33 per cent 2020 target, due to revised data on biomass. **Implementation is ongoing.** **SDG targets and indicators** Under Goal 11, countries should reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality. Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter in cities should serve as an indicator. Relevant SDG indicators are 11.6.1: 'Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities' and 11.6.2: 'Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}) in cities (population weighted)'; this indicator is partially tracked. According to MONSTAT, in 2017, the total collected quantity of urban solid waste was 292,762 tonnes representing 90 percent of the total quantity of urban solid waste collected. Exceedances of the limit values of PM_{10} particles have been detected in several municipalities (Pljevlja, Nikšić, and Podgorica). Besides detected exceedances of PM_{10} particles in the ambient air occasional high values of SO_2, NOx and CO_2 emissions from stationary sources have been detected, especially in Pljevlja. Use of solid fuels such as coal in households, especially in Pljevlja contributes to poor air quality as well as the use of fuel-inefficient ovens, heaters and stoves in poorly insulated and substandard houses. Air quality Plans were drawn up for all the municipalities mentioned above (for Plevlja in 2013, Niksic 2014 and Podgorica 2015), so that all relevant zones are covered by air quality plans so far.

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
	Other relevant SDG indicators that are relevant to the implementation of this SDG target 11.6 The SDG indicator 3.9.1:'Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution' is currently not tracked and is planned to be introduced in 2019-2024. Although fully transposed, the Directive 2001/81/EC (national emission ceilings - NEC) is not fully implemented in Montenegro. National emission ceilings for acidifying and eutrophying substances and ozone precursors have been established but they have not been accepted by the steering committee of EMEP under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP). Therefore, although it ratified the Gothenburg Protocol, Montenegro is not its full-fledged member. It has not yet developed the National Programme for Progressive Reduction of National Emissions. The uncertainties surrounding the main polluter – the thermal power plant (TPP) Pljevlja - have been resolved by the decision of the Energy Community to grant the exemption and allowed the TPP to operate a total of 20,000 hours in the 2018-2024 period, which will reduce emissions by about 50 per cent, while after this period, the plant can carry on generation only if its operation is adapted to requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). In this regard, the Government have initiated the ecological reconstruction of the Unit I of the thermal power plant (TPP) Pljevlja, which will have positive effects on the level of emissions alongside the decision to terminate the cooperation on Project of Construction of unit II of the TPP Pljevlja. The scope of the project includes the desulphurisation system, the denitrification system, the modern wastewater system, the reconstruction of the existing ash and slag transportation system, the improvement of the operation of electrolytic power facilities. Following this decision, a National Programme for Progressive Reduction of National Emissions can be developed. Once the technical assessments results are available and agreed Montenegro can become full Party to the Gothenburg Protocol. **<u>Alignment with NSSD</u>** Implementation of these EPR recommendations and SDGs target 11.6 contribute to achievement of the NSSD strategic goals: **"Stop degradation of the values of renewable natural resources - biodiversity, water, air and soil"; and "Enabling the symbiosis of effects of environmental status and human health protection".**

Target 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Target 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
12.4	**<u>Recommendation 8.1:</u>** *The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with the municipalities of the mountain region, should develop a new sanitary landfill in that region.*

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
	Implementation: At present, there are only two modern sanitary landfills in Podgorica and Bar, while most waste is disposed of in open landfills or multiple unauthorised sites. As of 2019, no new sanitary landfill was developed in the mountain region. **Not implemented.** **Recommendation 8.3:** The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, together with the local self-governments, should: (a) Negotiate the creation of regional waste management companies; (b) Support inter-municipal cooperation in waste management. **Implementation:** Cooperation between state and local authorities is still required. Support inter-municipal cooperation in waste management still needs to be improved. **Not implemented.** **SDG targets and indicators** Montenegro is party to the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions. This enables the country to benefit from the international experience and cooperation on environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes. It would also see Montenegro fulfil indicator 12.4.1: 'Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement.' However, there is no data collected to measure indicator 12.4.2: 'Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment.' According to MONSTAT, in 2017, the total collected quantity of urban solid waste was 292,762 tonnes representing 90 per cent of the total quantity of urban solid waste collected. In 2017, some 10 per cent of solid urban waste was recycled or reused. **Alignment with NSSD** Implementation of these EPR recommendations and SDGs target 12.4 contribute to achievement of the NSSD strategic goal: **"Improve waste management applying the circular economy-based approaches".**
12.5	**Recommendation 8.2:** The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, should elaborate schemes for stimulating market-based mechanisms for the recycling and reusing of waste. **Implementation:** There are no incineration or composting plants and few facilities for processing recyclable materials. As of 2018, the National Waste Management Plan proposes operating 4 waste management centers (Podgorica, Nikšić, Bijelo Polje and Bar) giving them the choice of having a Recycling Center (MRF Plant) and/or a waste treatment plant for separate and controlled disposal of construction waste, and/or a waste heat treatment plant and/or a sanitary landfill. The ambitious target of 25 per cent of waste to

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
	be recycled stipulated by the Law on Waste Management is likely not to be met. There is still very low recycling rate, the lack of adequate statistical data on waste quantities and the incompatibility of these data between the competent institutions, as well as the poor communal infrastructure. According to the Report on implementation of the State Plan on waste management for 2017, some 10 per cent of solid urban waste was recycled or reused. The system for selective waste disposal has not been established. There are still no measures implemented to encourage the reuse, recycling and selective collection of waste materials. Statistics on waste management is not produced or is not of a good quality at municipal level. **Not implemented.** **<u>SDG targets and indicators</u>** The country has fully tracked but is unable to monitor progress under relevant SDG indicator 12.5.1: 'National recycling rate, tons of material recycled.' **<u>Alignment with NSSD</u>** Implementation of these EPR recommendations and SDGs target 12.5 contribute to achievement of the NSSD strategic goal: **"Improve waste management applying the circular economy-based approaches"** and associated measure to establish efficient waste selection and recycling.

Target 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
13.2	**Recommendation 6.1:** The Government, through the National Council on Sustainable Development and Climate Change, should: (a) Ensure that priority areas for further actions, measures and instruments to reach climate change mitigation and adaptation targets, as well as implementation plans, are integrated into the strategy on climate change and secure funding for its implementation; (b) Ensure the integration of climate change adaptation issues into sectoral policies and strategies, especially for agriculture, health and transport. **<u>Implementation:</u>** The National Climate Change Strategy, adopted in 2015, provides guidelines in the field of climate, energy and other policies and a large number of initiatives for the direct development of the state towards low carbon technologies. The strategy needs to ensure consistency with the EU 2030 climate and energy policy framework and also its integration into all relevant sectoral policies and strategies. The implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy has not yet achieved the goal of adequately integrating climate policy into other sectors' policies. The Law on Climate Change is currently in the form of draft. Energy efficiency implementation instruments (such as the

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
	Energy Efficiency Fund and/or Energy Efficiency Agency) have not yet been established. **Implementation is ongoing.** **<u>SDG targets and indicators</u>** Relevant SDG indicator for this target is 13.2.1:' Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)' is not tracked yet and it is planned to be introduced by 2019. **<u>Alignment with NSSD</u>** Implementation of these EPR recommendations and SDGs target 13.2 is not aligned to any NSSD strategic goal.

Target 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
15.1	**Recommendation 5.2:** The Government should ensure that adequate funding is made available for implementation of the country's commitments on MDG7. **<u>Implementation:</u>** According to the Law on the Budget for 2018 the amount of € 1.43 million or 0.09 per cent of total expenditures of the current budget funds were allocated for the Program "Environmental Protection and Communal Development", in 2017 the amount of € 1.8 mil. or 0.09 per cent were allocated for carrying out the strategic and legislative activities in this area. The "polluter pays principle "still exists, however, the funds collected on this basis are far less than what is needed to cover the minimum needs estimated for the successful implementation of environmental projects. In the period from May 2015 until July 2018 the state invested some 920.000 € in protection of ecosystems and renewal of infrastructure in Ulcinj Salina. Process for formal protection of this area started in May 2015, when Municipality of Ulcinj submitted request to the Nature and Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) for preparation of the protection study. NEPA developed the study in cooperation with NGO "Center for protection of birds" in the end of 2015. Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism returned that study for revision in order to align it with legal requirements, but the revised study was not submitted. The Government adopted spatial urban plan for the municipality of Ulcinj in February 2017, which foresees

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
	acknowledgement of Ulcinj Salina as a Nature Park. The same status of Salina is confirmed in spatial plan for coastal area adopted by Parliament in July 2018. Montenegro that has no nationally proclaimed MPA. In cooperation with UNEP, the project "Promotion of Management of Protected Areas through Integrated Protection of Marine and Coastal Ecosystem of Montenegro", was approved by GEF in August 2017. It is expected that this project will result with establishment of 3 integrated marine and coastal protected areas (M/CPA), thus substantially contributing to the establishment of marine N2000 network. **Not implemented.** **<u>SDG targets and indicators</u>** SDG indicator 15.1.1:' Forest area as a proportion of total land area' is currently partially tracked. Forests cover 59.9 per cent (826.782 ha) of the total land area of Montenegro, forest land covers 9.9 per cent (137.480 ha) of the land of Montenegro. In the last decades, the area under forests has increased due to the abandonment of traditional agriculture and afforestation. According to NSSD (2016), national network of protected areas currently covers around 12.8 per cent of the territory – an increase from 9.09 per cent reported in the 3rd EPR. There was an increase of protected areas in the period 2014-2018. New protected areas are: • Monument of nature Goljnoporski vir 2014 • Nature park Piva 2015 • Nature park Dragišnica I Komarnica 2017 • Nature park Komovi 2015 • Monument of nature Kanjon Cijevne 2017 • Special nature reserve Tivatska solila 2013 According to statistic of Environmental Protection Agency, only nine national protected areas have management plans. Just 8.6 per cent are land protected areas in respect to the surface of coastal area, or 0 per cent marine protected areas. Aichi target declare obligation that is necessary at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas to be protected by 2020. 15.1.2: 'Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type' is not currently tracked. Data are monitored only for terrestrial and marine protected areas (% of total territorial area). **<u>Potential tensions with other SDG targets</u>** Tensions exists between SDG target 15.1 and the SDG target 7.3. The construction of hydropower plants may hinder achievement of the SDG target 15.1. The Moraca and Komarnica hydropower plants both may threaten valuable natural areas. Research on the Moraca dam project predicts permanent destruction of very rare and endemic fish and bird species as well as downstream impacts on Skadar Lake, which is recognised as an international (RAMSAR, potential Natura 2000, proposed Emerald site) and national (National Park) protected area. The Komarnica valley is also nominated as an Emerald and Natura 2000 site and includes the unique Nevidio Canyon, which is protected as a Natural Monument.

SDG targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations
	Furthermore, the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Facilities adopted in 2017, does not recognize local spatial plans, nor spatial plans of special purposes, such as those for national parks and coastal zones. For example, the recently adopted Spatial-Urban Plan of the Ulcinj municipality that identified Ulcinj Salina as a protected area (whose protection is a negotiating benchmark) may no longer be valid. **Partially implemented.** **<u>Alignment with NSSD</u>** Implementation of these EPR recommendations and SDGs target 15.1 contribute to achievement of the NSSD strategic goals: **"Stop degradation of the values of renewable natural resources - biodiversity, water, air and soil" and "Enabling efficient natural resources management".**