



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Working Group on Environmental
Monitoring and Assessment

Reporting to the progress made in Environmental
Monitoring and Assessment at the national level

This questionnaire has been designed to collect information on the results of major actions taken by the countries in environmental monitoring and assessment since the previous meeting of the Working Group (27-28 June 2017). The objective is to evaluate to which extent and how your country progressed in environmental monitoring and assessment, including through using the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and the regular production of quality environmental indicators at the national level. The Working Group could then identify the needs of your country to be addressed in the future to underpin regular reporting and assessments, in accordance with international monitoring and assessment requirements and obligations.

The main aims of the questionnaire are to:

- Determine if the countries regularly produce environmental reports, analyses and assessments, including through using environmental indicators and SEIS
- Ensure that monitoring networks are upgraded or modernized, and that data quality assurance and control mechanisms and data management are in place or improved where needed, in particular for water, air and soil monitoring and data management
- Follow improvements in national environmental policy reflecting all three SEIS pillars (content, infrastructure and cooperation)
- Capture the implementation status of relevant recommendations made in national environmental performance reviews (EPRs)
- Foresee the challenges to be addressed by the Working Group in the years to come regarding institutional, regulatory mechanisms and infrastructure at the national level

The secretariat will also provide a list of relevant recommendations contained in UNECE environmental performance reviews against which countries might report on progress.

If you wish to receive further information, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on WGEMASec@un.org.

Information on the person filling in the form

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Has your country produced any environmental report, analysis or assessment on environmental information and indicators, including via the use of SEIS, within the last year?

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The institution at the state level with jurisdiction in environmental issues is the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH (MoFTER).

Also, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Constitution states that jurisdiction in environmental issues is split between BiH entities (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina - FBiH and Republika Srpska - RS), and the BiH district of Brčko (BD BiH), 10 cantonal levels and at municipal levels.

SoER 2012

The 2012 State of the Environment Report (SOER) of BiH is the first one of its kind within the country. It is viewed as one of the founding documents on environmental protection in BiH.

Due to the lack of state level legislation governing environmental protection and thus providing a basis for the development of such a report, the 2012 SOER was made under the framework of the UN Joint Program "*Mainstreaming environmental governance: linking local and national action in BiH*".

The SOER represents a comprehensive overview of the state of the environment and trends, pressures and their effect on the environment, for the following topics:

- Forest resources;
- Land and Soil Resources;
- Surface and Groundwater Resources;
- Biological and Landscape Diversity;
- Air Pollution and Ozone Depletion; and
- Climate change.

SoER Revision Process 2013-2018

The Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea has offered support to the UNEP/GEF project "*Capacity Building for the Integration of Global Environmental Obligations into State Policies and Development of Decision-Making in Bosnia and Herzegovina*" in order to initiate the revision process of several topics of the country's State of the Environment Report (SoER) as an important tool for the further alignment of Bosnia and Herzegovina with EU rules and standards.

Adopted in April 2014, SoER BiH is the first officially adopted State of Environment Report of BiH and one of the core environment protection-indicators based document in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As per provisions of the EU Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information revision process of the SoER is due for the period 2013-2018. However, considering limited capacities and resources of the country for an independent review of the SoER BiH, the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea decided to grant a co-financing supporting the revision of selected environmental components, thus enhancing environmental decision-making and public access to information. The revised report will be available by the end of 2018.

The First stakeholder meeting for the "Revision of selected environmental components for the Bosnia and Herzegovina State of Environment Report (SoER)" was held in the UN House in Sarajevo, March 2018.

The methodology for the SoER revision contains 5 areas, two areas less in comparison with the previous one; contains selected indicators, possible data providers and availability of data and policy response within the SoER thematic issues, as follows:

- Land and soil resources,
- Surface and Ground Waters,
- Air Pollution and Ozone Depletion,
- Waste Management,
- Policy responses.

Please specify which environmental report, analysis or assessment has been produced and provide the link to the website if available.

Environmental report, analysis or assessment	
1	https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/9437/-State_of_the_Environment_Report_for_Bosnia_and_Herzegovina-2012SoERReport_BosniaandHerzego.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y
2	www.unep.ba
3	
4	
5	

Please note the main changes that have been made to improve the work of national monitoring networks, in particular on air, water and soil.

SOER 2012

The whole report is based on EEA indicators, as well as national indicators are used to present the state of environment. Main and most important indicators are CSI (Core Set Indicators) following with CLIM (Indicators relating to climate change), ENER (Indicators relating to energy use) and many more indicators which are used to describe the state of different segments of the environment.

SOER 2013-2018

With regard to SOER 2013-2018, the collection and calculation of EEA indicators for the areas is currently being done:

- Land and soil resources (5 indicators)
- Surface and Ground Waters (10 indicators)
- Air Pollution and Ozone Depletion (8 indicators)
- Waste Management (2 indicators)

The company that obtained SOER is collecting data through a specific Questionnaire that are sent by mail / email to "data providers", of which the Agency for Statistics of BiH is very important institutions. The data is entered into excel tables, analyzed and displayed in a table or as a chart.

The process of obtaining data is very slow, there are incomplete data, and some institutions do not want to provide data.

Changes	
1	Status monitoring of Surface and Ground Waters is defined with 10 indicators
2	Status monitoring of Air Pollution and Ozone Depletion is defined with 8 indicators
3	New topic „ <i>Policy response</i> “ within the SoER thematic issues
4	
5	

What types of improvements have been made in your country to enhance data quality assurance, control and data management?

SOER 2012

One of the major issues that was experienced during development of SoER is availability of data, irregular monitoring procedures and inconsistency of data that is being monitored.

The report offers clear recommendations on how to further carry out the reporting procedure and proposal of the legal framework that would empower BiH to report the state of environment on a regular basis.

SOER 2013-2018

SOER 2013-2018 should give answers to the challenges that concern enhance data quality assurance, control and data management, given that the recommendations from SOER 2012 were not fully respected.

IRIS (The Indicator Reporting Information System) is software is a tool for data collection and indicator creation for national focal points reporting towards international conventions in the area of environment. Those responsible for collecting data, generating indicators and reporting on the state and trends of the environment are now be able to communicate information online -quickly and regularly -with all relevant stakeholders.

IRIS software was developed by UN Environment, and it includes public database - Shared Knowledge Database (SKB) which enables public access to the shared IRIS data and to earlier presented tool - UNEP Live Platform for global capacities knowledge sharing.

Improvements

- 1 BiH- IRIS platform, as a potential platform for collecting / calculating indicators.
 - 2 BHAS producing UNECE Environmental Indicators
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
-

Which improvements in data policy, institutional and regulatory mechanisms and technical solutions have been applied in your country to facilitate and improve data exchange between the parties concerned (ministries of environment, environment agencies and ministries of agriculture, energy, health, industry, transport and water) and with other users, including the public?

Mechanisms and solutions

- 1 IRIS software is the possible solution for establishment of the Environmental Management Information System – EMIS
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
-

Has your country made any changes in data policy within the last year?

Yes No



If yes, please specify which changes.

The accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European Union is a goal that BiH has formally devoted to by signing the Stabilization and Association Agreement in 2008. For countries that pretend to join the EU, harmonization of regulations represents a unique commitment, accepted by signing.

Changes

“Strategy for harmonization of regulations in the field of environment (EAS)”

1 http://www.vijeceministara.gov.ba/akti/prijedlozi_zakona/default.aspx?id=27619&langTag=hr-HR

2

3

4

5

Please provide a list of activities undertaken by your country to implement the recommendations on environmental monitoring and assessment made in previous national environmental performance reviews (EPRs).

Recommendations

1

2

3

4

5

What do you think are the main challenges for your country with regard to institutional, regulatory mechanisms and infrastructure at the national level?

Challenges	
1	Bosnia and Herzegovina should significantly strengthen cooperation and coordination between the various institutions at the entity and state level in charge of the environment issues.
2	Establish a state level Strategy and system of monitoring in terms of air quality, because the protection of the air quality would be better solved at the state level.
3	The implementation of the <i>acquis</i> in water management, nature protection and waste management is at an early stage of the adoption and implementation of directives
4	Capacity building for environmental activities that would exceed the frameworks of individual projects
5	Raising awareness and strengthening administrative capacity and inter-institutional cooperation in the field of environment

Please indicate any other information you think may be relevant. Please also indicate how the Working Group could assist in facilitating environmental monitoring and assessment in your country and region.

1. Access to information, knowledge and evidence

The Aarhus Convention and related EU legislation on access to information and the sharing of spatial data requires that the public has access to clear environmental information, including on how to implement EU legislation in the field of the environment. It is critical for public authorities, the public and businesses to share environmental information in an efficient and effective way.

The Aarhus Convention, the Directive on Public Access to Environmental Information and the INSPIRE Directive are the legal basis for the sharing of environmental information between public authorities and the public. They are also an part of the EU Action Plan for Public Administration.

The first two instruments prescribe the obligation to provide information to the public, both on request and on own initiative. The INSPIRE Directive is an innovative instrument for electronic data sharing among public bodies whose data sharing policies may vary, for example, whether data can be accessed free of charge. The INSPIRE Directive has established a geoportal that displays the level of shared spatial data - that is, data related to certain locations, e.g. air quality monitoring data. This, among other things, makes it easier for public authorities to report obligations.

It can be concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have available spatial data needed for the assessment and implementation of EU environmental legislation (based on the idea of the INSPIRE Directive).

The Eurostat Statistical Requirements Compendium is a reference tool for national producers of official statistics. Module 08.1.44 –INSPIRE of Compendium requires the active participation of statistical institutions in the implementation Directive 2007/2/EC INSPIRE.

Expected actions

- Critically analyze the effectiveness of data policies and modify them, taking into account best practices.
- Identify and document all spatial data sets required for the implementation of environmental legislation and make available data and documents to other public authorities and the public through the digital services provided by the INSPIRE Directive.

2. Distributing environmental information

In BiH, information concerning the environment is freely available to the public. However, these requirements very often are not fulfilled in practice.

There is no other central government website for providing environmental information (no state Agency for Environment has been established). Instead, there are only certain public registers for tracking issued permits. For example, the entity Ministry manages the database of issued environmental permits, while the Water Agency keeps a register of issued water permits.

This approach to the distribution of environmental information is obviously inadequate. The Agency for Statistics of BiH is responsible for the production of statistical data of Bosnia and Herzegovina, includes all activities necessary for the preparation, collection, storage, processing, compilation, analysis and distribution of statistical data for Bosnia and Herzegovina, including environmental statistics. Access to information and the timely distribution of environmental statistics are standardized, and continuous efforts are being made to strengthen the environmental information management system.