



WESTERN BALKANS REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Introduction, content and general chapter structure

Introduction

The purpose of the Western Balkans Environmental Report is to provide an overview of the progress in environmental and sustainability policy development and implementation in the period since the Kiev Conference in 2003. The target audience of the reports are Environmental Ministers gathered at the Belgrade Ministerial Conference in 2007 as well as other high level decision makers in the Western Balkans, EU, donor countries and international organisations active in the region. The report supplements the EEA Pan-European Environmental Report and the EECCA Report prepared by the OECD, as well as a number of other reports covering the Western Balkans and/or specific topics.

At the Kiev Conference the ministerial declaration touched on the Western Balkans saying: “We welcome and support the REReP in its efforts to strengthen institutions, enhance cooperation and reduce environmental and health threats in South-Eastern Europe. We appreciate the joint work done by the countries of South-Eastern Europe and REC for Central and Eastern Europe to facilitate REReP implementation and we invite the donor community to further support and develop the process.” Apart from this statement no strategic document dealing specifically with Western Balkans was adopted. On the other hand, all the countries in the Western Balkans have expressed their goal to become members of the EU and are at various stages of the accession or association and stabilisation process with the EU. This is also the overall purpose of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme.

In this context, the reference framework for the Western Balkans Environmental Report is provided by the strategic policy documents of the EU, principally the Sixth Environmental Action Programme adopted [1600/2002/EC]. For the broader development and sustainability issues the 6EAP is supplemented by the Community Lisbon Programme [SEC(2005) 981] and for the specific issues and priorities of the Western Balkans by the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme (Original document and the review).

The selection of the topics covered by the Report was made by the UNDP in consultation with country focal points at the Regional Workshop on September 14. and 15. 2006. It is based on the scope of the reference framework as well as the policy development and implementation situation in the region. Since there was no similar report on the region prepared in 2003, the data included in the report would generally cover the period from 2000 till today (or the last available dataset).

Following is the proposed outline of the report and a general chapter structure. In order to ensure comparability, the chapter structure was adapted from the draft chapter structure used by OECD for the EECCA report. The outline doesn't include country profiles, as they are already presented in the REC report “Environmental snapshot”. The draft outline of the report will be further adapted to the comments received from the countries and the results of country analyses.

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Report Structure Western Balkans Regional Environmental Report *CONTENT*

Section	Focus	Target length
Executive Summary		5 pages
Section I. Towards EU membership	<p>Discuss the status and challenges of overall economic and social development, including the process of stabilisation and association, and EU accession, from the environmental and sustainability point of view:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable development objectives and performance of the countries • Development, environment and quality of life Economic growth, poverty, trade/investment and governance, and their links to environmental management. Western Balkans have certain environmental resources that give it competitive advantages in the European context – (water, space, forests, coasts, diversity); tourism potential, quality of life and opportunities to motivate return of refugees and economic migrants • Stabilisation and association, EU Accession: Progress in negotiations • Environmental legislation harmonisation: EU and international obligations, national objectives, progress, growing implementation gap, successes in implementation • Main challenges of implementation of the <i>Acquis Communautaire</i> (Water, waste water, waste): EU requirements, capacity to implement, financial resources, timescales 	10 p
Section II. Developing Environmental Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National environmental institutions and mechanisms for policy integration: Ministries, division of responsibilities for different aspects of environment and sustainability, Government decision making, SD mechanisms, application of SEA, EIA • Sub-national and local institutions: description, processes of decentralisation, capacity, bottlenecks and opportunities 	14 p

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education for sustainable development: Efforts, successes, barriers • Public participation and access to information • NGOs and private sector service providers, science etc: strong part of the sector, dependent on donors • Effects of privatisation: Environmental liability in the context of privatisation, investment in new technologies, workplaces, enforcement, positive and negative examples • Environmental financing: financing mechanisms, role of donors and IFIs, Environmental Funds, public private partnerships, affordability 	
Section III. Managing Natural Assets for Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land – Physical Planning: Process of rapid urbanisation after the wars and instability, what is (not) done to manage the process, cities, coastal zone, war affected areas • Nature and Biodiversity: Nature conservation management – protected areas, high potential for natura 2000, existing and emerging threats, institutions, capacity • Waters: Quantity, Quality, institutions, open issues, cross border cooperation (Danube, Sava, Ohrid, Prespa, Vardar) • Marine Environment: Pressures on the marine environment: fishing, tourism, infrastructure; cross border initiatives - Adriatic-Ionian • Forests: Environmental, social and economic importance in the region, changes in management objectives, policies, institutions, implementation • Tourism: trends in tourism, impact on environment and opportunities for sustainable tourism • Agriculture: collapse of traditional agriculture, social and environmental consequences of polarisation between intensive and traditional, implications of EU Agricultural policy, opportunities for rural development 	14 pages
Section IV. Improving Living Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Health: Highlight main environmental health risks in the region (e.g. leaded petrol, air pollution), measures taken, effects • Legacy of war: results of the Environment and Security Initiative and its follow-up; industrial sites, depleted Uranium, land mines 	14p

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change: Legal and factual situation of Western Balkans countries according to Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol, opportunities for energy efficiency and renewable sources, issues of adaptation • Waste: trends in quantity and quality of waste, waste management practices, investment in new facilities, use of economic instruments • Energy: Energy production and use in the Western Balkans, energy efficiency initiatives, rehabilitation of old power plants, development of new generating capacity, environmental impact • Industry: including mining: Hot spots, decline or restructuring, environmental management, IPPC • Transport: rapid development of road transport, situation of rail and public transport, environmental impact of local traffic in the cities and transit traffic, sustainable transport initiatives in the region 	
Section VI. Conclusions and Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight emerging patterns across objectives • Indicate that progress is different across countries • Summarize key recommendations from sectoral analysis 	5 pages
Total		62 pages



*General chapter structure (based on OECD
EECCA Report)*

CHAPTER TITLE

[Each chapter is thought as a “policy brief” and making reference to more detailed work. Estimated length: 2 pages]

Relevant policy objectives

From: 6th EAP, EU Sustainable Development Strategy, Lisbon Programme, REReP, National objectives...

Policy issues

Why should policy makers read this chapter? Urgency and size of the policy challenge.

- Links to development outcomes (health, poverty) and global environment (climate change, biodiversity) outcomes.
- Links to other objectives in the
- References to relevant international targets and processes

Policy options

What are the main policy options to achieve this objective?

- Bullet points summarizing “planned actions” from the national strategy documents.
- Other relevant policy options (if the policy options are not well covered in the document)

Who are the main policy actors? This section could also structure the policy options according to actor.

What has happened since Kiev?

This is the most important part of the chapter. To what extent have those policy options been used? What are the main trends?

This section should include 4-6 main messages, each taking up one paragraph. Hopefully the main messages will be somehow related to the messages in corresponding chapter in Stocktaking report.

Sources will include sectoral reports (such as the ones the relevant Facilitating Organizations will prepare for

The (environmental) challenge

Here some text linking this chapter with some relevant chapter in the EEA’s Belgrade Assessment. Remind that the focus of the chapter is on policy actions, rather than on environmental outcomes, and that environmental outcomes are covered in the EEA’s Belgrade Assessment.

Figure A1.1

For the chapters dealing with policy areas (air, WSS, waste/ chemicals, IWRM, biodiversity) the figure would refer to the corresponding environmental trend. For the chapters dealing with policy levers (legislation, integration, finance, information/ participation/education, international cooperation) it is less clear what the figure could cover.

Source: EEA Belgrade Assessment

Figure A1.3 Scorecard

A graph plotting the progress of countries in key characteristics/indicators (Yes/No variables or bars). In principle, the selection of the key characteristics needs to be related to the policy options discussed in the main text.

Source: Relevant Facilitating Organisation and/or indicators of EEA



Belgrade) and, potentially, the dedicated questionnaire. The text will make the link to the scorecard and quantitative indicators covered in the “figures”.

CASE STUDY:

An example of a success story

In order to provide for geographical balance, two-three case studies need to be identified for each chapter, even if only one will be written up. Brief guidelines to write up the case studies will be developed in advance.

Major information gaps

For a number of sub-areas we don't have a good sense of what is happening. Which are those areas? Are they important?

Barriers to progress

What problems do WB countries encounter to implement these policy options?

Recommendations

We have been asked to provide recommendations. But some partners have stressed to be careful. Rather than coming up with original recommendations, this section provides an opportunity to highlight, let's say, the 5 most important recommendations in this area already put forward in sectoral reports.

We could highlight as well:

- Policy gaps / areas lagging behind
- Scope for streamlining the WB Environment Strategy

Figure A1.4

Quantitative policy indicator 1

Source: Databases of international organizations or dedicated questionnaire

Further Information

KEY REPORTS

List of top 5 reports that policy-makers interested in the topic may want to consult.

REFERENCES

Other sources used in preparing the chapter

Figure A1.5

Quantitative policy indicator 2

Source: Databases of international organizations or dedicated questionnaire



Montenegro

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