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Options for the next pan-European regular assessment

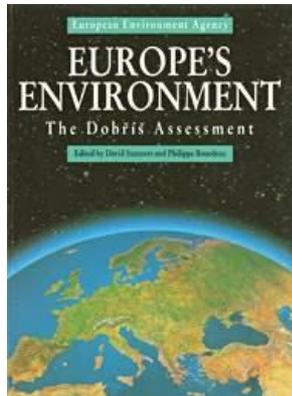
- *supported by SEIS and streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting*

21st Session of WGEMA

06 May 2019

Mr. Matthew Billot, UN Environment (UNEP)

Pan-European environmental assessments



Mandate & role of WGEMA

At its twenty-second session, in January 2017, the Committee adopted the revised mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment for 2017–2021, as set out in annex II to ECE/CEP/2017/2, which includes:

(a) “The aim of the Working Group, under the oversight of the Committee, is to: ... (b) **Lead a process of consultation on the regular pan-European environmental assessment** and the streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting by 2020” (para. 2);

Related processes (UN Environment's GEO series)

- GEO-6 and its' Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) was launched in March 2019 in Nairobi at UNEA 4

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/global-environment-outlook-6>

- GEO-6 was based on the findings of regional assessments of each of the six UNEP regions (pan-European Assessment launched at the 8th EfE (Batumi, 2016))
- UN Environment has been requested to convene a 'steering committee' to develop options for GEO-7 and the future direction of the GEO series (pls nominate!)

Related processes (UN Environment's GEO series)

A Steering Committee (2019-2020) will be established (UNEP/EA.4/RES.23) to:

- Review the scope and objectives of future GEOs (form follows function)
- The options should consider GEO's role in regularly preparing independent, state and trend analysis for the world environment situation
- The options paper will be submitted to UNEA 5 (February 2021) for deciding the future of GEO

The systematic production of future GEO assessments may not require the production of bespoke regional assessments

Related processes (UN Environment's GEO series)

Challenges related to the Global GEO cycle:

- The future of GEO assessments will be made at UNEA 5 in 2021
- The systematic production of future GEO assessments may not require the production of bespoke regional assessments
- Waiting for the outcome of the UNEA 5 mandate would be too late to start a process and raise resources to produce an assessment for the 9th EfE also scheduled in 2021
- Careful reflection on the mandate of the Batumi Ministerial Declaration

Related processes (UN Environment's GEO series)

Mandate of the Batumi Ministerial Declaration

*While welcoming progress in developing the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) to support a regular process of environmental assessment, [...] We welcome the launch of the **European regional assessment of the Global Environment Outlook, as the regular pan-European environmental assessment.** The GEO-6 Assessment for the pan-European region is built on existing national, sub-regional and thematic assessments, including The European environment - state and outlook 2015 report produced by the European Environment Agency in 2015.*

Related processes (EEA's State & Outlook Report)

- The EEA state and outlook report is published every five years and, among other things, feeds into the evaluation of progress achieved by the European Union countries in relation to the European Union Environmental Action Programmes and other common commitments.
- The latest edition, *The European environment — state and outlook 2015* (SOER 2015), was published in March 2015 (ECE/CEP/2015/10, para. 27(a)).
- The EEA SOER 2020 will be launched in 2019 and 2020: *The Integrated Assessment* will be issued in 2019, followed by a Synthesis stakeholder interaction; and the *Synthesis* report is based upon the key findings of 2019 the *Integrated Assessment* and the outcomes of the stakeholder interaction in 2020.

Pan-European Assessment – Option 1

Option 1: Comprehensive Integrated Environmental Assessment - is based on the experience of preparing the previous GEO-6 Assessment for the Pan-European Region

Scope:

- (a) Regional context and priorities;
- (b) Environmental state and trends and policy responses: (i) Climate change; (ii) Air quality; (iii) Biodiversity and Ecosystems; (iv) Chemicals and Waste; (v) Freshwater; (vi) Coastal, marine and oceans; (vii) Land;
- (c) Strengthening environmental governance;
- (d) Outlooks and emerging issues

Pan-European Assessment – Option 1

Process: Undertaking a comprehensive integrated environmental assessment using the Global Environment Outlook methodology⁵ entails a participatory process involving many stakeholders. Usually it begins with an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder consultation to agree on the objectives, scope and process.

This involves defining the priorities for the assessment and also how the process will be run, identifying the roles and responsibilities for the secretariat, the advisory bodies and the experts. Typically, the experts (authors and reviewers) are drawn from a wide range of expertise and geographical balance and selected through a transparent nomination process.

Due to these many process elements to ensure credibility, legitimacy and saliency, these types of assessments take between three and five years to complete.

Pan-European Assessment – Option 2

Budget:

The estimated budget for a comprehensive integrated assessment is: \$300,000.

Estimated budget breakdown

Activity Budget (\$)

Stakeholder consultations 40,000

Stipends for experts and/or institutions 100,000

Author meetings 80,000

Coordination 30,000

Design, graphics and layout 30,000

Translation (into Russian) 20,000

Pan-European Assessment – Option 2

Option 2: This alternative combines options 2 and 3 set out in the first draft proposal put forward to the Working Group.

Rationale: One reason for combining the two options is an effort to streamline reporting on the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System and the themes of the ministerial conference.

Pan-European Assessment – Option 2

Scope:

- (a) Drivers;
- (b) An indicator-based assessment (environmental state and trends and policy responses, using the ECE core set of environmental indicators): (i) Air pollution and ozone depletion; (ii) Climate change; (iii) Water; (iv) Biodiversity; (v) Land and soil; (vi) Agriculture; (vii) Energy; (viii) Transport; (ix) Waste;
- (c) A review of progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System in Europe and Central Asia;
- (d) Themes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference: (i) Theme I; (ii) Theme II

Pan-European Assessment – Option 2

Process: The undertaking of an indicator-based assessment, including a review of progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System and addressing the two conference themes, can be done in various ways.

A small group of experts from within the United Nations system, together with external consultants, could be engaged in the production of the assessment. In particular, bodies under multilateral environmental agreements would be well placed to report on the latest state, trends and policies for a number of areas, such as air quality, climate change, water and biodiversity. Other areas might be covered by UNEP and relevant divisions of ECE (e.g., regarding transport and energy). Consultants would be used for the two conference themes and to support the secretariat in coordinating the assessment. The process for option 2 could fit within the time available until the expected date of the next ministerial conference, in 2021.

Pan-European Assessment – Option 2

Budget: The estimated budget for an indicator-based assessment, including a review of progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System and addressing the two conference themes, would be in the range from \$ 150,000 to \$ 180,000

Estimated budget breakdown

Activity Budget (\$)

Consultants and/or stipends for experts and/or institutions 60,000

Author meetings 30,000

Coordination 30,000

Design, graphics and layout 30,000

Translation (into Russian) 20,000

Pan-European Assessment – Option 3

Option 3: A light indicator-based and thematic assessment

Though the budget for option 2 is estimated as being far lower than that for option 1, only very limited funds may be available to prepare the next assessment.

The third option therefore sets out a possible scenario for a light indicator-based and thematic assessment. This option would be limited to the review of progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System and to addressing the two conference themes by using the conference background papers that are foreseen to be produced for the next ministerial conference

Pan-European Assessment – Option 3

Outline

The outline for this option would follow the same structure as proposed for option 2 above but, instead of a detailed indicator-based assessment, the status and perhaps trends would be presented.

Process and Timetable

The timetable for option 3 would be similar to that set out for Option 2 and 3, but without meetings of a drafting group, as none would be established. A simple document would be produced.

Pan-European Assessment – Option 3

Budget:

The estimated budget for option 3 would be approximately \$ 50,000.

Estimated budget breakdown

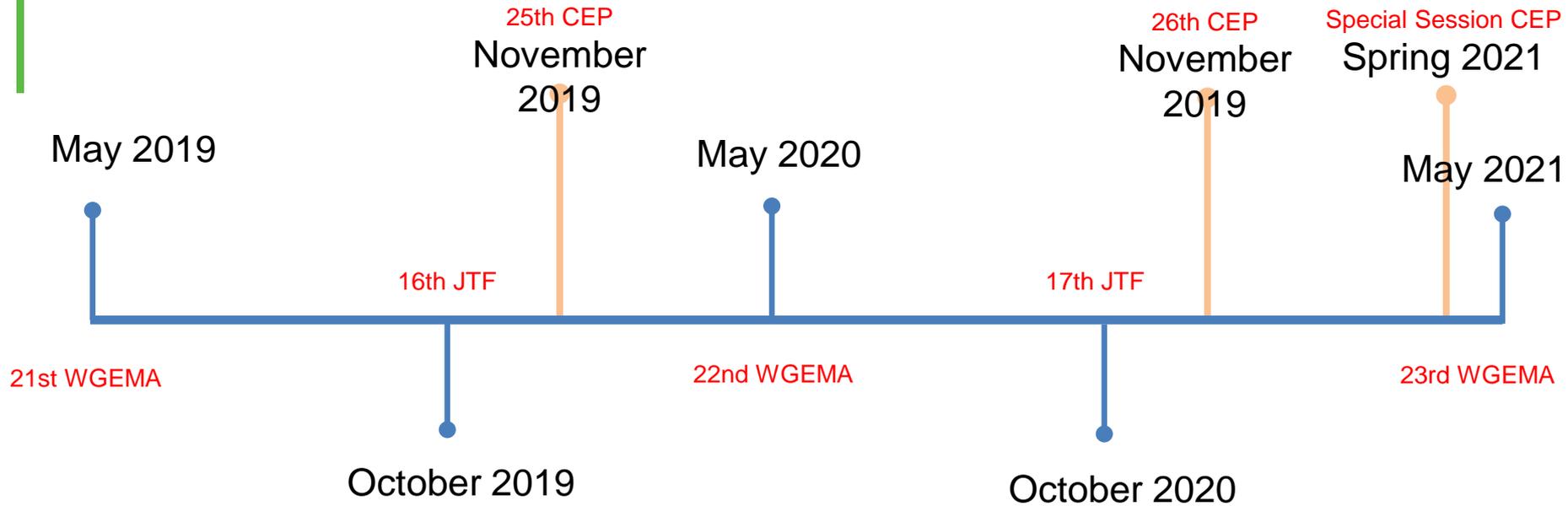
Activity Budget (\$)

Consultants and/or stipends for experts and/or institutions
30,000

Translation (into Russian) 20,000

Timeline

ENVIRONMENT



Deciding on the pan-European assessment

Write-up

Finalisation

Possible timetable for the seventh pan-European assessment

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Actions</i>
May 2019	21 st session of the Working Group	Draft the proposed general approach and process and identify possible priority indicator areas
October 2019	16 th session of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators	Further refine the general approach and process and develop possible priority areas
November 2019	25 th session of the Committee on Environmental Policy	Decide upon the general approach and process and up to two themes for the next conference
Early 2020	1 st meeting of a drafting group	To be determined
Spring 2020	22 nd session of the Working Group	To be determined
Summer 2020	2 nd meeting of a drafting group	To be determined
Autumn 2020	3 rd meeting of a drafting group	To be determined
	17 th session of the Joint Task Force	To be determined
	26 th session of the Committee	To be determined
Early 2021	Special session of the Committee	Consideration of the draft pan-European environmental assessment
	23 rd session of the Working Group	To be determined
2021	9 th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference	Consideration of the seventh pan-European environmental assessment

Discussion points and decisions

Key issues to consider:

- The next assessment will not be part of GEO series. Is this a problem?
- Will the product be a review, synthesis or really an assessment?
- CEP decides on the themes of 9th EfE in November 2019. This limits the time for preparing the assessment
- Practical solution required with realistic objectives, scope and process. What is the preferred option either from background paper or other ideas (we are not limited to options presented)?
- Do we have a clear understanding of the roles of CEP and WGEMA through the process?
- Financial resources will have to be raised in the region through WGEMA and CEP (not globally). How to mobilize funds?



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Thank you!

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