



Joint Meeting on Environmental Indicators

31 August-2 September 2009, Geneva



Cooperation framework on
environmental indicators for
environmental experts and
statisticians

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5th Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”

Kiev, 2003

3rd Pan-European assessment report on environment: Lessons learned

- biggest gaps in data availability related to *air pollution and quality, soil contamination, soil remediation, waste management systems, water quality and pollution, and biodiversity*
- poor data submission to international databases
- different approaches, concepts and methodologies used by countries

Ministers in Kiev

- encourage(d) international collaboration to enhance the international comparability of environmental information in priority areas
- stress(ed) the importance of environmental information and data for policy-making and public awareness, recognizing that not all countries use indicator-based mechanisms for their periodic environmental assessments and their evaluation of the effectiveness of environmental policies and decision-making

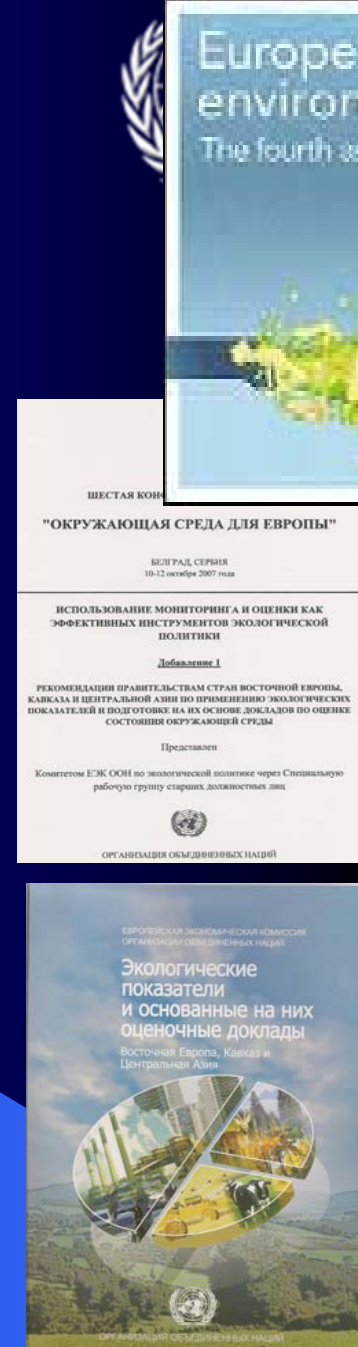
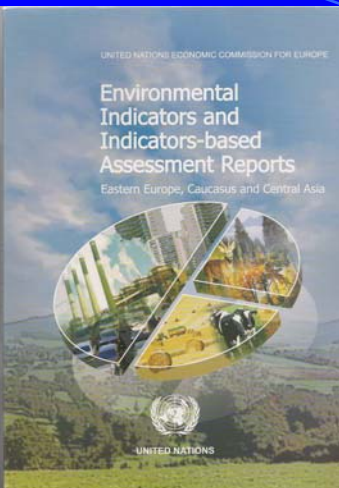


6th Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe"

Belgrade, 2007

Endorsed:

- Guidelines for the Application of (36) Environmental Indicators
- Guidelines for the Preparation of Indicator-based Environment Assessment Reports
- Recommendations to Governments for the Application of these Guidelines

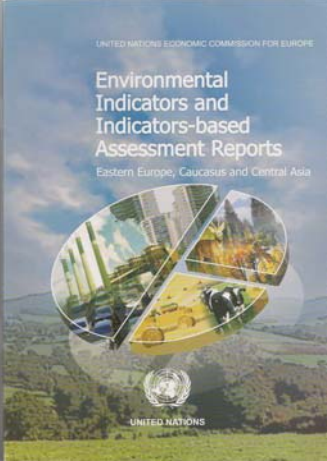




Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators

36 indicators

- most important from the viewpoint of national and international requirements
- understandable to the public
- supported by international methodological guidance
- present on other international indicator lists (e.g. those of EEA, UNCSD and WHO)

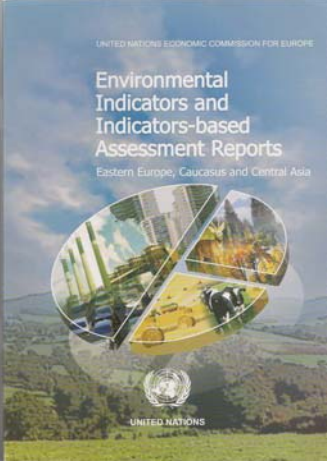




Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators

Purpose

- help in filling in data gaps in countries
- transform environmental data into clear messages to policy-makers and the public
- make national environmental data & assessments comparable with those of other countries
- facilitate production of pan-European environmental assessment and reporting under MEAs





Recommendations for the Application of Indicator Guidelines



- review and clarify responsibilities of public authorities for the production of each indicator
- adapt or develop programmes to measure, calculate and regularly collect data for each indicator
- publish indicators regularly in statistical compendiums
- regularly transmit the information collected to institutions designated for publication of assessment reports
- improve assessment reports based on indicators
- use international standard classifications
- train national experts on the application of indicators
- set up national databases on indicators
- review periodically, the Guidelines to update them, to add new agreed indicators and to reflect practical experience

Joint Intersectoral Task Force on Environmental Indicators



Mandate

- Established by Committee on Environmental Policy and Conference of European Statisticians (CES)
- Timetable: 2009 to September 2010
- Assist national statistical agencies and institutions responsible for the production of national SoE reports in EECCA and SEE to:
 - provide practical recommendations on the use of statistical classifications, data collection methods and procedures for the production of indicators
 - propose additional environmental indicators and provide references to available guidance materials
 - recommend modern presentation formats and tools for indicator dissemination
- Should submit, through WGEMA and CES Bureau, a final report with proposals for follow-up to both UNECE Committees



Expectations from discussion on item 3

- Consider the indicators in a broader context of environmental information sharing
- Assess current situation with the use of indicators from Guidelines in EECCA and SEE: achievements, problems and ways forward
- General debate on methodological issues of common interest, e.g.:
 - What is the difference between statistical data collection and indicators ?
 - What type of methodologies for production of environmental indicators are missing ?
 - For the production of which environmental indicators statisticians need expertise of MoE or other ministries ?
 - What role, if any, highly aggregated (integrated) indicators could play for environmental policy and public information ?
 - Should there be separate indicator publications by Statistical Agencies and MoE or combined ones ?



Thank you

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