
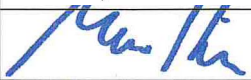
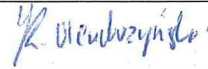


MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Evaluation Title:	Strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia		
Period of Review:	July 2015- December 2018		
Date of Evaluation Report:	05/07/2019		
Approved by	Catherine Haswell Chief, Programme Management Unit	Date	Signature
		21/08/2019	
Cleared by:	Director of Division Marco Keiner	21/08/2019	
Prepared by:	Manager of the evaluation Krzysztof Olendrzynski	21/08/2019	

Recommendation 1:

Given UNECE's convening power and mandate, UNECE can facilitate involving and engaging with a broader range of key stakeholders/decision makers that could advance the Air Convention priorities more effectively by:

- organizing regional or national seminars to include decision-makers, such as representatives of the ministries of environment and natural resource management;
- including officials from statistical agencies in trainings would also facilitate their understanding of the type of data required to apply international methodologies.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.

UNECE will continue to organize regional and national seminars to include decision-makers under the complementary projects under the workplan for the Convention (e.g. project co-funded by the European Union (Support to the implementation of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution in the EECCA region" (2014–2018) and "Implementation of the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) – Phase II" (2019-2021)).

As regards the inclusion of officials from statistical agencies in trainings, UNECE has limited influence on the nominations of national experts for trainings but will recommend participation of officials from statistical agencies.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) will ensure that complementary actions, such as seminars including decision-makers, will be organized, e.g. in the framework of the EU co-funded project, to be implemented by the end of 2021.

Recommendation 2:

UNECE in collaboration with committed and experienced national partners should further work on the adaptability of the tools and methodologies to the regional and national contexts. Furthermore, UNECE may consider diversifying the portfolio of products covered in subsequent workshops and seminars, to include Greenhouse Gas - Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies (GAINS)¹, COPERT² and the like.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.

To complement activities under the capacity-building programme under the Convention, UNECE organized a workshop on GAINS in 2018. As there was a lot of interest, UNECE will try to organize further workshops on models such as GAINS and COPERT used under the Convention, depending on availability of resources. The workshop in 2018 has also helped in adapting the GAINS model further to suit national and regional contexts. In addition, UNECE has already engaged in translating information, analysis, and legislative texts into Russian and national languages.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) will try to continue complementary activities on the tools and models (GAINS, COPERT) under the Convention, depending on availability of resources, by the end of 2021.

Recommendation 3:

There is a continued need for awareness raising about the Convention and its protocols on the environmental and health effects of air pollution as well as modalities of engagement and benefits. Potential tools may include a basic tool kit that could be applied for fast familiarization of new public officials with the problem, and/or a framework document that would visibly demonstrate the benefits of acceding to the Air Convention and the protocols. Using well-substantiated and clear-cut messages about adaptability of the tools to national contexts could help better sensitize politicians about the advantages of the Convention and encourage them to internalize this knowledge for further actions.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.

The Convention will continue organizing high-level awareness raising meetings in the framework of the capacity-building project under the Convention (e.g. EU co-funded project). In addition, an awareness-raising brochure for EECCA countries was developed in 2016 and translated into Russian. Further information (e.g. website) has been translated into Russian.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) could develop further awareness-raising materials, such as brochures and translation of existing documents into Russian, depending on availability of resources, by the end of 2021.

Recommendation 4:

UNECE should consider opportunities to enhance and strengthen accountability mechanisms to expedite ratification of protocols under the Convention in the countries where protocols have not been ratified. In the situation of frequent change of relevant public officials, the establishment of such mechanisms,

¹ <http://gains.iiasa.ac.at/models/>

² <https://www.emisia.com/utilities/copert/documentation/>

including international standards and procedures, could ensure sustainability and the continuity of efforts and facilitate the development of the national road map.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.

The organization has limited influence on the functioning of and turnover of officials in national ministries. In addition, UNECE is already developing national action plans for ratification under the capacity-building project for the Convention (e.g. the EU co-funded project).

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) could develop further awareness-raising materials, such as brochures and translation of documents, and will ensure that complementary actions, such as development of national action plans, will be organized, e.g. in the framework of the EU co-funded project, by the end of 2021.

Recommendation 5:

Both UNECE and national partners should continue and encourage regular interaction between experts to share experiences, facilitate cross-learning and identify solutions, by using innovative communication mechanisms and platforms. In their interaction with the beneficiaries and subsequent projects, UNECE could encourage use of various communication channels and platforms (teleconferences, Skype, social media groups, etc.) for sharing experiences and problems and seeking answers, to complement traditional channels as sub-regional and regional meetings, and some email communication. These mechanisms could be envisaged and integrated into new projects.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.

UNECE is adapting to the needs to beneficiaries and is open to use other communication channels (some of which are already being used) to foster exchange of information.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) will inquire with beneficiaries about their preferred modes of communication and exchange of experiences, by December 2019.

Recommendation 6:

Discussion of strategies to acquire funding and political support for advancing the Convention through other partners should be an integral part of UNECE support in EECCA region in addition to the focus on capacity building and skills upgrade.

Management Response:

UNECE partially accepts this recommendation.

UNECE will continue inviting representatives from international financial institutions (IFIs) to Convention meetings and can try to further engage with IFIs in future project activities.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) will try to invite representatives from IFIs to capacity building activities, whenever appropriate, by December 2020.

Recommendation 7:

Consistent with UNECE prioritization of gender-responsive standards, affirming gender balance in invitations to participate would further ensure equal representation and equal project benefits for women and men. Existing gender representation in beneficiaries, which implicitly facilitated attention to gender equality, could be complemented by exploring opportunities to cooperate with other development partners with explicit mandate and knowledge on how to ensure gender equality, for example the UN Women and national gender machineries.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts this recommendation.

The Environment Division will continue to promote gender equality by ensuring gender balance in its project activities.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) will encourage gender balance in project activities by sending targeted invitations and explore opportunities to cooperate with other development partners with explicit mandate and knowledge on how to ensure gender equality, for example UN Women, by end of 2021.

Recommendation 8:

At the stage of the project proposal preparation extra analysis is recommended to better anticipate related costs, based on comparable projects and industry standards. Sufficient attention and resources should be put to cover expenditures for staff needed to manage and implement the project throughout its cycle.

Management Response:

UNECE accepts this recommendation.

As resources for staff often do not suffice to implement the full project and therefore need to be complemented by other funding sources, UNECE will assess and scrutinize the needs for expenditures for staff more thoroughly and establish thresholds, below which a project manager cannot be hired.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The Air Unit/Environment Division (Krzysztof Olendrzynski, Environmental Affairs Officer) will more clearly communicate to donors the need for staff resources for future projects.