



newsletter

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Issue 2, December 2016

Twelfth Session of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

We are happy to report that the twelfth session of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators was successfully held on 17 and 18 November 2016 in Palais des Nations, Geneva. The session started with a presentation by the Secretariat on the report and outcomes of the eleventh session of the Joint Task Force. Implementation of the decisions and recommendations from the preceding session were presented and discussed.

The first day of the session principally consisted of a review of the UNECE core environmental indicators, focusing on energy and biodiversity indicators as the two priority topics. Country representatives and international organizations, including, amongst others, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Institute for Environmental Sciences at the University of Geneva, have presented on recent national and international experiences in collecting energy and biodiversity related data. It was agreed that the Secretariat will prepare a proposal for how the UNECE core environmental indicators, as related to energy and biodiversity, can be updated. In the case of energy, the revision will focus on simplifying the present set of energy indicators and removing any redundancy. In the case of biodiversity, the revision will focus on aligning the present set of indicators with the biodiversity-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The second day of the session focused exclusively on the need for capacity building to establish a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS). The Joint Task Force discussed future plans, the recent Batumi Declaration, and other relevant topics, such as the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and work on environment and climate change-related statistics.

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2016



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Country representatives and international organizations, including, amongst others, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the Environment Agency Austria, presented on topics ranging from recent SEIS relevant projects (e.g. ENI-SEIS II), data management governance and approaches to environmental information knowledge management systems to improve environmental monitoring.

All documents and presentations from the Joint Task Force session can be found here: <https://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2016.11.envIRON.html#/>

report contains a detailed description of all of the BDM indicators.

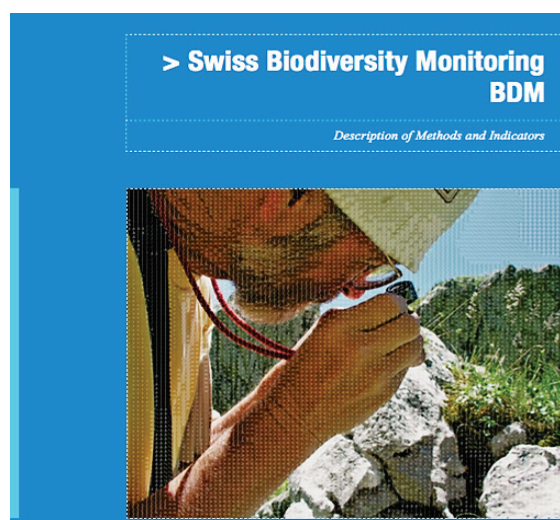
The full report can be found here: <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/publikationen/publikation/01766/index.html?lang=en>



The Group on Earth Observation (GEO) and the GEO Biodiversity Observation Network

The twelfth session of the Joint Task Force also included a presentation by a representative from the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) and the GEO Biodiversity Observation Network who presented the “BON in a Box” concept. Formally launched in 2005, GEO coordinates international efforts to construct a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) that builds on existing observation and information systems and activities. GEO is a voluntary partnership of (currently) 103 National Members and 106 Participating Organizations. There are eight Societal Benefit Areas: biodiversity and ecosystem sustainability, disaster resilience, energy and mineral resources management, food security and sustainable agriculture, infrastructure and transport management, public health surveillance, sustainable urban development, and water resources management (climate is a cross cutting topic).

GEO BON, the biodiversity arm of GEOSS, is developing a global biodiversity observation network. It focuses on the development of Essential Biodiversity Variables (basically, the highest priority variables to measure to understand biodiversity change; inspired by Essential Climate Variables) and development of regional, national, and thematic Biodiversity Observation Networks. To facilitate BON development, it is also developing the “BON in a Box”—a collection of tools to make it easier for a country to develop a national BON, along with some capacity building activities. The



Monitoring and indicators of biodiversity in Switzerland

During the twelfth session of the Joint Task Force, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment presented their work on monitoring biodiversity indicators. Switzerland has been monitoring its biological diversity since 2001 through the Swiss Biodiversity Monitoring BDM programme. More information on this work can be found through a report that summarizes the concept behind this programme in a straightforward and comprehensive way. It does not contain any data but provides an in-depth explanation of the data collection methodology used. It also explains the organization and communication aspects of the programme. The appendix to the



policy drivers that GEO and GEO BON are responding to include the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Targets.



More information can be found here:
<http://geobon.org/bon-in-a-box/what-is-bon-in-a-box/>

Sharing our vision for 2030

The Secretariat is presently in the process of finalizing the WGEMA vision document. This is a direct output from the eighteenth session of the Working Group, which was held in Geneva on 28-29 June 2016. One of the main objectives of this session was to develop a vision concept leading up to 2030.

The vision document corresponds to a synthesis of past and current activities of the Working Group, as associated with its mandate and present terms of reference, taking into account recent developments and requests made by the Committee on Environmental Policy and its members.

The foresight-oriented work was set in motion by the Working Group to investigate new and future challenges that it should take into consideration, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement, Batumi Declaration, and the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy, including the Batumi Initiative on the Green Economy

The question the Working Group had to consider was how it could build on its strengths to address new challenges in a way that was advantageous for all, taking into consideration that it is ultimately high-quality and robust environmental monitoring, reporting and assessment that represents the core function and driver behind the activities of the Working Group.

The preparation of the vision document was also seen as an opportunity to further clarify the different objectives of the Working Group

and the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators and to consider their interlinkages. However, the main purpose of the foresight oriented work was to consider strategic goals and objectives for the Working Group leading up to 2030.



The WGEMA vision for 2030 and roadmap for 2021 will be published online in connection with the twenty-second session of the Committee on Environmental Policy in January 2017. We would however want to express our appreciation for all the inputs provided by our members and interested parties during the drafting of the documents.

Fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

The Parties to the UNECE/WHO/ Europe Protocol on Water and Health held its fourth session on 14-16 November 2016 at Palais des Nations in Geneva. The special high-level session on the first day of the session consisted of a strategic discussion on the different priorities and perspectives for closing the gaps of the pan-European water, sanitation and health agenda in the next fifteen years. It clearly highlighted how the Protocol can best fulfil its role in supporting countries and other



stakeholders in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Protocol can be used by Member States as a tool to implement the water and health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at national level. Through improving their situation with water, health and environment, countries also reinforce the benefits in many other areas of development. This creates positive, interlinked and mutually supportive outcomes that reduce poverty, address inequality and promote sustainability - the overarching themes of the SDGs.

During the following two days, the Meeting of the Parties reviewed achievements of the past three years and agreed on strategic priorities for the programme of work for 2017-2019. Increasing resilience to climate change, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) in schools and health care facilities were introduced as new areas of work. Support to setting targets and reporting, preventing and reducing water-related diseases, small-scale water supplies and sanitation and equitable access to water and sanitation were reaffirmed as priority areas.

Eight new publications were launched at the meeting addressing the role of the Protocol in attaining the SDGs, illustrating good practices for target setting and reporting, providing policy guidance on small-scale water supply and sanitation systems, reviewing the situation of WaSH in schools and water-related diseases, and advising on the development of action plans to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation.

For further information and details see:
http://www.unece.org/env/water/ptococol_mop4.html

Second Joint Session of the Steering Body to the EMEP and the Working Group on Effects

The Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants

in Europe (EMEP) and the Working Group on Effects under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution held its Second Joint Session on 13-16 September at Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The Joint Session adapted a new thematic approach, which involved Parties and representatives from relevant task forces and centers focusing on their specific topics with dedicated presentations and in-depth discussions.

The session included a thematic segment on air and climate interactions, which remarked that several climate or air pollution measures entail conflicting abatement results. The delegates of the scientific bodies under the Convention thus recommended that integrated assessments of air and climate interactions should focus on win-win packages.

Ozone was the focus of another thematic segment. Participants agreed that emerging evidence on health effects from long-term exposure to ozone will need to be further looked into. In order to provide credible projections of future ozone in the EMEP region, it was concluded that the main factors contributing to changes of peak and background ozone need to be better understood for relatively long periods.

There was also a segment on benzo(a)pyrene and wood burning, which recommended that emission requirements for certification of small-scale combustion appliances should be mandatory in all countries; and that the market for firewood should be regulated. It also agreed that chemically treated material should not be allowed in any quality class of pellets, and that all pellets should have quality certification.

In addition to these three thematic segments, representatives of the secretariat to the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the secretariat to the Minamata Convention and the joint secretariat for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions gave an update about recent developments under the respective Conventions and outlined further area for possible future cooperation.

For further information and details see:
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40002#/>



Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on System of Environmental- Economic Accounting (SEEA) Implementation

The Second Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Implementation was held in Geneva from 3-4 October 2016. Representatives of 30 countries, international organizations, research, NGOs and some private sector participants discussed the applications and communication of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) as well as implementation challenges and solutions related to energy and air emission accounts as well as accounts on environmental taxes and subsidies.

The session on applications and communication of SEEA presented examples from a number of countries and considered the key success factors for better engaging with users. While countries face a range of practical problems in compiling the accounts, the meeting showed that even with imperfect data it is possible to compile accounts that provide users with valuable and fit for purpose information.

The participants considered the format of Joint OECD/UNECE Seminars on SEEA implementation very useful for exchange of experience and for advancing SEEA implementation in countries. The future seminars will bring forward the regional and national SEEA implementation plans, discuss new developments, such as the extensions of SEEA modules, allow exchange of knowledge and experience on difficult issues related to the implementation of SEEA, and support the coordination of SEEA-related activities of international organisations.

For further information and details see:
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41150#>

Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs promote public access to environmental information

Public access to environmental information and its sharing play an important role in raising public awareness of environmental issues, ensuring informed decision-making, and contributing to greening the economy. It is also crucial for successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To support this work, the Task Force on Access to Information under the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutants Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention (Protocol on PRTRs) have provided forums for Parties, other States, non-governmental organizations, academia, business and other stakeholders to exchange information, good practices and recent developments on various aspects in this area.

The Task Force held its fifth meeting in Geneva from 10-11 October. The Task Force discussed the scope of environmental information and information on emissions; application of the restrictions in public access to environmental information; progress in the implementation of the recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools and further development of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and national nodes. The Task Force also took stock of relevant developments in implementing Open Government, Open Data, e-Government, Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), GGIM, INSPIRE, UNEP-Live and other similar initiatives. The Task Force activities resulted in the collection of electronic information tools case studies that could be further populated using the suggested template.



The Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs held its fifth meeting in Geneva on 23-24 November. The Working Group discussed systemic issues concerning the implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs and recommendations on how to address them, promotion and capacity building activities and synergies with partner organizations. It reiterated its call upon Parties and stakeholders to consider implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs and SEIS in synergy. The second Global round table on PRTRs, organized by UNECE and OECD in cooperation with UNITAR and UNEP, was also highlighted for many good examples for implementing PRTR systems across the world.

The importance of the effective access to environmental information for furthering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 will be discussed at the joint High-level Segment of the Convention's and Protocol's Meetings of the Parties (September 2017) which will address the role of the treaties in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

All reports and presentations from the Task Force meeting can be found here:
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41961#/>

All reports and presentations from the Working Group Meeting can be found here:
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42177#/>

Supporting Turkmenistan in Developing State-of-Environment Reporting based on UNECE Guidelines

The Aarhus Convention, ratified by Turkmenistan in April 1999, aims to further enhance and ensure public access to environmental data systems. National State-of-Environment Report (NSoER) - incorporating analytical data on key ecological indicators, such as water, air quality, biodiversity and

waste - has been proposed as a tool to achieve this aim.

The Central Asian Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC) and the Component "Environmental Monitoring in Central Asia" (MONECA) of the EU Program "Forest and Biodiversity Governance including Environmental Monitoring" (FLERMONECA) jointly implemented the Project "Supporting Turkmenistan in Developing State-of-Environment Reporting based on UNECE Guidelines" sponsored by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) in the course of a little over one year (from February 2015 to April 2016).

The project had a focus on four topics, namely, climate change, water resources, waste and environmental management. The objectives of the project were achieved by following a step-by-step approach that included:

- Identifying available data and needs as to the collection of additional information for reporting purposes;
- Building the capacity of authorized state agencies on executing reports based on UNECE Guidelines;
- Rendering support on drafting NSoER sections and publishing the information online;
- Developing recommendations on executing NSoER, structuring the process of data collection and representing national environmental indicators on selected themes.

The recommendations include the need to enhance inter-agency coordination of data exchange with the engagement of international expertise on improving environmental indicators, as well as to continue the efforts aimed at enhancing the NSoER dedicated website and regular updating of environmental indicators for decision-makers and the general public.

For further information on FLERMONECA see:
<http://naturalresources-centralasia.org/flermoneca/>



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

The Guide for EU Eastern Partnership countries on Measuring the Green Transformation of the Economy, which was presented during the 11th Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators, has now been published under the project on “Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP GREEN).

EaP GREEN (2016), Measuring The Green Transformation Of The Economy: Guide For EU Eastern Partnership Countries.



ENG version: http://www.green-economies-eap.org/resources/EaP%20GREEN_GGI%20Guide_clean_ENG_FINAL.pdf

RUS version: http://www.green-economies-eap.org/ru/resources/EaP%20GREEN_GGI%20Guide_clean_RUS_Final.pdf

The OECD has also released a Policy Perspectives on Green Growth indicators:

ENG version: https://issuu.com/oecd.publishing/docs/policy_perspective_ggi_final_web

RUS version: https://issuu.com/oecd.publishing/docs/policy_perspective_ggi_final_rus_web

The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine has also published a report on Green Transformation in Ukraine. This report has been developed within the framework of the EaP GREEN project funded by the European Union.



The full report can be found here:
http://www.green-economies-eap.org/resources/2016_GreenTransformation%20in%20Ukraine%20ENG.pdf

Embarking on the second phase implementation of SEIS in cooperation with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

In line with the agreement at the June 2016 Batumi Ministerial declaration and the October 2016 Luxembourg EU-Eastern Partnership Declaration on Cooperation on Environment and Climate Change, the EU-funded ENI SEIS II East project continues implementing the Shared Environmental information System (SEIS) principles and practices in the six Eastern Partnership countries based on EEA and Eionet best practices.



The project's first Steering Committee meeting took place on 29-30 November 2016 in Brussels. It was attended by the appointed National Focal Points (representatives from the Ministry of Environment and the National Bureau of Statistics) from the six partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), EC DG NEAR, DG ENV, Eurostat, the EU Slovak Presidency, OECD, UNECE, UNEP, Zoi Environment Network, REC Caucasus, Eco Forum and EEA colleagues.

The Steering Committee discussed national and regional priorities, coming out of the country-level discussions during the project inception phase, the plans for the next step activities to be initiated in 2017 and addressed synergies with other relevant EU-funded and UN project and initiatives. Other aspects discussed touched upon the governance at national level linked to the process of formalising the project National Implementation Team, institutionalising the project support and clarifying the links to existing national coordination mechanism(s). In the margins of the meeting bilateral discussion with each of partner country representatives were held around the specific thematic areas of national interests and development of

specific pilot cases as linked to the project regional priorities.

The ENI SEIS II East project on the Implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System principles and practices in Eastern Partnership countries is a four-year project (February 2016- January 2020) funded by the European Commission DG NEAR in continuation of the previous EEA cooperation with the European Neighbourhood East region under ENPI-SEIS (2010-2015) and InSEIS (2014-2015) projects.

The inception phase of the second phase project has been completed on 31 October 2016 and the implementation phase will now focus on supporting the countries operationalisation of the national work plans based on the regional priorities.

All documents and presentations from the meeting can be found here:
<http://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/governance/steering/1st-eni-seis-ii-east-steering-committee-meeting>

For more information and details, please contact the project team at:
ENI-SEIS2@eea.europa.eu



Workshop on the Role of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Renewable Energy Planning

The UNECE secretariat to the Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on SEA organized a workshop on the Role of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Renewable Energy Planning in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 21 October 2016. This was organized as part of the Seventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, and as an activity financed through the 'Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood' (EaP GREEN) programme.

The use of renewable energy undoubtedly contributes to building a more sustainable future of our planet. The promotion of renewable energy is clearly one of the key actions towards reaching several ambitious goals and targets set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, exploitation of renewable energy resources is not without certain environmental or health risks. Environmental assessments, including, in particular, SEA at the plan and programme level, and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) at the project level, are preventive planning tools which help to maximise environmental and health benefits resulting from renewable energy development, while avoiding or minimizing their potential adverse effects.

The workshop aimed to illustrate the benefits of the application of SEA in the field of renewable energy, emphasizing its role in facilitating investments in renewable energy through identifying and mitigating potential risks early in the planning cycle, and thus streamlining the subsequent project level development.

The presentations demonstrated that SEA can ensure that renewable energy development is in line with the environmental and health objectives and commitments of a given

country. As emphasized by Mr. Nazir Ramazanov, Adviser to the Chairman in the State Agency on Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the recent implementation by Azerbaijan of the pilot SEA to the draft National Strategy on the Use of Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources 2015–2020 considerably contributed to the development of the strategy.

The concluding discussion confirmed that SEA can facilitate preparation of specific projects and related project-level EIA in the field of renewable energy, for instance by identifying suitable locations where major environmental or health risks associated with renewable energy development can be excluded or mitigated. Thus, it can help to address potential major environmental or health problems already at the planning level. At the policy level, SEA can contribute to discussion on scenarios for renewable energy development by supporting the selection of the most appropriate energy mix, which considers environmental and health risks as well as benefits of all reasonable alternatives. Therefore, the final decision is based on objective comparison of possible options.

For further information and details see:
<https://www.unece.org/energywelcome/areas-of-work/renewable-energy/meetings-and-events/renewable-energy/renewable-energy/2016/3rd-session-group-of-experts-on-renewable-energy/docs.html#/>

Global Stock-Taking Workshop on Assessments of the Water-Food-Energy- Ecosystems Nexus and Response Measures in Transboundary Basins

The Global Stock-Taking Workshop on Assessments of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus and Response Measures in Transboundary Basins was held on 6 and 7 December 2016 in Geneva, back to back with the Fourth meeting of the Task Force on the



Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus on 8 December.

The aim of the workshop was not only to review what is the current understanding and practical application of the nexus concept for more integrated management of water and energy resources, land/agriculture and ecosystems, but also to discuss possible management responses with representative Governments and organizations for transboundary cooperation. The workshop was organized under the leadership of the Government of Finland, with the support of the UNECE Water Convention secretariat.

The issues in focus included methodologies for integrated assessments and initiatives for addressing intersectoral issues such as frictions about conflicting water uses in transboundary basins and lessons learned from assessed basins. Special attention was paid to how to put into practice a nexus approach, notably through synergic solutions such as multi-purpose design and operation of infrastructure and developing intersectoral coordination arrangements. Availability and accessibility of reliable data and sharing information were identified as key to finding sustainable solutions to the resource management challenges in enabling collaboration across sectors and borders.

The Task Force discussed and provided guidance for the implementation of the activities on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus under the programme of work for 2016-2018 of the Water Convention. It reviewed the status of nexus assessments carried out under the Water Convention in South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as discussed follow-up activities and future assessment work in North Africa. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will require coordination across sectors, coherent policies, and integrated planning, and the value of a nexus approach for that was discussed.

More than 120 participants, representing governments, specialized agencies, international and non-governmental organizations and academia participated to the

meetings. The conclusions from both the workshop and Task Force will be used in the future work of the organizing partners to foster transboundary cooperation and provide assistance to countries and joint bodies, such as transboundary commissions.

More information on the nexus meetings is available at:

Workshop:
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41736#/>

Task Force:
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41738#/>

UN Environment (UNEP) capacity building project in support of SEIS

UN Environment (UNEP) is initiating a new capacity-building project for environmental data sharing and reporting in support of a shared environmental information system (SEIS).

Funded by the European Union through the GPGC-ENRTP instrument, this project will develop capacities in 20 countries in 3 regions – Central Asia, Africa, and Asia-Pacific – to support national data management and reporting needs. The expected outcome of the project is that the capacity of countries is developed for data sharing by Ministries and other relevant national agencies to support state of environment reporting and other assessment and reporting processes.

Currently many countries face significant reporting burdens under Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and lack the technology and tools to make this task more efficient and improve reporting compliance. Countries also need to coordinate their data sharing processes to report on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Depending on countries needs and priorities, UN Environment will provide interested countries with access to a variety of data sharing and



visualization tools, methods, and technologies for the establishment and/or improvement of online SoER web-platforms and online portals on environmental indicators. UN Environment's Indicator Reporting Information System (see box) will also be available to interested countries wishing to use it to improve sharing and use of environmental data and reporting on regional, national and MEA obligations.

Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS) is a technology developed by UN Environment (UNEP) to aid countries in the collection, analysis, publication and sharing of quality assured environmental information in a timely manner, reducing the burden of routine reporting by automation. Using air quality as an example, once indicator definitions have been set up in IRIS, it can manage incoming data flows on air quality, calculate values, and generate graphs. If report templates have been created, IRIS can import these graphs into the template for reports to contain the latest air quality data. Not only does this reduce the reporting burden, it also aligns with the objectives of the recent Batumi Clean Air Plan (2016), namely for stakeholders “to support actions that improve air quality, in particular capacity-building and technical assistance actions”.

At sub-regional level in Central Asia, project activities will build upon the results of the recently concluded EU funded MONECA (Environmental Monitoring in Central Asia) project component, which was implemented by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), the Austrian Environmental Agency (UBA) and Zoï Environment Network with support from the European Environment Agency (EEA).

The new SEIS capacity building project promoted by UN Environment (UNEP) will support national efforts to publish online environmental data and indicators agreed to be shared by Central Asian countries under the scope of the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (JTF), contributing to objectives of the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (WGEMA) related to the implementation of SEIS in the Pan-European region.

In Central Asia, UN Environment (UNEP) project activities will also aim at supporting the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) in the development of its ECOPORTAL (see <https://www.mkurca.org>) in response to the request made by ICSD for UN Environment support to the development of this regional online knowledge management platform linking all five Central Asian countries.

UN Environment is partnering with Zoï Environment Network, the Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (SIC-ICSD) and the Human Health Institute in relevant project activities, involving also relevant national agencies and statistics offices with the aim to promote the long-term sustainability of project interventions. Close cooperation with the European Environment Agency will guarantee that project activities will be articulated with the work of the agency in Central Asia.

Finally, project activities to be carried out in partnership with UNECE Statistics Division will also help to build capacity on environmental statistics as related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for a successful 2017

The WGEMA Secretariat would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and thank you for all your support throughout 2016. We look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.



The Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (WGEMA) was established in 2000 by the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) to serve as an instrument for UNECE Member States, to provide recommendations, propose action plans, and improve coordination of international initiatives concerned with environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting.

For more information on the areas of work of WGEMA visit:

<http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environmental-monitoring-and-assessment>

Upcoming Events:

25th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy resumed

19 January 2017
Salle XXIV, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Twenty-second session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy

25-27 January, 2017
Geneva, Switzerland

International Day of Forests - Forests and Energy

21 March 2017
Geneva, Switzerland

Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

April 2017
Geneva, Switzerland

Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health

13-15 June 2017
Ostrava, Czechia

Nineteenth session of Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

27-28 June 2017
Geneva, Switzerland

Thirteenth Session of the Joint Task Force on Environment Statistics and Indicators

29 to 30 June 2017
Geneva, Switzerland

All meetings and events organised by the UNECE can be found here:

<http://www.unece.org/info/events/meetings-and-events.html>

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