

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

International Reporting¹

The countries of Eastern European, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) are Parties to several multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and members of various international organizations. In many cases, these international commitments include requirements to report regularly on national environmental conditions and trends. The table provides an overview of data requested by key MEAs and organizations.

In addition, the EECCA countries agreed at the 1998 Aarhus Conference to provide information to pan-European environmental assessment reports. Some also participate in subregional frameworks for shared ecosystems – for example, for the Aral Sea, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea and transboundary watercourses – and these require regular provision of environmental data.

Across EECCA, there are some significant gaps in meeting international reporting commitments. A number of countries submit incomplete data, often due to gaps in monitoring systems. Moreover, some countries still follow old monitoring and calculation methods that are not harmonized with evolving international methodologies, creating problems of international comparability (EEA, 2003; UNECE, 2002b).

Strengthening the effectiveness of MEAs is an important issue in international forums, including UNECE, which provides the secretariat for several pan-European MEAs. Parties need to improve their compliance, by reporting on their overall implementation and, where requested, by reporting relevant environmental data, statistics and indicators. Recent UNECE recommendations call on Parties to prepare, where needed, “a plan for capacity building and technical and financial assistance” for carrying out data reporting (UNECE, 2002c). Here and in other contexts, international cooperation – including cooperation through the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Reporting and Assessment – can help strengthen national monitoring and information systems.

¹ This section is adapted from the UN Publication *Environmental Monitoring and Reporting: Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia*, New York and Geneva, 2003 (Sales No. E.03.II.E.33).

Table. Reporting requirements for selected MEAs and international organizations

Selected global MEAs	Topic	Data requested/database	EECCA
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol	Ozone layer	Data on production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (CFCs, etc.).	All EECCA
Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal	Hazardous and other waste	Data on generation, import, export and transit of hazardous and other wastes	All EECCA except KAZ, TJK
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	Species	Data on international wildlife trade	AZE, BLR, GEO, KAZ, MDA, RUS, UKR, UZB
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat	Wetlands	Information on sites protected under the Convention: ecological character, conservation measures taken, tourism activities, etc.	ARM, AZE, BLR, GEO, MDA, RUS, TJK, UKR
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (and 1997 Kyoto Protocol)	Climate change	Emissions of six GHGs (including CO ₂ , CH ₄) and emissions of CO, NO _x , NMVOCs, SO ₂	All EECCA except KGZ, TJK
Selected regional MEAs	Topic	Data requested/database	EECCA
Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols (UNECE region)	Air pollution	Air emissions of: SO ₂ , NO _x , NH ₃ , NMVOCs, CH ₄ , CO, CO ₂ , heavy metals (Cd, Hg, Pb), and selected persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	ARM, AZE, BLR, GEO, KAZ, KGZ, MDA, RUS, UKR
	Air pollution effects: crops	Ozone injury to agricultural crops (updated regularly) and heavy metal deposition on mosses (every five years)	RUS
	Air pollution effects: forests	Crown condition, foliar condition, growth of trees (annually) and soil condition, deposition, meteorology, and more (updated regularly).	BLR, MDA, RUS, UKR
	Air pollution effects: materials	Atmospheric pollution corrosion of important materials	RUS
	Air pollution effects: water	Data on chemistry and biology (invertebrates) of surface waters (reported annually). Preliminary data on Pb, Cd, Zn, Cu and Ni	BLR, MDA, RUS
	Air pollution effects: ecosystems	Chemical, biological and physical data on selected ecosystems, incl. air, soil, soil water; groundwater and run-off water chemistry; hydro-biology of streams and lakes (reported annually)	BLR, RUS
	Air pollution effects: mapping	Data on critical loads of acidity (S and N) and nutrient nitrogen and their exceedances, on critical levels of ozone; preliminary data on critical loads of Pb and Cd. Updated regularly	BLR, MDA, RUS
Selected international organizations and programmes	Topic	Data requested/database	EECCA
Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme	Various	Wide range of data sets on POPs, radionuclides, heavy metals.	RUS
United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD)	Environmental statistics	Data on air emissions, air quality, water resources, water pollution and quality of selected water bodies, waste generation and treatment, land use and land degradation	All EECCA except UZB
UNECE and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Forests	Forest resources, conditions management, biodiversity and protection	All EECCA

Source: UNECE, 2002b.

Note: EECCA countries: Armenia (ARM), Azerbaijan (AZE), Belarus (BLR), Georgia (GEO), Kazakhstan (KAZ), Kyrgyzstan (KGZ), Republic of Moldova (MDA), Russian Federation (RUS), Tajikistan (TJK), Turkmenistan (TKM), Ukraine (UKR), Uzbekistan (UZB).