



Twenty-sixth session
Geneva, 9-10 November 2020

Committee on Environmental Policy

Agenda Item 5: Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting.

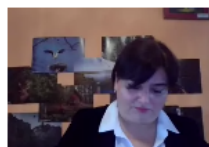
Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment





22nd session, 27 October 2020

- Two main substantive topics:
 - Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System
 - Regular pan-European environmental assessment (focusing on these two items)



Supporting the final progress review report

- The tool produces downloadable graphics for use in the assessment report at the national scale (by theme).

2. Performance score by Theme



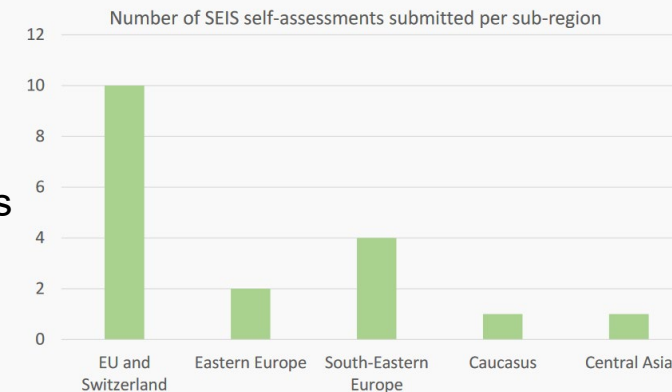
Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

ENVIRONMENT



Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) to support a regular process of environmental assessment

- Working Group adopted the revised outline of the final review report on establishment of SEIS – basically same as for mid-term review
- Final review more thorough: 22 data flows underlying 18 UNECE core environmental indicators and 9 environmental themes
- Only 18 out of 53 member States in pan-European region reported; 15 covered all 9 themes
- Cannot confirm full SEIS establishment in region
- Many positive signs, such as:
 - Majority of data flows (79%) used for many purposes
 - Majority (61 %) of reporting countries regularly produce indicator-based national state-of-the-environment reports
 - Nearly all 22 data flows are published regularly (87%)
 - 76% of the 22 data flows readily available & accessible for users on national platforms



Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

ENVIRONMENT



Reporting on SEIS to support a regular process of environmental assessment

- Working Group requested all member States to submit their self-assessments by 15 December 2020 at the latest to the secretariat through use of SEIS online tool
- Working Group invited the Committee's support in mobilizing member States to submit their self-assessments
- Working Group also
 - Took note of the revised timeline, due to the limited number of self-assessments submitted, for the SEIS final progress review
 - Requested the secretariat to inform the Committee of the outcomes of the Working Group's discussion
 - Requested the secretariat to prepare a revised version of the "Draft final progress review report on the establishment of SEIS", based on additional self-assessments submitted by member States, for the Working Group's next session

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

ENVIRONMENT



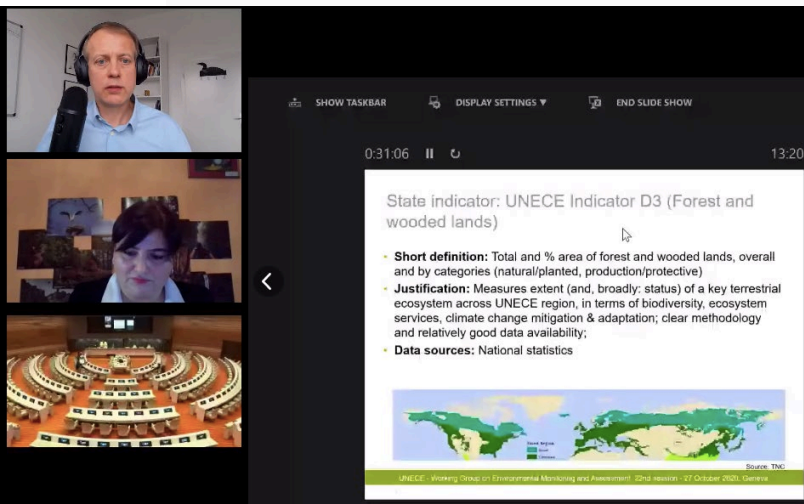
Regular pan-European environmental assessment supported by the Shared Environmental Information System

- Working Group welcomed financial resources: \$30,000 from Switzerland and part of €10,000 from Austria (received), about €15,000 (awaited)
- Discussed & approved outline of 7th pan-European assessment, noting
 - It may not be possible to address all environmental themes listed, such as air, water and waste – or at least not at the same level of detail
 - Themes need to be addressed in an integrated manner – themes need to be interlinked, especially with the two conference themes
 - The pandemic should be taken into consideration in the assessment
- Working Group also:
 - Discussed how assessment would proceed if 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference postponed, including impact on assessment of the two conference themes
 - Reviewed work done on one environmental theme – biodiversity and ecosystems – which also serves as a pilot assessment



Regular pan-European environmental assessment supported by the Shared Environmental Information System

- Working Group:
 - Took note of the status and timeline for the assessment
 - Requested the secretariat to inform the Committee on the outcomes of this agenda item and the suggestions made for the assessment
 - Also requested its members to provide information on partners, indicators and case studies to the secretariat by 15 November 2020
 - Further requested an update on the assessment at its next session



The screenshot shows a video conference interface. On the left, there are three video thumbnails: the top one shows a man with a headset, the middle one shows a woman, and the bottom one shows a large conference room with many people seated around a table. The main part of the screen displays a presentation slide with the following content:

State indicator: UNECE Indicator D3 (Forest and wooded lands)

- **Short definition:** Total and % area of forest and wooded lands, overall and by categories (natural/planted, production/protective)
- **Justification:** Measures extent (and, broadly, status) of a key terrestrial ecosystem across UNECE region, in terms of biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change mitigation & adaptation; clear methodology and relatively good data availability;
- **Data sources:** National statistics

Below the text is a map of Europe and the Mediterranean region, with a legend indicating 'Forest' and 'Wooded lands'. The slide also includes a timer (0:31:06), a play button, and a refresh icon. At the bottom of the slide, it says 'Source: TNC' and 'UNECE, Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, 2nd session, 27 October 2020, Geneva'.

Financial support of the Environmental Monitoring & Assessment programme

- Austria, Norway, the Russian Federation and Switzerland
- European Union through the European Environment Agency
- Germany and Serbia (anticipated)
- United Nations Development Programme