

Project: "Improved environmental monitoring and assessment in support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus" funded by the UN Development Account

Webinar 4 "Freshwater Management Indicators and Policies" 21 April 2021, virtual meeting

*Ms. Christine Kitzler, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Mr. Tomas Marques, UN Environment (UNEP) Europe Office* 

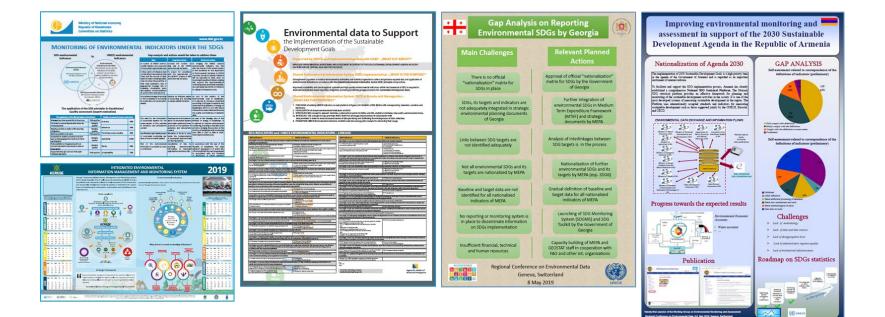


#### Joint UNECE-UNEP project on SEIS, environmental indicators & SDGs

'Improved environmental monitoring and assessment in support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus'

Implemented by UNECE & UNEP and together with EAA, supported by EEA & UN country teams & funded by the UN Development Account (11<sup>th</sup> Tranche)









Target countries

January 2018-December

Duration

Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia and Tajikistan

#### Main objectives

- To strengthen capacities of national environmental authorities and statistical agencies to collect, produce data in accordance with SEIS
- To improve accessibility and use of regularly updated and high-quality environmental indicators, within the framework of SEIS, to respond to international indicator-based reporting obligations, including monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals
- To strengthen capacities of target countries in producing environment- and health-related indicators and their use for decision-making on environment and health topics



#### **Status of implementation - completed**

- Development of 7 gap analysis reviews (1 per target country) on SEIS establishment, environmental data & information to cover the production of regional/international environmental indicators – completed
- Development of national workplans or roadmaps to enhance national SEIS establishment – drafts available
- 1 regional capacity development workshop organized in May 2019
- 1<sup>st</sup> webinar on SDG 3 (16 December 2020) organized in December 2020
- 2<sup>nd</sup> webinar on SDG 7 (24 February 2021) organized in February 2021
- 3<sup>rd</sup> webinar on SDG 12 (10 March 2021) organized in March 2021

#### Amendments to project due to COVID-19

- Strengthening of **environment and health aspects** (incl. through training material)
- 5 regional/sub-regional webinars instead of 7 national training & capacity development sessions (1 per target country) on streamlining production of regionally & internationally agreed environmental data flows & indicators
- Development of an e-learning course on monitoring, production of environmental & health-related data & indicators & SDGs and Development of a SDGs/SEIS knowledge sharing platform

(A) UNECE





### Other activities – to be confirmed or changed depending on COVID-19 situation in 2021

- Advisory missions by UNEP and UNECE to support in regular environmental monitoring and assessment as part of preparing national roadmaps to monitor SDGs – depending on situation related to COVID-19
- 7 national capacity-development workshops (1 per target country) to improve the institutional knowledge base for data collection standards and the use of monitoring and assessment tools for regular indicator-based assessments to measure progress towards the environment-related SDGs replaced by webinars, additional webinars tbc
- I regional capacity-development conference e.g. on circular economy with participation of all 7 target countries – back-to-back to next JTF meeting?
- Development of guidelines on addressing specific human and institutional capacity needs and updating of guidelines on biodiversity monitoring
- Assessment of COVID-19 impacts on the state of the environment in the target countries
- Review of UNECE environment and health related indicators



## **Confirmed next steps and planned activities in the coming months**

2 regional capacity development webinars

21 April 2021	Capacity building Webinar #4 on SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (6.1–6.4 and 6.6)
26 May 2021, tbc	Capacity building Webinar #5 on SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (15.1, 15.4, 15.5)

- Development of training material incl. on environment & health aspects (2021)
- Developing a self-paced online course based on webinar materials (1<sup>st</sup> half 2021)
- Development of the knowledge sharing platform (2021)
- Development / update of guidelines related to monitoring incl. on biodiversity
- Review and update of environmental indicators and preparation of training material



# Thank you!

*Ms. Christine Kitzler,* United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) *Mr. Tomas Marques,* UN Environment (UNEP) Europe Office