


ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT


Special Session
of the Annual EAP Task Force Meeting
(23-24 October 2008, Astana)



INTRODUCTION to the Special Session on Capacity for Environmental Management

Brendan Gillespie
Head, Environment and Globalisation
Division
OECD, Environment Directorate

23 October 2008



Objectives of meeting

- Share experience and views on achievements of, and obstacles to, environmental capacity development in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA)
- Brainstorm on likely consequences of new aid architecture for the environmental sector
- Discuss the role that the EAP Task Force could play in assessing environmental capacity in the region, and supporting more effective environmental capacity development programmes



Environmental Policy Context

- Addressing environmental problems is most cost-effective when all countries are engaged
- Increasing need to link environment to objectives of economic and social development
- Finance and technology are important but so is institutional capacity to respond to environmental challenges
- The effectiveness of environmental (and other forms of) capacity development have been called into question



Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

- Shifting development cooperation:
 - From projects to support for broad, country-owned national/sectoral programmes
 - From project financing to general budget support
 - From technical solutions to a focus on policies, institutions and capacities
- Implications for environment and other sectoral ministries:
 - Vital to demonstrate how their activities contribute to national priorities
 - Sectoral programmes must be integrated into national programmes and budgets
 - Capacity must exist to do this



Accra Agenda for Action

- Promotes deepening of Paris Declaration and making aid more effective
- Central importance of capacity development emphasised for sustainable development
- Capacity development is the responsibility of developing countries, with donors playing a supportive role
 - Developing countries should identify capacity development needs, and donors should be more responsive to them
 - Donor support should be demand-driven and designed to support country ownership
 - Donors and developing countries should cooperate to make capacity development support more effective



Situation in EECCA: Results of Belgrade Assessment

- Basic legal and policy frameworks in place
- High level of economic and social heterogeneity but shared institutional development challenges
 - Lack of strong incentives
 - Difficult governance context
 - Implementation gap
 - Need for a more coherent approach to reform
 - Evolving context
- Donor support limited but catalytic



Agenda of the Special Session

- Item 1: Capacity development in EECCA countries: Examples from recent practice
- Item 2: Changing strategies and instruments of donor assistance
- Item 3: Using a common framework for capacity assessment