

**EAP Task Force**  
**СРГ ПДООС**

**Regional Meeting on Progress in Achieving the Objectives of the  
EECCA Environment Strategy**

**Kiev, 18-19 May 2006**

**The EECCA Report – Concept, Process and Structure**

*Document 3*

This Note will support the discussion on Agenda Item 3 (EECCA Strategy Progress Assessment Report) during the Regional Meeting.

*ACTION REQUIRED: The participants will be invited to discuss the concept of the EECCA Report, the overall process of its preparation, as well as the overall structure of the report and that of the individual chapters.*

## **1. Introduction**

1. The OECD / EAP Task Force Secretariat was invited by Ministers in the 2003 “Environment and Europe” Ministerial Conference to monitor progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy. The Strategy specified that monitoring progress should be done in cooperation with relevant international bodies, and on the basis of information provided by East European, Caucasian and Central Asian (EECCA) countries.

2. In order to establish the baseline for assessing progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy, the OECD / EAP Task Force Secretariat produced in 2004 a “Stocktaking” Report. This report brought together the analysis documented in different sectoral reports (most of them produced by international organisations for the 2003 Kiev Conference), data available in several international databases, and some limited new information to offer a picture of environmental conditions and policies in EECCA countries at the outset of the implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy. The Stocktaking Report served as a background document for the Conference of EECCA Environment Ministers that took place in Tbilisi in 2004. It was published in 2005 as a book, in both English and Russian versions, with the title “Environmental Management in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia”.

3. A new report (preliminary known as EECCA Strategy Progress Assessment Report, or EECCA Report) is being produced for the next “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, to be held in Belgrade in October 2007. The EECCA Report is being prepared in partnership with the Facilitating Organisations of the EECCA Environment Strategy. It will use the Stocktaking Report as a baseline against to which measure progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy.

## **2. The EECCA Report: Concept**

4. The general aim of the EECCA Report is to provide an assessment of progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy. It will focus on assessing progress in implementing environmental policy responses<sup>1</sup>. It will do so mainly by tracking environmental policy responses (see box 1) as well as policy responses within the broader socio-economic, political and institutional context of EECCA countries.

5. The EECCA Report is being prepared in close co-operation with the Facilitating Organisations as a joint input to the Belgrade Conference. Most Facilitating Organisations have confirmed their support for it. Specific ways of contributing are being explored bilaterally – options include providing input to the outline, helping to design the questionnaire, providing early drafts of technical reports, developing indicators and case studies, and peer reviewing the report. In any case, the report will draw on any relevant material made available by any of the Facilitating Organisations.

6. The EECCA Report will rely on information provided by countries. The OECD/EAP TF is currently reviewing the information provided by EECCA countries through different international processes (such as through multilateral environmental agreements; UNSD/UNEP environmental statistics;

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<sup>1</sup> Progress in implementing the EECCA Environment Strategy could also be assessed by focusing on environmental outcomes (How much have environmental conditions improved?). The European Environment Agency’s *Belgrade Report* will provide an assessment of progress in improving environmental outcomes. In turn, tracking policy responses is only a first step towards comprehensive policy analysis; it is limited to answering the question “What policy responses are being implemented?” Even if tracking policy responses looks like a modest effort, it is not without challenges – as environmental assessments have traditionally focused on the state-of-the-environment, information on policy responses tends to be less systematically collected and analyzed.

or UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews). In addition, a dedicated questionnaire will be distributed by the OECD/EAP TF to the EECCA Environment Ministries to collect additional information and fill in possible information gaps.

7. The EECCA Report will complement the European Environment Agency's new pan-European assessment (*Belgrade Report*), which will focus largely on state of environment and trends in the whole pan-European region and in EECCA as one of the sub-regions.

### **Box 1. What are policy responses?**

In the context of the EECCA Strategy Progress Assessment report, policy responses are "actions" taken by EECCA countries to improve environmental outcomes. Those "actions" may be wide-ranging. They include:

- A. Actions aimed at "directly" improving environmental outcomes. Examples would include: government investing in wastewater infrastructure or public transport systems, or hiring more managers for protected areas.
- B. Actions aimed at changing the behaviour of businesses and consumers. Examples would include:
- Creating or reforming regulations – promulgating a new law on hazardous waste management law, banning the use of leaded fuels, expanding protected areas, or implementing an integrated permitting system
  - Altering economic incentives – establishing property rights over water resources, increasing taxes on polluting fuels, re-structuring water tariffs, or reducing subsidies to agricultural inputs
  - Partnering with economic actors – developing programmes for cleaner industrial production, or providing training in agro-environmental practices
  - Engaging the public – expanding environmental education programmes, promoting public discussion of environmental assessments of major projects, introducing eco-labelling schemes, or disclosing information on polluters
- C. Actions aimed at better equipping the government to design and implement the initiatives detailed above. Examples would include: approving a waste management plan, improving air quality monitoring systems, creating a river basin authority, training park rangers, or re-organising the environmental inspectorate.

8. The report will build on the strengths of the Stocktaking Report (brevity, breadth of coverage, use of graphs), while trying to overcome its weaknesses. Planned improvements with respect to the Stocktaking Report include:

- focus even more on response indicators
- make a broader use of analytical tools such as checklists and policy matrixes to assess progress
- track more closely the "planned actions" specified in the EECCA Environment Strategy
- showcase good policy practices (case studies).

9. It is expected that the EECCA Report will generate a range of benefits. It could contribute to raise the visibility of the EECCA Environment Strategy process as well as that of environmental policy in EECCA countries. The report could also facilitate dialogue within countries, as well as benchmarking across countries. While tracking policy responses will not tell EECCA countries whether those responses are effective or efficient, it can help them to (i) identify possible imbalances across policy areas, (ii) identify innovative actions that could be taken in a particular policy area by a wider set of countries, (iii) improve accountability, and (iii) improve reporting to the "Environment for Europe" process.

### **3. The EECCA Report: Process**

10. The process of preparing the EECCA Report was launched in February 2005 with a Brainstorming Meeting of selected international and EECCA experts. The experts advised that the report should: (i) focus

on policy responses, (ii) be based on an improved analytical framework, (iii) coordinate information requests from countries with other processes, and (iv) make use of more intense consultations.

11. The input of EECCA governments and other national stakeholders in the design, preparation and review of the EECCA Report is most important if the report is to be accurate and to have impact. In May-June 2005 three sub-regional consultations were carried out in Moscow, Almaty and Tbilisi. (See box 2 for main conclusions). The views of EECCA governments on the suggested structure of the report as well as their substantive input will be sought during the Regional Meeting on Progress in Achieving the Objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy (Kiev, 18-19 May 2006). Furthermore, EECCA governments will be asked to provide information (through a dedicated EECCA Questionnaire) between June and September 2006. Finally, in early 2007 an advanced draft of the EECCA Report is planned to be ready for review by the EECCA countries and other partners. As suggested by some stakeholders, those drafts could be reviewed and discussed in national workshops in order to ensure that information presented in the report is correct and the recommendations appropriate – however, the OECD/EAP Task Force will not be in a position to organise those workshops.

### **Box 2. Guidance Received From EECCA Country Representatives**

#### **Audience**

- Target prime ministers' offices in EECCA countries in addition to environment ministries

#### **Content**

- Keep structure around the Strategy's objectives, as in previous report
- Focus on policy actions, complementing EEA's work
- Track "planned actions" specified in the Strategy
- Showcase examples of successful actions taken in EECCA
- Pay special attention to integration and financing issues
- Expand treatment of broader economic context
- Increase country focus – country profiles to be developed
- Provide policy recommendations – limited number emerging from previous work

#### **Process**

- Make it an inter-agency effort
- Work in partnership to develop indicators and other analytical tools
- Develop a reporting tool for EECCA countries to provide information
- Be opportunistic -- use available information
- Improve dissemination

12. The EECCA Report is a collaborative effort of the Facilitating Organisations. In September 2006, the Facilitating Organisations of the EECCA Environment Strategy discussed the preparation of the EECCA Report. In February-March 2006 further bilateral consultations were carried out with the Facilitating Organisations on the structure of the report and possible information sources. Several Facilitating Organisations delivered in March-April 2006 a first round of input, to help prepare the Regional Meeting of May 2006. Experts from the Facilitating Organisations have been invited to act as session leaders during the Regional Meeting. The input of the Facilitating Organisations is also being sought in designing the EECCA Questionnaire in spring 2006 and later on, throughout Aug-Nov 2006, to develop the individual chapters of the EECCA Report. Finally, the Facilitating Organisations will be asked to peer review the whole report in December 2006-January 2007.

13. Close coordination with the European Environment Agency is being actively pursued. EEA staff has contributed to discussions of the EECCA Report and viceversa OECD staff to discussions of the Belgrade Report. OECD and EEA are currently exploring ways to explicitly link the two reports and exploit synergies in information collection and analysis.

**Table 1. Updated timeline of activities**

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Activities/Milestones</b>	<b>Time</b>
Concept development	Brainstorming meeting with international organisations	February 2005
	Review of analytical tools	March-May 2005
	Consultations with EECCA countries	May-June 2005
	Discussion of project in Facilitating Organisations meeting	September 2005
Information collection	Bilateral consultations with Facilitating Organisations	Feb-March 2006
	Delivery of first round of input by Facilitating Organisations	March-April 2006
	Regional Meeting to discuss structure, content and information collection	18-19 May 2006
	Design of a reporting tool (EECCA Questionnaire)	April-June 2006
	Responses to EECCA Questionnaire sent to OECD by EECCA countries	Sept 2006
	Delivery of dedicated input by Facilitating Organisations	Sept-Nov 2006
Analysis	Review of relevant material generated through regular processes, EECCA country responses to questionnaire, and dedicated inputs by Facilitating Organisations	Aug-Nov 2006
Writing and review	First draft (to be distributed to Facilitating Organisations for peer review)	Mid-December 2006
	Second draft (to be distributed to EECCA countries for country review)	Late January 2007
	Final draft	Late March 2007
Production, launch and dissemination	Report sent to Working Group of Senior Officials	1 April 2007
	Lay-out, printing, translation	April-June 2007
	Launch at the Belgrade Conference	October 2007
	Other dissemination activities (to be discussed)	Sept-Dec 2007

#### **4. The EECCA Report: Structure**

14. The general structure of the EECCA Report will be similar to the one of the Stocktaking Report. (An Overview of the structure is presented in the Annex 1 of this document.). There will be a brief “socio-economic section” in the beginning of the report putting environment in the broader development context (to reach out to local constituencies beyond Ministries of Environment).

15. The main section of the report will examine progress objective by objective. Each thematic chapter will look at the relevant policy issues, available policy actions, progress made since Kiev, barriers to progress, knowledge gaps and main recommendations developed in the context of more technical reports. To illustrate progress, the report will make use of quantitative indicators, scorecards/checklists and case studies. (Annex 2 of this document reproduces the suggested template for the Thematic Chapters).

16. At the request of EECCA countries, the report will try to look more closely to specific country progress. To that end, country profiles will be developed. They could include brief sections dedicated to

describing the country, listing environmental priorities and international cooperation activities, showcasing implementation successes and mapping implementation progress through the use of a policy matrix. (Annex 3 of this document reproduces the suggested template for the Country Profiles).

17. The EECCA Report will contain recommendations. For the most part, these will not be new recommendations, but rather recommendations that would have already been developed in in-depth sectoral analytical work. New recommendations could eventually emerge from looking across issues.

## ANNEX 1. OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE EECCA REPORT

Section	Focus	Target length
Bilingual Executive Summary		8 pages
Section I. Environment and Development in EECCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide the socio-economic context for environmental management in EECCA, including issues of economic growth, poverty, trade/investment and governance, and their links to environmental management. Highlight that sound environmental management is relevant for achieving development outcomes.</li> <li>• Introduce the EECCA Environment Strategy and the report.</li> </ul>	8 pages
Section II. Progress in Achieving the Objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an overview of the different topics in a “policy brief” fashion</li> <li>• 15 chapters, each one covering: policy relevance, policy options, progress made, barriers to faster progress, information gaps.</li> <li>• Highlight recommendations provided by in-depth studies</li> </ul>	60 pages
Section III. Country Profiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide differentiated information for each country</li> <li>• 12 country profiles, each covering: specific socio-economic context, environmental priorities, cooperation/partnerships, implementation highlights</li> </ul>	24 pages
Section IV. Conclusions and Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight emerging patterns across objectives</li> <li>• Indicate that progress is different across countries</li> <li>• Summarize key recommendations from sectoral analysis</li> <li>• Eventually, make recommendations about streamlining the EECCA Strategy</li> </ul>	4 pages
Total (excluding executive summary)		96 pages*

(\*) The length of “Environmental Management in EECCA” excluding executive summary and annexes was 65 pages.

## ANNEX 2. TEMPLATE FOR A THEMATIC CHAPTER

### OBJECTIVE A.

#### Name of EECCA Strategy objective

SUB-OBJECTIVE A.1 Name of EECCA Strategy sub-objective

[Each chapter is thought as a “policy brief” and making reference to more detailed work. Estimated length: 3-6 pages]

#### Policy issues

Why should policy makers read this chapter? Urgency and size of the policy challenge.

- Links to development outcomes (health, poverty) and global environment (climate change, biodiversity) outcomes.
- Links to other objectives in the EECCA Strategy
- References to relevant international targets and processes

#### Policy options

What are the main policy options to achieve this objective?

- Bullet points summarizing “planned actions” from the EECCA Environment Strategy document.
- Other relevant policy options (if the policy options are not well covered in the Strategy document)

Who are the main policy actors? This section could also structure the policy options according to actor.

#### The (environmental) challenge

Here some text linking this chapter with some relevant chapter in the EEA’s Belgrade Assessment. Remind that the focus of the chapter is on policy actions, rather than on environmental outcomes, and that environmental outcomes are covered in the EEA’s Belgrade Assessment.

#### Figure A1.1

For the chapters dealing with policy areas (air, WSS, waste/ chemicals, IWRM, biodiversity) the figure would refer to the corresponding environmental trend. For the chapters dealing with policy levers (legislation, integration, finance, information/ participation/education, international cooperation) it is less clear what the figure could cover.

Source: EEA Belgrade Assessment

#### Figure A1.2 Partnerships for achieving this objective

Number of partnerships

2003  
2006

Funding mobilized

2003  
2006

Source: EECCA Partnerships Database



## What has happened since Kiev?

This is the most important part of the chapter. To what extent have those policy options been used? What are the main trends?

This section should include 4-6 main messages, each taking up one paragraph. Hopefully the main messages will be somehow related to the messages in corresponding chapter in Stocktaking report.

Sources will include sectoral reports (such as the ones the relevant Facilitating Organizations will prepare for Belgrade) and, potentially, the dedicated questionnaire. The text will make the link to the scorecard and quantitative indicators covered in the “figures”.

### Figure A1.3 Scorecard

A graph plotting the number of countries that display each one of about 5 key characteristics (Yes/No variables). See figure 9 and 29 in “Environmental Management in EECCA” report for a similar exercise in other objectives. In principle, the selection of the key characteristics needs to be related to the policy options discussed in the main text. (Alternatively, we could use a more information-intensive tool, such as a matrix / rating). The information would need to refer both to end-2002/mid-2003 and end-2005/mid-2006.

### CASE STUDY:

#### An example of a success story

In order to provide for geographical balance, two-three case studies need to be identified for each chapter, even if only one will be written up. Brief guidelines to write up the case studies will be developed in advance.

Source: Relevant Facilitating Organisation

## Major information gaps

For a number of sub-areas we don't have a good sense of what is happening. Which are those areas? Are they important?

## Barriers to progress

What problems do EECCA countries encounter to implement these policy options?

## Recommendations

We have been asked to provide recommendations. But some partners have stressed to be careful. Rather than coming up with original recommendations, this section provides an opportunity to highlight, let's say, the 5 most important recommendations in this area already put forward in sectoral reports.

We could highlight as well:

- Policy gaps / areas lagging behind
- Scope for streamlining the EECCA Environment Strategy

## Further Information

### KEY REPORTS

List of top 5 reports that policy-makers interested in the topic may want to consult.

### REFERENCES

Other sources used in preparing the chapter

**Figure A1.4**  
**Quantitative policy indicator 1**

Source: Databases of international organizations or dedicated questionnaire

**Figure A1.5**  
**Quantitative policy indicator 2**

Source: Databases of international organizations or dedicated questionnaire

## ANNEX 3. TEMPLATE FOR A COUNTRY PROFILE

### COUNTRY PROFILE:

#### Name of country

#### Basic description

This sub-section will provide a short description of the country, mostly in socio-economic terms, to provide context. Possible variables to be included could be:

- GDP, GDP growth
- GDP per capita, poverty rate
- Population (rural, urban)
- Economic structure (Agriculture, Industry, Services)
- Foreign direct investment and trade flows

#### Environmental priorities

This sub-section will reproduce what the formal environmental priorities are. The source will be the latest National Environmental Action Plan or similar strategic document.

#### International cooperation/Partnerships

This sub-section will aim to list international cooperation projects in the area of environment. This information may help partners to identify gaps and overlaps. The potential sources will be the partnerships database, sector reports and the dedicated questionnaire.

#### Figure C1.1 Environmental priorities

This figure will show trends in one/two issues environmental issues identified as priorities by the country. It will provide a link to the EEA's Belgrade Assessment.

Source: EEA's Belgrade Assessment

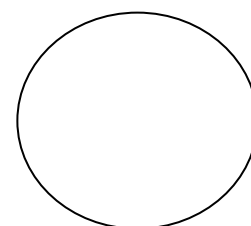
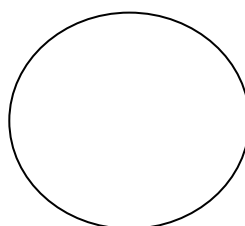
#### Figure C1.2 Partnerships

This figure will show the number of partnerships (and related financial resources) developed to improve environmental management in this country – possibly according to objective

Either *bars*  
Policy 2003 Partnerships  
Funding  
2006 Partnerships  
Funding

Or *pie-charts*  
2003

2006



Source: EECCA Partnerships Database

## Main Policy Actions since Kiev

### Implementation highlights

This sub-section will list and briefly describe 5-10 actions that represent major achievements.

### Policy Matrix

The matrix could show how actions taken are distributed across categories and policy areas. The columns offer a tentative classification of actions. The cells will name actual actions taken. The distribution of actions may help to identify gaps. The fact that actions are concentrated in a few cells may be an indication of focused policies. Introductory text could signal whether lack of action in some spheres in the 2003-2006 period is due to strong activity in the pre-2003 period. EECCA countries will not be asked to fill the cells, only to report information so that the matrix can be filled. The same number of actions (approx 15) will be reported for each EECCA country

	<b>Institutional strengthening</b> (re-organisation, system creation, staffing, training, equipment)	<b>Planning</b> (analyses, targets, action plans, performance monitoring)	<b>Command-and-control instruments</b> (direct regulation, permitting)	<b>Market-related instruments</b> (property rights, tariffs, charges, taxes, deposit-refund schemes trading)	<b>Information-related instruments</b> (Information disclosure, labeling, public participation, education, technical advice)	<b>Agreements</b> (voluntary agreements, performance-based contracts)	<b>Funding /Investment programmes</b>
<b>Air</b>	Air quality monitoring network upgraded		Vehicle inspection programme launched	Charge system streamlined	Labelling scheme on energy efficiency of electric appliances launched		
<b>Water Supply and Sanitation</b>			Water quality standards reformed	Tariffs increased, now covering 80% of O&M costs			USD20M WSS investment programme approved
<b>Waste and Chemicals</b>			Basel Convention principles incorporated in legislation		Major public information campaign on chemicals		
<b>Water Resources</b>	National Water Commission created	National IWRM plan developed					
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Extensive training programme for park rangers	National biodiversity strategy developed	Protected areas system expanded from 5 to 7% of national territory				Budget for protected areas system increased 50%
<b>Cross-cutting</b>	Average salary of MoE officials increased 20% to USD120 per month				EIA legislation reformed to allow for public participation		

Source: EECCA Questionnaire, background reports