Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro

Indicator-based State of the Environment Report of Montenegro

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CONTENT

AIR 6

VA01 AIR QUALITY IN URBAN AREAS 7
VA02 EMISSIONS OF ACIDIFYING GASES 15
VA03 OZONE PRECURSOR EMISSIONS 18
VA04 EMISSIONS OF PRIMARY SUSPENDED PARTICLES AND SECONDARY PARTICULATE MATTER PRECURSORS 21

WATER 25

V01 NUTRIENTS IN FRESHWATER 26
V02 OXYGEN CONSUMING SUBSTANCES IN RIVERS 28
V03 WATER QUALITY INDEX 30

CLIMATE CHANGE 33

KP01 ANNUAL AIR TEMPERATURE 34
KP02 ANNUAL PRECIPITATION 36
KP03 CONSUMPTION OF OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES 38
KP04 TRENDS IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS 40

AGRICULTURE 43

P01 CONSUMPTION OF MINERAL FERTILIZERS 44
P02 CONSUMPTION OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS 48
P03 AREA UNDER ORGANIC FARMING 53

ENERGY 55

E01 PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY FUEL 56
E02 FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY SECTOR 59
E03 ENERGY INTENSITY 62

TOURISM 64

T01 TOURIST ARRIVALS 65
T02 OVERNIGHT STAYS OF TOURISTS 67
T04 THE NUMBER OF TOURISTS ON CRUISE LINES 69

TRANSPORT 71

S01 PASSENGER TRANSPORT 72
S02 FREIGHT TRANSPORT 74
S03 AVERAGE MOTOR POOL AGE 77
S04 NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES 79

FISHERIES 82

R03 FISHING FLEET CAPACITY 83

WASTE 85

O01 MUNICIPAL WASTE GENERATION 86
O02 INDUSTRIAL WASTE GENERATION 88
O03 HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATION 90

BIODIVERSITY 92

B01 SPECIES DIVERSITY 93
B02 DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS OF SELECTED SPECIES 95
B03 DEADWOOD IN FORESTS 100
B04 ABUNDANCE AND DYNAMICS OF WILDLIFE POPULATIONS IN HUNTING AREAS 103
B05 NON-NATIVE AND INVASIVE SPECIES 106
B06 FOREST FIRES 112
B07 DESIGNATED AREAS 114

MARINE ECOSYSTEM 116

M04 TROPHIC INDEX (TRIX) 117

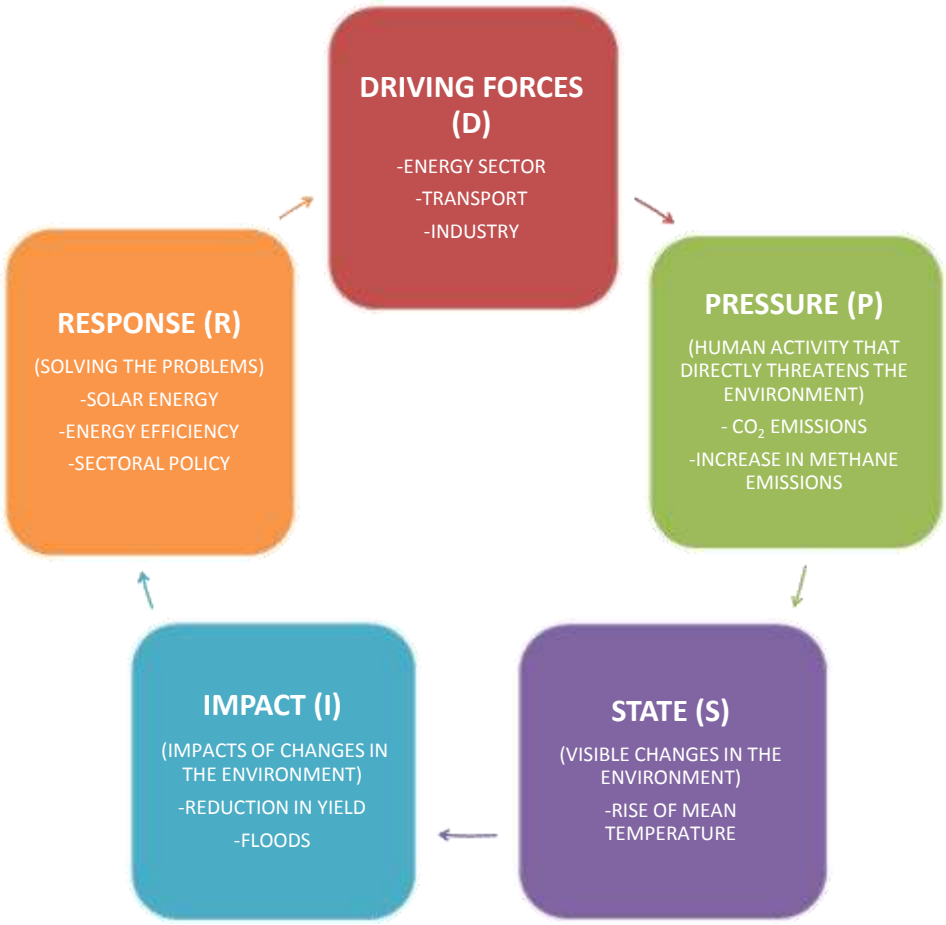
Introduction

The process of reporting on state of the environment began with the adoption of Agenda 21 at the UNCSD conference in Rio in 1992. Chapter 40 of Agenda 21 specifically requires improved information on the environment for the purpose of making decisions. During two decades, reporting on state of the environment became common practice in many countries around the world. State of the environment reports (SoE) are based on the indicator approach to the issue of environmental protection in a concise, simple, understandable and comparable way that shows the current status and trends of changes in the environment.

Therefore, environmental indicator is an instrument for monitoring the state of the environment and changes in it. Indicators can show the main development trends, help to describe the causes and effects of environmental conditions, and to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the environment policy and also transform complex data into information used in political decision making as well as for research purposes and notification of general public. Characteristics of a "good" indicator include the following: it is relevant to a particular problem; it can be expressed as “below” or “above” target value; it is comparable at the international level; it is based on available or feasible data; it is easy to communicate or understand. Therefore, the most important criteria for the selection of indicators include: data availability for development of indicator, significance of the observed indicator for the assessment of the status of the environment in the country and its complexity.

National state of the environment reports summarize data and information on social development and pressures on the environment as a result of this development, environmental issues in general and efforts to reduce pressures on the environment through national legislation and strategies.

The indicator-based State of the Environment Report of Montenegro follows the standard typology of indicators developed by the European Environment Agency (EEA), which is generally used by other international institutions as a standard in the design of state of the environment reports. The methodology is based on DPSIR model:



An indicator-based overview of the state of the environment in Montenegro is based on information and analysis resulting from many years of implementation of monitoring programs for all segments of the environment (which are implemented by the institutions selected in the tender procedure), in addition to data obtained from individual institutions whose data are relevant to environmental protection. The report is structured to address the following chapters:

- Introduction
- Air
- Water
- Climate change
- Agriculture
- Energy
- Tourism
- Transport
- Fisheries
- Waste
- Biodiversity
- Marine ecosystem

The Law on Environment ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", 48/08, 40/10, 40/11 article 19) stipulates mandatory drafting of a State of the Environment Report of Montenegro for a period of four years, based on the National List of Environmental Indicators, which was adopted by the Government of Montenegro at the meeting of 14 March 2013. Consequently, the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the first indicator-based State of the Environment Report in order to present the conditions and information, in accordance with international practices and standards, to decision makers and the general public in Montenegro.

Protection of the environment and human health from the adverse effects of air pollution is not a simple and easy task. It requires constant monitoring of air quality in accordance with accepted international standards, analysis of emissions of air pollutants, connecting them with the sources of emissions and investigating the impact of pollution on the receptors.

Protecting air quality in Montenegro has been current since the early 80s of the twentieth century. Since then, the legal framework and concerns about air quality have constantly improved, which allowed the use of identified solutions in practice. The Environmental Protection Agency, which was established in 2009, in accordance with their competences, assumed the responsibility for the implementation of the legislation in this area, which is almost completely harmonized with the Community acquis, so that in the previous period a network for monitoring air quality was established in Montenegro, data quality was improved, and reporting of air quality in compliance with EU requirements was enabled.

The result of all of these activities is the air quality control and monitoring for the purpose of assessment, planning and management of air quality. Analysis of the results serves as a basis to propose measures for enhancing and improving air quality.

VA01 Air Quality in Urban Areas

Key Question:

Is the air quality satisfactory with respect to human health?

Key Message:

Air quality is affected the most by industrial activity and emissions resulting from the combustion of fuels in large and small furnaces, and internal combustion engines. In addition to emissions, concentrations of air pollutants depend on the geographic and climatic characteristics. This is mostly reflected on the concentration of PM particles, which is the biggest problem for the air quality in Montenegro. High concentrations and a large number of exceeded permitted daily mean concentrations were most pronounced during the heating season, mainly due to the use of solid fuels (coal and wood). The air quality assessed in terms of the concentration of SO_2, NO_2 and O_3 is within the prescribed threshold limit value, with no major concentration variations on an annual basis

Rating of SO_2 trends:

- Compared to 2009

Rating of NO_2 trends:

- Compared to 2009

Rating of O_3 trends:

- Compared to 2009

Rating of PM_{10} trends:

- Compared to 2009

Impact on Human Health and Ecosystems:

Sulphur (IV) oxide (SO_2) - causes irritation upon inhalation, and very high concentrations can cause breathing problems. Asthma and chronic lung diseases can be extremely sensitive to the negative effects of very high concentrations, which in extreme cases can cause asthma attacks.