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“SEIS state of play in the ENP East region” as part of the European Commission funded project to EEA “Towards a Shared Environment Information System (SEIS) in the European Neighbourhood Countries”

COUNTRY PROFILES

AZERBAIJAN

1. Environmental Management Structure

In the country environmental management, including monitoring of the quality of atmospheric air, precipitation, soil, surface and ground water, biological resources, biodiversity, forests, radioactive pollution of the environment, as well as issues related to climate change, waste management, assessment and forecast of environmental processes under anthropogenic impact, creation of database on the state of the environment, as well as circulation (including via internet - <http://eco.gov.az>) operative and regime data is performed by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR). An operative management body under the Ministry is the National Department for Environmental Monitoring (NDEM).

In addition to MENR a number of other ministers and agencies in the country perform environmental activity, having departments on environmental protection in their structure and co-ordinating its activity with MENR.

Ministry of Health implements atmospheric air control in industrial zones and dwelling premises, control of drinking water quality in recreational areas, control of medical wastes management.

Along with the MENR the land and soil state control is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture as for the pesticides use and the State Committee for Land and Cartography – as for the Land Cadastre maintenance.

The control of harmful substance emissions from mobile sources, mainly from the motor transport, is authorized with the Ministry of Transport.

Hazardous wastes management is implemented by the Ministry of Emergencies and MENR, while domestic wastes – Ministry of Economic Development, MENR and municipal authorities.

2. Multilateral environmental agreements and obligations

Data on the participation of Azerbaijan in the MEA and the programs listed in Table 1

Table 1. Azerbaijan's participation in the MEA and programs

MEA/Programme	Date of signature	Date of ratification (Rt), accession (Ac), approval (Ap), adoption (At), entry into force (EIF)
Global		
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (New-York, 29 May, 1992)	12.06.1992	06.05.1995(Rt)
Kyoto Protocol (Kyoto, 1997)		28.09.2000(Rt)
Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio-de-Janeiro,1992)	12.06.1992	03.08.2000 (Ac)
Cartagena Protocol (Montreal, 2000)		01.04.2005 (Ac)
Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna, 1985)		12.06.1996 (Ac)
Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances (Montreal, 1987)		12.06.1996 (Ac)
London Amendment		12.06.1996 (Ac)
Copenhagen Amendment		12.06.1996 (Ac)
Montreal Amendment		28.09.2000 (At)
Peking Amendment		
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (Paris, 1994)		10.08.1998 (Rt)
Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel, 1989)		01.06.2001 (Rt)
Convention on POPs (Stockholm Convention)		13.01.2004 (Ac)
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)		21.05.2001 (EIF)
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals		
Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats		
Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water-birds		
Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and		

Contiguous Atlantic Area		
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)		23.11.1998 (Ac)
Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage		16.12.1993 (Rt)
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships		01.10.1997 (EIF)
FAO Global Forests Resources Assessment		Participates
Regional		
Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (Geneva, 1979)		03.07.2002 (Rt)
Protocol on Reduction of Eutrophication, Oxidation and Formation of Ground Ozone		
Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Aarhus, 1998)		
Protocol on Heavy Metals (Aarhus, 1998)		
Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (Oslo, 1994)		
Protocol on Limitation of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (Geneva, 1991)		
Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (Sofia, 1988)		
Protocol on the Reduction of the Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30 per cent (Helsinki, 1985)		
Protocol on a Long-Term Financing of a Joint EMEP Program		
Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents		16.06.2004 (Rt)
Convention on the Protection and Use of Trans-boundary Waters and International Lakes		03.08.2000 (Rt)
Amendment		
Protocol on Water and Health		09.01.2003 (Ac)
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus, 1998)		23.08.2000 (Ac)
Amendment		
Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register		
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context		25.03.1999 (Ac)
Amendment 1		
Amendment 2		
Protocol on Strategic Environmental		

Assessment		
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats		01.07.2000 (EIF)
<i>Subregional</i>		
Framework Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Teheran, November 4, 2003)	04.11.2003	18.05.2006 (Rt)
Reporting to the Inter-state Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States		Yes

a) Reporting under the global MEAs

Azerbaijan is a party to 10 global conventions and three protocols to them.

Azerbaijan prepared several reports for the governing bodies of the MEA.

In 2009 Azerbaijan prepared the second report on the implementation of the UN Convention on Climate Change.

In 2004 and 2010 Azerbaijan provided national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity in English (www.cbd.int). However, Azerbaijan failed in attempts to present two similar obligatory national reports in 2006 and 2008.

In 2006 the country submitted its third report on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UN CCD) (uploaded in Russian to the internet site: www.unccd.int/cop/reports/centraleu/national/2006/azerbaijan-rus.pdf).

Being the Party to the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal Azerbaijan submits national reports to the Secretariat of the Convention. The latest one for 2005 is published online at the Convention's site in English (<http://www.basel.int/natreporting>).

In 2010 the country submitted to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) the National Plan for implementation of the POPs inventory that covers the main sources of production, application and storage of POPs. At the same time, being the party to the Convention, Azerbaijan did not provide the national report that covered time period from 2003 through 2006.

Under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Significance Azerbaijan on a regular basis provides the national reports on implementation of the Convention requirements. The latest one for 2008 was provided in English and is online at the Convention site: <http://www.ramsar.org>.

In line with the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Azerbaijan presents both annual and biannual reports on its activity. The recent reports were made for 2007 for 2003-2004, respectively. The text of the biannual report in English, is presented at the Convention site: <http://www.cites.org>.

Azerbaijan on a regular basis submits reports on implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, at this not being Party to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals. The latest report for 2009 is presented online at the site: http://www.eurobats.org/documtnts/national_reports.htm.

In 2010 Azerbaijan, however, has not submitted its national report on the forest resources assessment to the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

Submitted to the international organizations national information and reports on the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements were not uploaded in the web site of MENR, therefore they were not available for the public.

b) Reporting under the regional MEAs

Azerbaijan is the party to the six regional conventions and one protocol to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

Participating in the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution Azerbaijan did not sign any of the protocols to it. There is no information on providing of the reporting by the country to the Secretariat of this Convention.

Aimed at the implementation of the requirements of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes Azerbaijan prepared and presented in 2010 the Brief report in Russian in line with the Protocol on Water and Health. The report is online at the Convention's site: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/>.

At the meeting took place in 2005 in Berlin under the aegis of the two Conventions on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and on transboundary effects of industrial accidents Azerbaijan presented the report on prevention pollution of waters against pipeline accidents in Russian (www.umweltbundesamt.de/anlagen/pipeline/vortraege/end_vru_shakhmarov.pdf).

Being Party to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters Azerbaijan on a regular basis is reporting on the progress made to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, as well as participates in the meetings of its working bodies. The latest report for 2008 in English, French and Russian is presented online at the Convention's site: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/>.

c) Reporting under the sub-regional MEAs.

Azerbaijan is the Party to the Framework Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea.

Under the Convention the country in 2007 has developed the National Caspian Action Plan for 2007-2017. This document is in English, and in addition to other materials, prepared at the national level, related to the issues on development of monitoring programmes of water quality, sediments, prevention of marine pollution from various sources, conservation of biodiversity and sea living resources, control of invasive species and on a number of other environmental problems, is uploaded to the site: www.caspianenvironment.org

Each year, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS STAT) provides data on environmental protection, which are placed in the annual

statistical compilation issued in Russian and English languages. Information about the publications of the CIS-STAT is available at <http://www.cisstat.com>.

3. Environmental Legislation

The primary regulatory document in the country that regulates nature protection issues is the Law on Environmental Protection adopted in 1999. This law determines the order for the protection of atmospheric air, water objects, and soils, organization of waste collection and disposal, animal world protection, operation of specially protected areas. The Law is unchanged since 1999, therefore a number of its provisions requires correction.

The Law on Ecological Safety, also adopted in 1999, was revised in 2007 with provisions that introduce standards for noise and vibration permissible levels in dwelling and production premises.

In 1998 the Law on Consumption and Production Wastes was adopted, which was significantly revised in 2007. The revised version of the Law includes provisions related to the inventory of industrial wastes, hazardous wastes passportization, and requirements for their transboundary movement. The issues of consumption wastes collection (including fees for collection), their classification, processing and disposal are considered individually. Also, the paragraph that regulates consumption wastes management was introduced.

The Law of 2002 on access to environmental information was significantly changed in 2010 in part of interpretation of conditions for the public access to this information, as well as criteria according to which the information is classified as public or restricted.

Adopted in the 2000 the Law on Specially Protected Areas was supplemented in 2009 in part of significant expansion of specially protected areas.

The country also has acting Water, Land and Forest Codes adopted in 1997.

The first National Action Plan on Environmental Protection of Azerbaijan was implemented in the period from 1998 through 2003. Based on this document the similar plans were adopted at the local level as well. However, after the completion of this Action Plan the further one was not adopted.

In 2003 the President's Decree № 1152 adopted the National Programme on the Environment and Sustainable Social and Economic Development for 2003-2010. In terms of its environmental part this Programme is aimed at the environmental protection and rational use of natural resources, as well as addressing global environmental protection problems, and became the basic element for the environmental policy of the country.

Several documents of the Republican level were adopted with due dates set for 2004-2010. These include:

- Programme of Development of Hydrometeorology, which envisages complex of measures on environmental objects monitoring system improvement in the country;
- State Hazardous Wastes Management Strategy;
- State Programme on Effective Use of Pastures and Desertification Prevention.

In 2006 the National Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use were developed and endorsed for the period 2006-2009.

A Comprehensive Action Plan to improve environmental situation in Azerbaijan in 2006 – 2010 was endorsed by the Presidential decree No.1697 dated September 28, 2006. The Plan foresaw improvement of the air-quality monitoring in Baku by installation of five automated air monitoring stations. The Plan also envisaged installation of automatic stations to control waste water discharges and water quality in 10 lakes of the Apsheron Peninsula. The Plan contains the item “On Measures to Provide the Population with Ecologically Clean Drinking Water”, that foresees to provide the population, using water of the Rivers Kura and Araz, with ecologically clean drinking water.

The Presidential Decree No.2244 as of 2007 “On Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources” foresees to strengthen control of waste water discharges to the Caspian Sea from the territory of Azerbaijan.

The Cabinet of Ministers’ decree No.90 as of July 1, 2004 endorsed the Rules for Monitoring of the Environment and Natural Resources, which set goals and basic requirements for monitoring (sampling frequency, number of observation points, measured parameters, etc.).

In 2004 the State Programme on Alternate Energy Sources Development was endorsed. But actual activities on implementation of this Programme were started in 2008 only. At the same time, availability of such programme and its implementation commencement are of high significance, as energy sector of the country is the major source of environmental pollution and green-house gases emissions.

The Cabinet of Ministers adopted the decree No. 45 as of 06.03.2010 “On Activities to Comply with the European Standards and Requirements for Emissions in Atmosphere of Harmful Substances from Transport in Azerbaijan (import and production in the Republic)”. According to the decree, from July 1, 2010 all automobiles exploited since this date should apply the environmental standard Euro-2 for harmful substances emissions. This decree endorsed the Action Plan concerning Compliance with the European Standards and Requirements for Harmful Substances Emissions in the Atmosphere from Automobile Transport.

At the present time the “Additional Action Plan on Improvement of Environmental Situation in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2010-2014” is prepared and provided for the adoption by the Cabinet of Ministers.

4. Monitoring

In the country monitoring of quality of air, precipitation, soil, surface and ground water, biological resources, radioactive pollution of the environment, assessment and forecast of environmental processes under the anthropogenic impact, as well as creation of the state-of-environment database and data distribution (including via internet – <http://eco.gov.az>.) is performed by MENR.

The Rules for Monitoring of the Environment and Natural Resources, adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers’ decree No.90 dated July 1, 2004, set basic goals and requirements for a monitoring procedure (sampling frequency, number of observation points, measured parameters, etc.) and include 12 independently arranged types of monitoring:

- the state of atmospheric air;
- atmospheric precipitation;

- the state of water bodies;
- the state of land resources;
- mineral resources and raw materials;
- radioactive situation;
- harmful impacts on the environment;
- waste management;
- the state of biological resources;
- special protected areas;
- sanitary and epidemiologic control;
- natural disasters.

Monitoring of biological diversity of rare and endangered species is carried on efficiently. At the same time, there is no progress in the development of soils monitoring. The last overall inventory of forests in the country was carried out in 1993. The by-turn inventory of particular agricultural units is taking place since 2002, however, the inventory data is not published.

In Azerbaijan the database on ground water quality does not exist. And there is no evidence that the data on ground water quality control is used in decision-making and available to the public.

Measurements carried on with inadequate frequency and lack of automated monitoring equipment do not allow to register accidental or intentional emissions of pollutants in the air.

At present time, does not put requirements self-monitoring for enterprises Developed a format for reporting companies.

In order to improve the situation in 2010 the Cabinet of Ministers granted 5 million manats to install 5 automated air-quality monitoring stations in Baku. These stations will be operational in early 2011 and will measure O₃, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ in particular. It is expected that in the near future the Government will grant additional funds to install two similar automated monitoring stations in Sumgait, as well as three similar stations in Mingachaur and Shirvan.

To control radioactivity in Azerbaijan six automated stations were installed on the borders with the neighboring countries. They were installed in meteorological stations that ensures constant control of a radioactivity level in the air. For radioactive monitoring of transboundary segments of the Rivers Kura and Araz, the analytical laboratories in Gazakh and Beilagan will be adequately equipped within the framework of the Project “Modernization of the Monitoring System of Radioactive Pollution” implemented since 2006 in a technical cooperation with IAEA.

Transboundary rivers’ water resources management issues (Araz, Kura and Samur) are priority for Azerbaijan. Kura waters, which are the major source for drinking water supply, as well as used for agricultural and industrial needs, are entering Azerbaijan already polluted.

Since 2007 Azerbaijan participates in the Project “Transboundary Management of the River Kura, Phase II” within the framework of the European Union TACIS Program. MENR of Azerbaijan cooperates with Georgia on monitoring and assessment of water quality in this transboundary watercourse. Since 2005 NDEM takes water samples three times a week in the transboundary segments of the Rivers Kura and Araz on the border with Georgia and analyses the level of pollution by oil and oil products, phenols, pesticides and other pollutants. Once a month water samples are analyzed to detect heavy metals. The analysis is conducted by two modern analytical laboratories established in the Gazakh (River Kura) and Beilagan (River Araz)

Districts. They are equipped with the latest modern equipment which costs more than 300 thousand Euro and gives an opportunity to monitor heavy metals in water bodies with highest quality.

In 2008-2009 within the Caspian Environmental Program (CEP) four marine expeditions took place covering all national sectors of the participating countries (except Iran). The expeditions were arranged with participation of national experts. Their goal was to assist countries to develop a regional plan for water quality monitoring and pollution assessment of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea.

Azerbaijan participated actively in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Caspian Sea developed in 2007 (the first one was done in 2002). TDA gave scientific and technical assessments which helped to identify and quantify problems of the marine environment in the Caspian Sea Region, to analyze their causes and impacts from both environmental and economic points of view. TDA is a basis for development of the National Action Plans by the Caspian countries and a Joint Strategic Action Plan for protection of the Caspian Sea. TDA 2007 aimed at activation of the integrated monitoring program for fisheries in the Caspian Sea in combination with monitoring of hydrological and hydrochemical parameters, as well as monitoring of water and bottom sediments pollution. This monitoring will allow to assess better the state of marine biological diversity of the Caspian Sea.

The NDEM includes the Central Analytical Laboratory (the Centre for Environmental Pollution Monitoring), 7 analytical laboratories in Baku and 2 regional (in Gazakh and Beilagan). Out of 7 laboratories located in Baku 5 were accredited (for air, precipitation, water bodies, aerosols and measuring equipment). Accreditation of 2 other laboratories (for radioactivity and microbiology) is under consideration. Laboratory equipment is purchased, as a rule, with the support from international projects. Only once in 2005 a contribution amounting to 260 thousand manats was provided from the state budget to strengthen the laboratories mentioned. In 2010 NDEM expects to get some funds from the state budget for purchase of mobile analytic laboratories.

Within the framework of the Caspian Environment Program (CEP) and with the support from international donors the analytical laboratory for a comprehensive monitoring of the Caspian Sea was established under the MENR. At present the laboratory is equipped with up-to-date analytical and sampling equipment. It got accreditation and the equipment was certified.

At present in Azerbaijan there are no organizational structure and coordination procedure for monitoring and environmental data collection carried on by institutions of different ministries. Intercalibrations of the analytical laboratories under the NEMD, Hydromet, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Geology are occasional or not performed at all.

5. Environmental data and information exchange

The results of air quality monitoring are published in daily bulletins and submitted to the state bodies and other organizations including mass media. Simultaneously the information on the real state of air pollution and the air pollution forecast (24 hours in advance) are daily circulated through the Internet (<http://eco.gov.az>).

MENR has its own site (<http://eco.gov.az>) which is bilingual – in the national and English languages. The Program on the marine environment of the Caspian Sea (section Caspian Resources), National Program of the ecologically sustainable social and economic development,

National Program for restoration of forests and enlargement of forests area in Azerbaijan (section Environmental Policy) and some other are uploaded in the site.

The State Committee of Statistics (Goskomstat) in Azerbaijan has achieved great results lately. Almost all environmental information is gathered by this Committee. Environmental data are annually published in the statistical publications “Environment in Azerbaijan” in 3 languages (national, English and Russian) in the latest publication for 2009, 150 copies. The information is based on the official statistical data of Goskomstat and other ministries and organizations whose activity is connected with natural resources use, ecological control and environment protection.

Since 2004 the data on green-house gases emissions have been collected in the country according to the Kyoto Protocol. The data on green-house gases emissions from the stationary sources are collected by the state statistical bodies from enterprises according to the endorsed format. The obtained information is regularly published in annual statistical publications.

All environmental information goes to the computing center of the National Department for Environmental Monitoring of MENR for processing and further annual transmission to the State Information and Archive Database. The results of single measurements are used for preparation of urgent and operational information on drastic changes in pollution levels, as well as for the environmental state forecast. On the basis of the received information more than 30 types of bulletins are issued reflecting the state of the environment components. These bulletins are circulated via Internet (<http://eco.gov.az>), distributed among appropriate organizations and persons involved in decision-making.

The following annual publications are issued:

- on the state of air and precipitation pollution;
- on the state of surface water pollution;
- on the state of soils pollution;
- on the state of biological resources including forests.

NDEM submits to MENR annual reports on the results of its activity in the field of pollution monitoring of air, surface water, soils and monitoring of radioactivity and biological diversity. However the data are not uploaded in the Internet and not available to the public.

At present NDEM publishes four types of regular bulletins with monitoring results in the following environmental activities:

- air pollution and radiation level;
- pollution of surface water bodies;
- hydrochemical state and pollution level of the transboundary Rivers Kura and Araz;
- environmental pollution level in Azerbaijan.

These bulletins are distributed in MENR and submitted to the Administration of the President, Cabinet of Ministers, Parliament, other ministries, state bodies and municipal authorities. Monitoring data are uploaded in the site of MENR (www.eco.gov.az).

NDEM receives on a regular basis monitoring data from other monitoring institutions in the country engaged in the environmental activities. Data are submitted according to formats approved by MENR. In addition, it receives for checking statistical data reported by enterprises on their emissions into the atmosphere, discharges in the water bodies, generation and disposal of hazardous waste. However, there is no evidence that NDEM is linking data flows, received

from various organisations, to identify cause-effect relationship and to develop a common environmental database which could be convenient and accessible to all interested state authorities and the general public.

Information and data stored in the state information database and archives are not in the electronic form and not easily accessible to the users including the general public.

The Centre of Epidemiology and Hygiene under the Ministry of Health manages the database with the monitoring results of air quality in residential areas and indoors, quality of bathing water and water used for drinking water supply, soil quality in residential areas, levels of noise, vibration and other physical impacts, radiation exposure and food quality. This database is not accessible to external use. The Centre does not publish monitoring data. At the same time, the Centre started the development of data base that should provide possibility to assess environmental pollution impact on population health (<http://www.mednet.az>).

A working group meeting of the UN ECE, held in 2003 in Obninsk under the umbrella proposed to EECCA countries to set up electronic system “EcoReport” in the web site of the Working Group. It was proposed to apply a general approach used in the EAOC “ReportNet” system and to cover 15 topics including: state of the environment and its protection. The section concerning national reporting was supposed to contain periodic (regular and special) national publications on the environment, for example, the-state-of-the-environment reports, environmental bulletins, environmental programs and action programs, as well as performance reviews. International section was supposed to contain information on 30 multilateral environmental agreements, organizations and programs. The system “EcoReport” was put into operation in early 2005 (<http://unece.unog.ch/enhs/EcoReport/>). It was supposed that national organization will place new information in the appropriate component of the system “EcoReport”. However, the system development has failed due to low activity of the countries including Azerbaijan.

6. Data Comparability

Data contained in the reports on MEAs implementation, as a rule, are comparable with data from other countries, as these reports are prepared on the basis of formats developed by the secretariats of these conventions.

Data, published in publications disseminated inside the country (for instance, environmental bulletins) could also be considered as comparable with data from other countries, when they are presented in absolute values (for example, data on emissions into the air basin, concentrations of pollutants in atmospheric air, water objects, soil), but they could not be comparable with data of European countries, if they are presented in units and shares of maximum permissible concentrations. In particular, data on wastes are incomparable with data of EU countries as the wastes classificatory used is not matching the pan-European. At the same time, these data are comparable to data of the majority of the former Soviet Union countries.

7. Environmental Assessment

Azerbaijan does not publish the national reports on the state of the environment. This is contrary to the country’s obligations in relation to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters which was ratified by Azerbaijan on March 23, 2000.

MENR did not establish a legal and institutional framework for producing regular environmental assessment reports recommended by the Guidelines on Preparation of the Governmental Reports on the State and Protection of the Environment and the Guidelines on Preparation of Indicator-based Environment Assessment Reports in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, which were endorsed at the Ministerial Conferences “Environment for Europe” held in Kiev (2003) and Belgrade (2007).

As it was mentioned, the basic environmental information is collected and published by Goscomstat. Annual environmental statistical publications “Environment in Azerbaijan” contain the data on the state of the environment, rational use of the natural resources (<http://www.azstst.org>).

Statistical publications have the following chapters:

- land resources distribution by categories;
- reforestation in the forests of national importance;
- forest protection measures;
- basic characteristics of national parks and reserves;
- basic indicators characterizing water resources use, including types of the economic activity of enterprises;
- amount of water consumption by towns;
- basic indicators characterizing air protection and harmful impact on the atmosphere;
- pollutants emissions in the air from stationary sources (total, per ingredient and per economic activity);
- green-house gases emissions in the atmosphere from stationary sources;
- pollutants emissions from transport (total, per ingredient, per town);
- pollution level of the atmosphere in towns;
- number of automobile transport;
- generation, disposal and utilization of hazardous waste (total and per town);
- utilization of hazardous waste from enterprises (per town);
- secondary raw resources:
- the state control for protection of land, water resources and atmosphere;
- environmental expenditures;
- investments in the environment protection and rational use of natural resources.

Other statistical publications are issued, such as “Azerbaijan in Figures” (500 copies), “Statistical Indicators in Azerbaijan” (450 copies), “Regions of Azerbaijan” (500 copies), “Transport in Azerbaijan” (180 copies), “Research of the Statistics related to the Environmental Impact on Health of the Population in Azerbaijan” (35 copies) which published in the national and the English languages. The information is also uploaded in the web-site of the Goscomstat (www.azstat.org).

The State Statistical Committee applies step-by-step the UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, included in the UNECE Guidelines on Environmental Indicators and Based on them Assessment Reports (2007). Six indicators from these Guidelines were introduced in mandatory statistical reporting in the country in 2009. They include data for the indicator on transboundary movement of hazardous waste according to the classification of the Basel Convention, the data on medicinal waste. However, the data on some other indicators from the Guidelines, such as “Energy consumption from renewable sources”, “Energy Capacity”, “Composition of the Road Mechanical Transport Facilities with indication of fuels Used” are not published and not

uploaded on the web-sites. The statistical data are only the basis for elaboration of indicators, but in fact the data are not the indicators.

By 2011 Goscomstat plans to finalize a classification of environmental expenditures by individual sources of expenditure.

MENR is making its efforts to provide the general public with accessible environmental information. MENR established a Department for dissemination of the environmental information. It compiled a list of institutions which should receive environmental information. This information MENR uploaded on its site.

In connection with the accession to the Aarhus Convention in 2003 Information Centre was opened within the Ministry. In 2007 two more similar Centres were opened in Ganja and Gazakh. MENR plans to open additional centers in other regions of Azerbaijan including Lenkaran, Shaki, Ali-Bayramli, Mingachevir, Guba and Nakhichevan.

Minzdrav of the Republic doesn't publish reports on the state of the population health and the environment. However, it regularly uploads to its website information on the quality of the drinking water and water used in recreational zones.

The results of a complex monitoring of the Caspian Sea are published in a weekly bulletin which is distributed among 14 state institutions. In addition, a monthly bulletin with monitoring data and a short information on the annual MENR activity is uploaded on its web-site.

The Geological Exploration Service publishes a monthly bulletin on the state of ground water and issues an annual account on the results of ground water monitoring activities.

In 2009 MENR published a book on the environmental policy of Azerbaijan in 2003-2008.

On the other side, some years ago it stopped publishing a monthly magazine "Nature of Azerbaijan" aimed at a wide audience. MENR plans to resume this publication from 2011.

8. Gaps in information, shortcomings and obstacles

At present, there are no organizational structure and coordination of monitoring and environmental data collection performed by various institutions. Intercalibrations of analytical laboratories under NEMD, Hydromet, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Geology are occasional or do not performed at all. It is necessary to establish institutional structure for cooperation and coordination of activities of ministries and agencies on issues of environmental monitoring and information.

Such sectoral ministries as the Ministry of Economic Development, Industry and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Transport do not actively communicate to the general public environmental data and information, which they produce.

By the present time there are no regular national reports on the state of the environment issued in Armenia as no legal and institutional base is established for it.

Ministries and agencies that have environmental information, which is obtained at the costs of the state budget, should present eco-data to concerned organizations, public and individuals.

It is necessary to introduce at the enterprises the implementation of works on self-monitoring based on the form for information provision developed for them.

It is expedient to upload to the MENR site the national reports and communications, issued by the country aimed at the implementation of its international environmental protection obligations.