



European Environment Agency



**ENPI-SEIS project**  
**Update of the country report - JORDAN**  
**Overview of activities for 2015-2020**  
**March 2015**

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## Summary

This report gives an overview on the activities and steps undertaken at national level in order to implement the shared environment information system. The report tackles the implementation in terms of Inter-institutional cooperation, content and infrastructure occurred in the last past two years- since the publication of the [first SEIS-country report](#).

It also gives an overview on the process of implementation of the identified pilots projects included in the above-mentioned report.

The pilots projects identified in the country report were as follows:

- ❖ waste management information system
- ❖ water quality data EMARCU to MoE
- ❖ Compiling the water accounts

In relation to the waste management information system support received under the InSEIS project (launched in mid-2014 to mid-2015) resulted in a road map describing the steps, priorities and a timeline needed for building up an information system. The representatives from DoS and Ministry of Environment estimated the time needed for establishing a waste information system to 2 years, provided availability of technical support as defined within the InSEIS project.

The main difficulty encountered by both MoE and DoS during the implementation of SEIS project phase one was lack of sufficient human resources, as the experts involved in the SEIS implementation have been involved in different projects and had a number of other responsibilities within their institution, in addition to lack of financial means for supporting this project.

As regard the data provided for the compilation of the regional assessment report in 2012-2013, this was collected through the National team which was established for this purpose. The required data was exchanged among the involved stakeholders mainly via emails and during meetings.

## Inter-institutional cooperation

Environmental information is collected by different institutions. The Ministry of Environment and DoS have made a lot of efforts to better coordinate the information flows among the stakeholders and comply with the reporting obligations. The Ministry of Environment is further developing and improving the Jordanian Environment Information System (JEIS) to be a platform to share the data and information among the stakeholders. The first step undertaken in the implementation of SEIS was building a national team to work on a selected set of indicators to measure progress towards the depollution of the Mediterranean within the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

The needed infrastructure for the establishment of JEIS (hardware and software) is available within the Ministry of Environment but the difficulties encountered are related to the activation, utilisation of JEIS and the management of data and information within this system. The intention is to have all legislation, international obligations, indicators, environmental reports in the future system. Additional technical assistance foreseen within the InSEIS project will provide support and draw a road map for building the system.

The team working within the framework of SEIS is part of the National team responsible for the state of environment report (SOER) to be released at the end of 2015. The compilation of the SOER started on 15 February 2015. The report is planned to cover six sectors: water, air, waste, land and biodiversity and coastal ecosystem. For the compilation of the report the DPSIR framework will be used: the driving forces that affect Jordan's environment will be illustrated in the beginning of the report, pressures that affect sectors will be mentioned at the beginning of each sector then the content and all available indicators since 2007 with trends and finally the responses and strategies undertaken to protect and manage available resources.

The list of indicators that will be used in the report is still under discussion. A finalised list will be made available online as soon as the national team has reached agreement.

For the compilation of the report all the stakeholders are involved (Ministry of Environment Department of Statistic, ASEZA (Aqaba economic Zone), Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Ministry of Planning, Representatives from Universities, Royal Scientific Society, IUCN, NGOs (Jordan Environment Society), Ministry of Municipalities, GAM (Great Amman Municipality). The work is distributed among the stakeholders during meetings, which take place every 2 weeks, and continuous follow-up through the e-mail.

After gathering all information the compilation, writing and finalisation of the report will be undertaken by special team of experts (Head from each sector).

The process of compilation of the state of the environment report helps improving the cooperation among all the above-mentioned stakeholders. The jointly produced publication supports raising awareness on the importance of environmental information system and enhance the closer interaction through regular meetings. This cooperation also assists in generation of new survey and helps providing answers regarding some indicators.

## **Content**

### **Waste Management**

The Solid Waste Strategy would be launched in March 2015 and the draft Waste Management Law is in the process of consultation. It is expected that the by-law should undergo additional reviews.

The draft Waste Management Law sets the legal basis for all types of waste, covering waste reduction, material and energy recovery, treatment, and final safe disposal in terms of priorities, general principles, responsibilities, planning, technical requirements, and penalties.

The "producer responsibility" concept, which is under consideration for waste electric and electronic equipment, is to be adequately covered in the new law.

The waste component of the JEIS system, at least for waste management permits and register for annual reporting of waste types and quantities, should be further specified in the Waste Law. Provisions for monitoring the situation in the sector, including preparation of indicators, should also be covered in new Waste Law.

## **Industrial emissions**

Within the project “Air Quality Monitoring System” financed by the French Development Agency (AFD) monitoring stations were established to measure emissions from eight sectors (among which cement, iron, potash, bromine, pesticides and chemical industries). In this 40 factories will be monitored during 2015 with the goal to connect 70 factories to the monitoring system by 2020 and thus helping improve the data availability. The information will be made available online and updated on regular basis.

Within this project ambient air quality is monitored in three Jordanian cities covered with twelve monitoring stations (7 in Amman, 3 in Al Zarqa and 2 in Irbid) on ambient air quality indicators (SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, O<sub>3</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>). Part of the project was devoted to make emission inventory to identify and evaluate different pollutants emitted from different sources.

## **Waste water**

DoS conducted survey for industrial sector, where there are around 80 activities classified according to ISIC. For the time being, 40 activities are covered and information on water consumption by resource, waste water quantities and disposal, all types of waste and electronic waste and disposal in addition to environment expenditure are gathered. DoS vision is to have full coverage of the 80 activities in order to have complete information for establishing water and waste accounts.

Waste water from industrial activity primary is treated in the industrial cities by either central wastewater treatment plants or by small treatment plants; for some industries there is a need to achieve Jordanian standards in order to be reused.

## **Implementation of SEIS 2015-2020**

As mentioned above the waste information system will be built in the coming years following the road map established with the InSEIS project. The hands on support needed will be clearly identified within the InSEIS project and beyond.

Exchange of experience with EU Member States on emission inventories, development of surveys, data collection is needed.

Support is also needed in implementing a spatial data infrastructure in cooperation with DoS GIS directorate. The GIS directorate is presently preparing a census, in which all Jordan residential blocks will be mapped, environmental layers such as waste water treatment plants, dumping sites and industries can be added.

As regards the compiling of water accounts, DoS will conduct an environmental survey with the objective to fill the existing data gaps aiming to finalise the accounts.