



Source: Environmental assessment (EAS)

Subject: Core set of indicators/priority data flow/water quantity

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION:

- CSI proposal for review - Domestic Material Consumption. Reminder of comments before mid-October to allow this for decision by the board

FOR DECISION:

- To include the water quantity data flow into the priority data flows

Core Set of Indicators

Background

27 April, EEA sent for NFP consultation the proposed new indicator for the EEA core set relating to Domestic Material Consumption. The material sent included the cover letter, the guidelines for the consultation process, and the specification for the proposed indicator.

3 May the EEA also send a "Briefing on DMC for the Core Set" which explained why this particular indicator is considered appropriate, described some technical basics of DMC including how it fits within the MFA-based family of indicators, and finally, provided brief information on other indicators used in the area of resource use.

The consultation took place through the forum in the indicator management service (IMS). The deadline for replies was 9 May 2005.

11 May, during the NFP/Eionet meeting, a brief discussion took place about the proposal to include Domestic Material Consumption in the EEA Core Set of Indicators. The discussion was not on the contents or the merit of DMC proposal. Rather, the countries said they were unclear about the process, that the two weeks of time which EEA gave them was too short, and that they in general are not clear about what the timing and the broader framework of CSI process was.

Following these discussions EEA has allowed the countries more time for consultation, as all issues and procedure were addressed in core set guide and note given to NFPs for the meeting.

By 30 of May, we received the total of seven comments.

Preparing for board decision in November

According to the agreement on dialogue, EEA would like to remind that we would appreciate that all the countries that have not yet replied should return the questionnaire distributed. The responses are needed mid-October to allow us to present a proposal for decision to the board for its November meeting.

Priority data flows

Background

- Improved data and information on water quantity is essential for future assessments in such areas as climate change impacts and pollutant fluxes and to support the Core set indicator “use of freshwater resources” (CSI018).
- The Eionet data flow on water quantity has been discussed and tested since 2000. We have asked for water quantity data this year and last on a voluntary basis. See annex for an overview of the request.
- The full set of parameters under the Eionet-water data flow is in the process of being integrated into the SoE-dataflow under WISE – the shared water information system for Europe. This work is taking place in the SoE-drafting group of the working group on reporting as part of the common implementation strategy of the water framework directive. This drafting group works in close cooperation with the Eionet water community. Thus, the next meeting of the drafting group on 11 October 2005 will take place back to back with the Eionet water workshop on 12 October 2005. The reporting agreed for the SoE-stream of WISE will still be voluntary, but the formal integration into WISE will ensure full streamlining with reporting under the water framework directive to avoid any duplication.

Expanding the set of priority data flows

To prepare and support the further discussion with the Eionet water experts and in the SoE-drafting group we would like to seek the support of NFPs to include the water quantity data flow into the priority data flows. It would then also be included in the SoE-stream under WISE as a priority.

Annual report on Priority data flows

The report will be available in hard cover and on CIRCA on the day of the meeting.

Annex Overview of present water quantity data request

Physical characteristics of the station

- Station ID (National station identifier of gauging station)
- Country ID (ISO 3166-alpha-2 code elements)
- Station Description (Free text description of the station)
- Longitude (Geographical co-ordinates of the gauging station in degrees, minutes, seconds DDMMSS)
- Latitude (Geographical co-ordinates of the gauging station in degrees, minutes, seconds DDMMSS)
- Altitude (Altitude of the gauging station in m)
- Catchment area (Catchment area upstream of the gauging station in km²)
- Catchment name

Parameters

- Mean annual precipitation at rain gauging stations (mm)
- Mean annual discharge at reference gauging stations (m³/s)
- Mean annual discharge at flux gauging stations (m³/s)
- Annual discharge exceeded 95 % of the time at all gauging stations (m³/s)
- Annual maximum discharge at all gauging stations (m³/s)
- Annual daily maximum precipitation (mm)