

Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection
Environmental Protection Agency

ENVIRONMENT IN SERBIA

an indicator-based review



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PREFACE

Reliable information on impacts of the socio-economic growth on environment, ecosystems and, consequently, on public health is essential for framing and implementing sound and effective environmental policy measures and legislation. Therefore, the Serbian Government established in 2004 the Environmental Protection Agency, within the Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection. Serbian Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is dedicated to providing environmental information to policy-makers and the public, in order to support environment improvement in Serbia.

Cooperating with relevant Serbian authorities, Universities and Scientific Institutions, SEPA permanently upgrades the national data bank that contains information on all environmental components in Serbia.

The Agency uses the central data bank to publish periodic reports on the environment in Serbia. Reports are directed to decision makers (Republic Government and Republic Parliament), to international institutions, first of all to the European Environment Agency (EEA) and to the widest spectrum of public clients.

Reports that are directed to Republic Government represent a valuable tool for developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy.

Since 2004, SEPA started to cooperate with EIONET (European Information and Observation NETwork), a partnership network of the EEA in order to fulfil reporting obligations that countries have towards international organisations. Contribution of Serbia in development of pan-European environmental data bank was symbolic in 2004. However, in 2006 Serbia achieved significant progress in cooperation with EIONET and EEA.

Harmonizing reporting obligations with EIONET standards (an indicator-based approach), SEPA prepared this document in order to describe the current state and trends of environmental variability in Serbia, and to assess a progress in legal and economic mechanisms that are focused to environment improvement and, consequently, to advancement of life quality of Serbian inhabitants

Branko Karadžić,
Director

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Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection
Environmental Protection Agency

INTRODUCTION

Continuous growth of human population, which is associated with both the urbanisation and development of the economy branches (mining, energy supply, industry, transport) generates a series of ecological problems at *local, regional* or *global* levels (EEA, 1998, 2003, 2005). Most important among them involve:

- climate changes
- depletion of stratospheric ozone (causing increased levels of ultraviolet radiation)
- loss of biological diversity
- risk of nuclear accidents
- acidification of water and land ecosystems
- increased levels of tropospheric ozone and other photochemical oxidants
- water, air and soil pollution
- waste generation
- risk of accidents in chemical industries

Efficient policy of natural resource management enables maximum economic growth with minimum degradation of the environment. Reliable data on both socio/economic growth and trends of environmental variability may help in developing, implementing and evaluating environmental policy, which is aimed at the lessening of the “economy-versus-ecology” conflict. Hence both national and international legislation specify obligations on

- monitoring (continuous and systematic surveillance of parameters that indicate air, water, soil and biodiversity quality) and
- periodic reporting,

in order to assess and to control human impacts on environment.

In 2004 the Serbian Government established the Environmental Protection Agency, within the Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection. Main priority of the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is to collect and to process the data on all environmental components in Serbia, and to disseminate reliable information to policy makers and to widest spectrum of public. The Agency has developed a system for data

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