

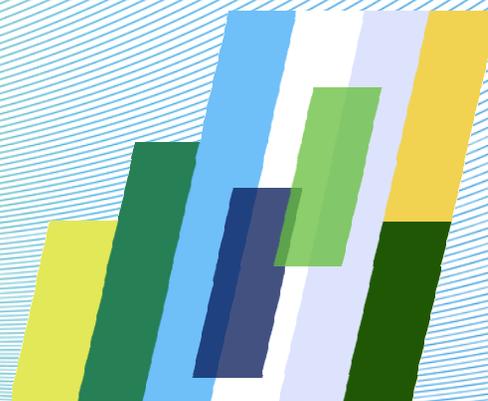


Improving policies through peer review: the OECD Environmental Performance Review programme

**Expert Group Meeting on the High-Level
Political Forum
New York,
3-4 April 2013**

Brendan Gillespie

**Environmental Performance and Information Division
Environment Directorate, OECD**





Peer Review

An OECD Tool for Co-operation and Change



2003

What is a peer review process?

- “each country’s policy in a particular area is examined by fellow members on an equal basis” with a view to providing support for improving policy performance
- Cooperative process of mutual support in learning by doing

Peer Review processes

- A core function of OECD (Economic Policy, Energy, Governance, Health, Environment)
- But also used in other forms eg NEPAD, G 20

Objectives of EPRs

- To improve the individual and collective environmental performance of countries by:
 - Providing countries with an independent assessment of progress in achieving national and international objectives, and targeted recommendations
 - promoting continuous policy dialogue among countries to spread good practices – peer learning
 - stimulating greater accountability to other countries and to the public

Environmental Performance

- Have national and international environmental policy objectives been achieved (i) efficiently and (ii) effectively?
- Are the policy objectives based on an assessment of benefits and costs?
- Performance: intentions, actions, results
- Interpret « performance » in the economic, social and environmental context of each country

Scope of EPR

Part 1: Progress toward sustainable development; common for all countries

1. Key economic, social and environmental trends
2. Governance: policy making environment
3. Toward socially inclusive green growth

Scope of EPR

Part 2: Two in-depth Issues selected by reviewed country

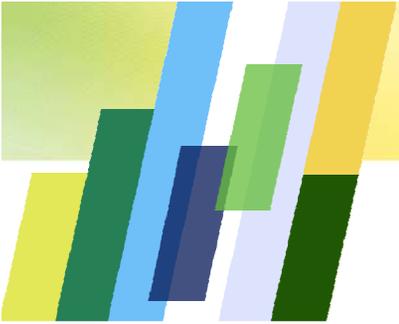
1. Biodiversity
2. Climate Change – mitigation and adaptation
3. Water (governance)
4. Tourism and Environment

Process

- Kick-off mission: agree on scope of review
- Information provided by reviewed country (questionnaire) and collected by secretariat
- Review mission involving secretariat and 2/3 reviewing countries; broad consultation with stakeholders
- Preparation of report
- Peer review: discussion of report in the OECD Working Party on Environmental Performance
- Publication and launch of EPR



Mid-term progress report



Examples of EPR Impacts

- Green tax reform in Denmark and France,
- Reform of water pricing and waste collection services in Ireland,
- Creation of:
 - Environmental Agency in New Zealand,
 - Environment Ministry and Inspectorate in Chile

Extending EPRs

- OECD conducts reviews of non-members: China, Chile, Colombia, South Africa
- In addition to OECD, UNECE has an Environmental Performance Review programme
- OECD has cooperated with UNECLAC to conduct EPRs of Chile and Colombia
- UNECE and UNECA cooperated on EPR of Morocco
- Strengthen and extend EPRs to UNECs?
- Different approach to EPRs

Designing a peer review process

- Scope: broad v narrow
- Peers: governments – which, how many
- Information: reviewed country (and secretariat)
- Report: reviewed country v secretariat and/or reviewing countries
- Peer review: discussion v assessment and recommendations
- Involvement of civil society



www.oecd.org/env/countryreviews

Thank you