

COUNTRY REPORTING ON THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR WSSD

Country: Latvia

Prepared by: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

A. Background

1. Does your country have a National Agenda 21 or a similar strategy/policy document?
(If yes, please list the key focus areas addressed in that document)
No. There are separate sectorial strategies with sustainability elements, like Long term economic development strategy – sustainable resource use, Sectorial programmes within Baltic Agenda 21 for energy, transport, agriculture, tourism, industry, fisheries, forestry.
2. Are there any Local Agenda 21 initiatives in your country?
Yes. There are a number of such initiatives – 9 municipality cooperation project on sustainable development planning based on sustainability indicators and public participation in the process, Jurmala/Riga/Cesis/Rezekne cities has launched LA21 process. Basically it covers teritorial planning with broad public participation covering different issues of Afenda 21.
3. How has your UNDP Country Office and/or National Capacity 21 Program been involved in the National Agenda 21/Local Agenda 21 process in your country?
Latvia has not been in the Capacity 21 process, so not really good link or cooperation has been established so far.

B. National WSSD Preparatory Process (ongoing/planned):

1. What are the key objectives of the preparatory process?
 - *Establishment of multi-stakeholder National Preparatory Committee*
 - *To structure and plan preparatory process activities*
 - *undertake national reviews/ assessments*
 - *raise awareness and mobilize stakeholders at the national and local levels*
 - *prepare a country report including a set of recommendations on how to continue in the Agenda 21 implementation after WSSD.*
2. When did it start?
This year
3. Who is financing the process? (Government, UNDP, Capacity 21, others...)
Government and Capacity 21 (tentative)
4. Which national agency is leading the process?
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
5. Who are the key stakeholders participating in the process? How are they participating?
Local municipalities, NGOs, scientific and educational community, business, mass media
6. What are the cross-cutting themes of the national WSSD preparatory process (e.g., poverty and sustainable development, sustainable energy, sustainable communities, etc.)?
Renewable energy, sustainable use of natural resources – forestry, fish, substitution of non-renewable resources, rate of pollution and regeneration capacity, sustainable social capital, ecological footprint, viability of economic sustainability v.s. economic growth

7. What is the methodology/mechanism established for the preparatory process? (working groups, consultation processes, reports, etc.)
Working group at the ministry, preparatory committee with multi stakeholder composition, multi stakeholder seminars (2) and wide participatory conference for discussing assessment results.
8. How has your UNDP CO and/or National Capacity 21 Program (if one exists) been involved in the preparatory process?
It is in planning process currently
9. What are the needs to ensure the continuation of the process (technical and/or financial)?
No special needs.

C. Workplan:

Planned activities	September – December, 2001
setting up secretariat for the work of National Preparatory Committee	September 15
organization of inventory and assessment process for identification of problems, weaknesses and barriers for implementation of Agenda 21 at national and local level	September 20 – October 20
to organize 2 round table discussions and 1 participatory conferences carry out assessment process and consultations for recommendation development	October 26, November 12, December 16
to organize wide communication process for getting attention and providing wider society input in the process	September – December, 2001 Continued after project completion
finalize and publish report in English and Latvian language	December 2001