

Working group 2: Key features of a national PRTR

Strengthening the capacities for developing a national PRTR in Mongolia

Background and Context:

A PRTR is an environmental and public database, or inventory, of potentially harmful releases and transfers to air, water and soil. It brings together information about which substances are being released, where, how much and by whom. Usually once a year, industrial facilities emitting more than a certain threshold of defined pollutants reports their data to the national authority in charge of PRTRs. The data is then aggregated and made available for public consultation. On the long-term, PRTRs provide governments with trends of emissions. They also create a powerful incentive for reporting facilities to take voluntary measures to cut down their emission, as well as encouraging them to go completely transparent. PRTRs usually present three similar main features: I) An online reporting software for facilities to submit data; II) A structured database where the emissions are stored and listed; and III) A PRTR website where data is presented to the public on an aggregate form using maps, reports and charts.

With the financial support of UN Environment Programme, via the SAICM Quick Strat Programme Trust Fund, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Mongolia and UNITAR are executing the project *Strengthening Capacities for Developing a National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) in Support of SAICM Implementation in Mongolia*. The objective of the project is to build technical and institutional PRTRs capacities in the country to design a PRTR system and run a pilot project. It is expected to be completed by December 2018.

Nature and objective:

Designing the key features of a national PRTR is an essential task regarding the design of a PRTR, as it would be the back bone of the national PRTR system. Indeed, a comprehensive vision is required, to allow countries to plan effectively their PRTR system, to devote efficient budget and activities for each step and to have a broad and comprehensive vision, avoiding gaps and replications in the administrative management or in the legal framework for instance.

Activities and outputs:

Concretely, the following activities will be undertaken:

- The scope of the national PRTR should be defined
- The strategy for legal implementation should be reviewed
- The strategy for data collection and data management procedure should be developed
- The procedures for data analysis should be developed.

The following output will be delivered:

- A summary regarding these activities will be developed.

Questions for discussion in the working group:

Procedural:

- Workplan:
 - What are the concrete steps to implement the above listed activities?
 - What are the intermediate milestones?
 - What is a realistic schedule?
- Roles and responsibilities:
 - What is the role of national PRTR stakeholders (governmental, industries and civil society)?
 - Which national institution should be involved at this stage?

Substantive:

- What is the goal of the national PRTR?
- Who are the relevant stakeholders?
- What are the chemicals in current use and/or main pollutants of concern in the country?
- What industrial sectors and other areas of economic activity are responsible for the most significant pollutant emissions and transfers in the country?
- What government agency or agencies are empowered under existing laws to implement a PRTR system?
- Are there opportunities to rationalize and streamline environmental reporting requirements through the PRTR system? What potential is there to integrate current reporting on releases to separate environmental media into a single PRTR database covering releases and transfers across all media?
- What software features are required for the national PRTR system in order to achieve the planned objectives and applications? (e.g. geographic information system (GIS) compatibility, on-line servicing of PRTR data to various government agencies, etc.)

In addressing these questions, it may be useful to consult: UNITAR's guidance *Supplement 2: Designing the Key Features of a National PRTR System*

http://cwm.unitar.org/publications/publications/cw/prtr/prtr_en/prtr_supplement_2_nov2003.pdf;
and the *Guidance on Implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer register*
<https://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr.guidancedev.html>

The draft key features of the national PRTR can follow this format:

PRTR features	Identification	What is envisioned while designing the PRTR
Scope of the PRTR (What would be the scope of the PRTR)		
Economic sector		
Industries		
Areas		
Which legislation already in place in Mongolia could refer to a PRTR?		
National authorities involved (Which ministries, offices, etc. should take part of the National PRTR design)		
Integration of PRTR into other reporting requirement (Is there other reporting requirement in place? How should the national PRTR be compared to those?)		
Reporting to a PRTR (Voluntary VS Mandatory?)		
Data collection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the thresholds should be defined? • Which chemicals should be included? • Point sources VS diffuse sources? • How the data should be collected 		
Other key features		