

MALTA

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING



(*) under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99

TOPICS COVERED

State of the environment tools and building blocks

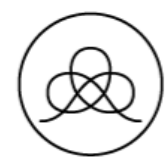
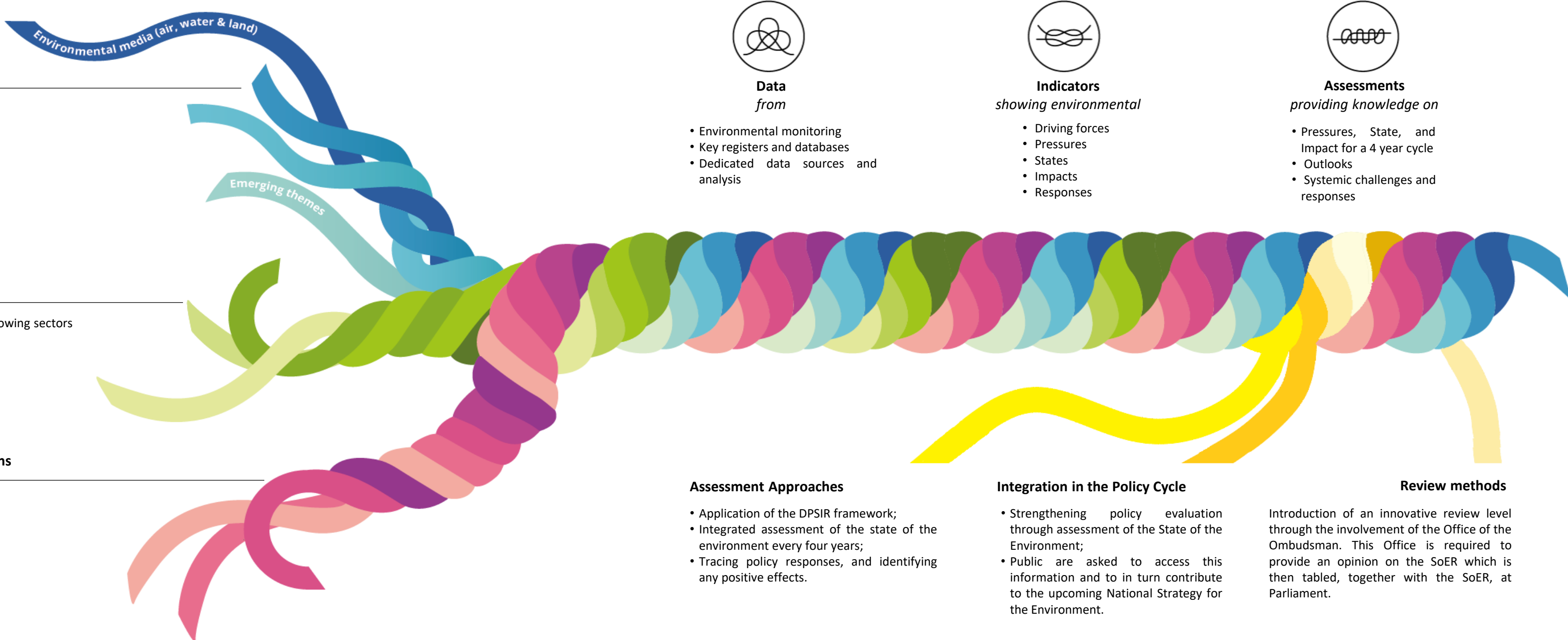
Themes

- Driving forces
- Biodiversity
- Marine and Fresh waters
- Resources and Waste
- Land and Coast
- Ambient Air
- Environmental Health
- Climate Change
- Policy Responses

Sectors

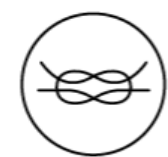
- Malta's 2018 SoE-report discusses the following sectors through the main themes:
- Transport
 - Industry
 - Agriculture
 - Energy
 - Fisheries and Aquaculture

Systems and Sustainability transitions



Data from

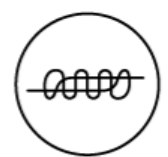
- Environmental monitoring
- Key registers and databases
- Dedicated data sources and analysis



Indicators

showing environmental

- Driving forces
- Pressures
- States
- Impacts
- Responses



Assessments

providing knowledge on

- Pressures, State, and Impact for a 4 year cycle
- Outlooks
- Systemic challenges and responses

Assessment Approaches

- Application of the DPSIR framework;
- Integrated assessment of the state of the environment every four years;
- Tracing policy responses, and identifying any positive effects.

Integration in the Policy Cycle

- Strengthening policy evaluation through assessment of the State of the Environment;
- Public are asked to access this information and to in turn contribute to the upcoming National Strategy for the Environment.

Review methods

Introduction of an innovative review level through the involvement of the Office of the Ombudsman. This Office is required to provide an opinion on the SoER which is then tabled, together with the SoER, at Parliament.

Advances in national state of the environment reporting

State of the Environment reporting in Malta

Information and knowledge for a sustainable environment

The State of the Environment Report is an essential tool to determine the status and trends of various environmental indicators and carry out an integrated assessment for a holistic determination of the state of the environment. This can then be used to identify key areas in which actions are necessary to safeguard the environment.

Malta's State of the Environment Report (SOER) was first published in 1999 and its publication was required every 3 years. Subsequent SOERs were published in 2002, 2006 and 2010. The new Environment Protection Act, 2016 now requires that this report is published every 4 years. Malta's latest SOER, the first issued by the newly established Environment and Resources Authority, was published in 2018. The goal of the report is to support progress towards sustainable development by providing credible environmental information to policy makers, organisations and the general public. In so doing, the report will increase awareness and understanding of key environmental trends and their causes and consequences, and of progress towards targets, among stakeholders. It will also provide a sound evidence base for improved policy and decision-making at all levels, while facilitating the effective measurement of environmental performance and progress towards sustainability. The DPSIR (Drivers-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses) framework was first adopted for the 2005 SOER and was used for all subsequent reports.

The target groups of Malta's SOER are primarily policy-influencers, politicians and the general public. The Ombudsman is a key figure in Malta's SOER landscape, as one of the main reviewers of the report and also a key-influencer. Key experts in their respective fields are commissioned to write the thematic chapters, which are then summarised into a concise holistic summary report by the Authority. The National Statistics Office is also a key collaborator, providing key data, and is involved in the peer review process.

The 2018 SOER consists of a concise printed report, backed by sub-reports, datasheets and indicators published on the ERA website. The report chapters are as follows: driving forces for environmental change; air; climate change; land and coast; fresh and marine waters; biodiversity; resources and waste; environment and health; and policy responses. A number of indicators were assessed for each theme. The 2018 report is being used to identify key environmental issues which will be addressed by the National Strategy for the Environment 2020-2050, which the ERA is mandated to develop under the Environment Protection Act. Indicators can also be used to assess the performance of the NSE.

The next SOER is due to be published in 2022. The work plan for the development of this report has been prepared. By the end of 2019, the framework for the SOER will be developed, working groups will be set up for each theme and knowledge gathering will have begun.