

**PEER REVIEWING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE OF MEMBERS OF THE UN EMG
PILOT PHASE: CONCEPT AND WORK PLAN
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** 13 JULY 2013

Background

At the 18th meeting of the EMG Senior Officials (EMG SOM, November 2012), Senior officials reviewed the paper “Peer reviewing the environmental profile of members of the EMG, a conceptual review of options” and chose the ‘gradual option’ with focus on corporate environmental management for facilities and operations. They requested the EMG Secretariat to proceed with a pilot phase for 2013-14. Three UN entities volunteered to be peer-reviewed: WMO, UNIDO, and UNEP.

This peer review mechanism is an important tool for co-operation and progress among UN entities. It is a way to contribute to strengthen the UN leadership role in furthering the global sustainability agenda. This is in line with the Rio+20 Summit outcomes and the UN Secretary General determination to have the UN lead by example and maintain sustainability as top priority.

The design of the pilot phase builds on the accumulated international experience with peer reviewing in a variety of international organizations including the United Nations and the OECD. It relies on mutual trust among peers and confidence in the peer review process. It builds around voluntary participation and non-obligatory recommendations.

The pilot program

Process: The review consists of four stages (i.e. preparatory, consultation, peer reviewing and ownership/release stages) for a year . It will be driven by a Secretariat, the review team, the peer review body (PRB), and the reviewed entity (Figure 1). The PRB will be established with a supervisory function for the program and a reviewing function of individual UN entities including the finalization of the recommendations. It reports to the EMG SOMs and is supported by the EMG Secretariat (Figure 2). The report to the EMG SOM 2014 will conclude the pilot phase, drawing lessons for the subsequent development of the program. As a first review of reviews to improve the process and substance of reviews, it would open the way to conducting four reviews per year.

Substance : The focus is on corporate environmental management concerning facilities and operations, as chosen by EMG Senior officials. A typical review report will include two standard chapters (GHG emissions and air travel, GHG emissions and buildings), two optional chapters (covering two topics chosen by the reviewed entity among: sustainable procurement, waste management , water management, ICT and greening events and meetings, local transport, staff awareness involvement and training, environmental liability). Finally a chapter of recommendations will be approved by the PRB.

Methodology: The review report includes factual evidence, independent assessment and non-binding recommendations. It gives credit for achievements and best practices, and outlines areas for progress. It uses data and indicators, refers to policy objectives (including aims, goals, targets) and cost-effectiveness in their pursuit. It also refers to a range of principles, criteria and standards. While there is a solid UN experience to draw from in conducting the reviews, there is also much room for progress, for instance in moving along the sequence intentions, actions and results.

The resource implications

For a reviewed entity one to two person month for its own review; for specific reviewing sister agencies half a person-month; plus the travel costs. Participating agencies will self-finance these expenses in a mutual supportive spirit.

For the EMG Secretariat: In addition to the existing staff, consulting time of around 30 weeks in 2013 and 20 weeks in 2014, including support for general program work and for the three individual reviews (e.g. management, expertise, consulting work); plus travel expenses for insight visits of the peer-review agencies would be needed. A basic support amounting to USD 90 000 for 2013- 2014 (70 000 for consultants and 20 000 for travel expenses), in addition to its current allocations and staffing is needed to help the EMG Secretariat support the peer-review pilot phase. Extra-budgetary sources from (e.g. donors, host governments, sponsors) and savings from improved corporate environmental management can be solicited for the second round of peer-reviews.

The benefits of the program are both for individual entities (reviewed or reviewing) and the UN as a whole. Reviews emphasize multiple benefits (transparency and accountability, consistency and coherence, credibility and exemplarity), promoting effectiveness (sharing best practices) and resource efficiency (e.g. cost-savings which are 'simply good business'). Derived products are also expected, identifying best practices and cost-effective results.

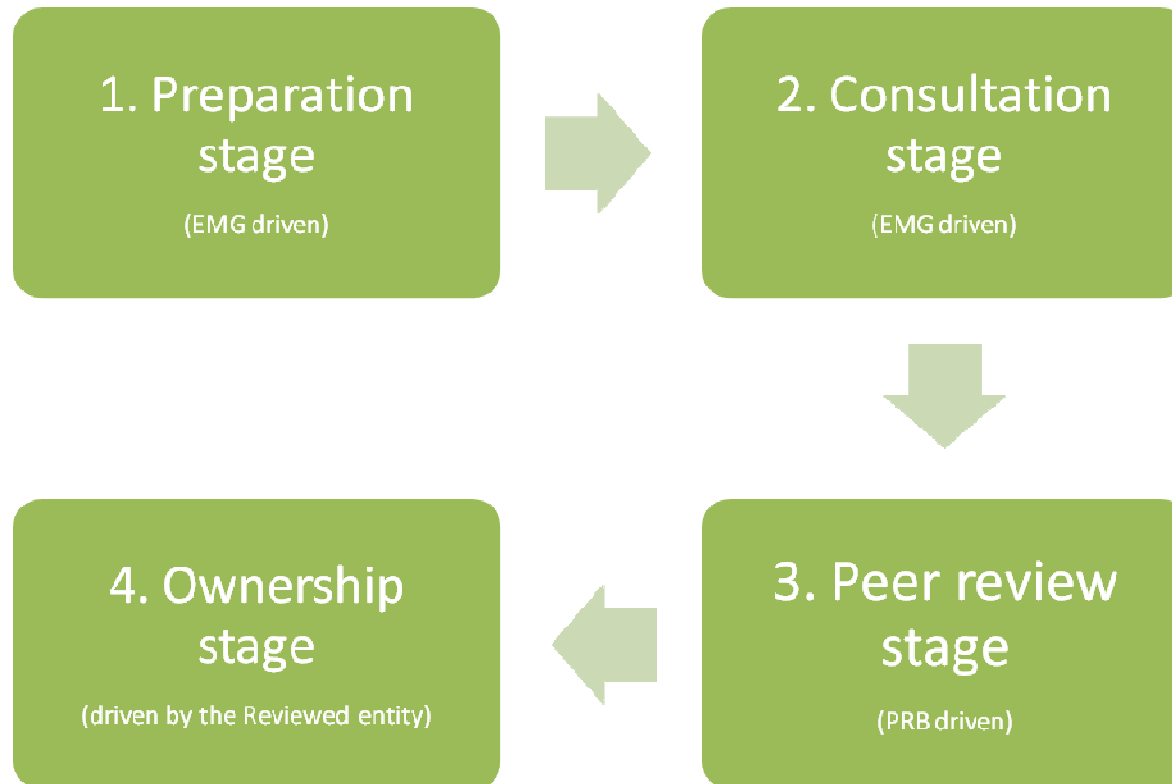
The detailed paper 'pilot phase: concept and work plan' is provided as a separate document.

Work plan for 2013-14

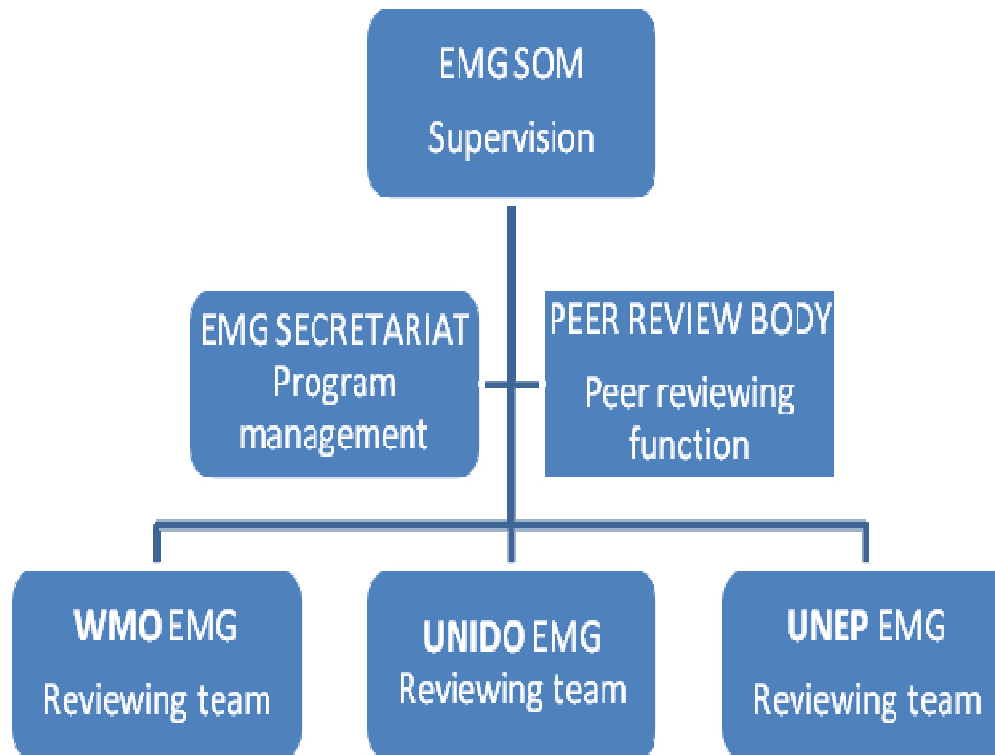
The work plan (Figure 3) focuses on the three pilot reviews and related meetings of the PRB and the EMG SOMs. Each review develops over a year time, with milestones associated to on-site review missions, reviews conducted by the PRB, and report and recommendations production. Two main meetings of the PRB are planned i) for the reviews of WMO and UNIDO (Geneva, January 2014) and ii) for the review of UNEP (New York, June or September 2014). The main actors include the reviewed entities (WMO, UNIDO, UNEP), the EMG Secretariat, and the Peer Review Body (PRB), under the overall supervision of EMG SOMs. It is expected that a number of UN entities will act as reviewing entities either in the Peer Review Body or in the three individual reviewing teams (e.g. UPU, FAO, WFP, WBG, UNDP, UNESCO) (Figure 4).

The release of individual reports and recommendations (in the ownership/release stage) will be quite important for the actual influence of the program. These releases will be in the hands of individual reviewed entities. The pilot phase will anticipate the further development of the program. It is expected that additional UN entities, being associated in different ways to the pilot phase, will volunteer during the period 2013-2014 for being reviewed subsequently.

1. STAGES FOR AN INDIVIDUAL REVIEW



2. PROGRAM ORGANIZATION CHART



3. WORK PLAN 2013-14: ACTIVITIES, TIMELINE, ACTORS, PRODUCTS

	TIMELINE 2013-2014 : months 1 to 24												
ACTIVITIES	1/ 2	3/ 4	5/ 6	7/ 8	9/ 10	11/ 12	13/ 14	15/ 16	17/ 18	19/ 20	21/ 22	23/ 24	MAIN ACTORS
1- Management concept, funding, PRB, questionnaire													EMG Sec
2- WMO review 4 stages:prep-consultation- reviewing- ownership		S1	S2 m	S2	S2	S3	S3 M	S4					EMG Sec, WMO, reviewing entities
3- UNIDO review 4 stages:prep-consultation- reviewing- ownership		S1	S2	S2 m	S2	S3	S3 M	S4					EMG Sec, UNIDO, reviewing entities
5- UNEP review 4 stages:prep-consultation- reviewing- ownership		S1				S2 m		S2	S2	S3	S3 M	S4	EMG Sec, UNEP, reviewing entities
6- EMG SOM 2013 Report					R								EMG SOM, EMG Sec
7- PRB meeting #1 Geneva: WMO & UNIDO reviews							2R						PRB, EMG Sec, WMO, UNIDO, all relevant entities
8- PRB meeting #2 New York: UNEP review, program dev											R		PRB, EMG Sec, UNEP all relevant entities
9- EMG SOM 2014 Report											R		EMG SOM, EMG Sec
10- Management Funding, next reviews													EMG Sec, PRB

PRODUCTS:

M= meeting of Peer Review Body(PRB)

m=on-site mission of reviewing team

R= report

MILESTONES

4. PEER REVIEW BODY IN SESSION

The Reviewed Entity (oval) is peer reviewed by Other Entities (blue circles, or white circles for specific reviewing ones). Chair (angular sector) is supported by EMG Secretariat (squares).

