The Twenty-eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG28)
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)
24-26 November 2026, Niigata, Japan

DRAFT TERMINAL REVIEW OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE EANET (2021-2025)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document has been prepared by an independent reviewer aiming at providing evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and promoting operational improvements, learnings, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned for the EANET.

2. The Report of the Draft Terminal Review of the Medium-Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2025) is presented as Attachment.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED

3. The IG28 is invited to consider the Report of the Draft Terminal Review of the Medium-Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2025) (EANET/IG28/9), and may wish to consider, discuss, provide guidance, and make comments and suggestions, as appropriate.

Attachment 1

Acid Deposition Monitoring Network of East Asia

TERMINAL REVIEW OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN 2021-2025

Draft report

2026-Oct-23

Terrence Thompson
Reviewer

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List of acronyms

ACAP	Asia Center for Air Pollution Research
APCAP	Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership
AREP	Annual Report of EANET Projects
EANET	Acid Deposition Monitoring Network East Asia
IG	Intergovernmental Meeting
MTP	Medium-Term Plan
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NC	Network Center
NFP	National Focal Point
PM2.5	Particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or smaller
PRSAD	Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (UNEP)
QA/QC	Quality assurance/quality control
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee on the EANET
TR	Terminal Review
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
VOC	Volatile organic compounds
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WPB	Work Programme and Budget

1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Terminal Review

The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) is a regional intergovernmental network established in 2001 for promoting cooperation among countries in East Asia to address acid deposition problems. EANET aims to provide policy makers with credible data and scientifically assessed information for decision-making and policy formulation on acid deposition issues.

To plan the activities and budget thoroughly in advance, the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) on the EANET decided to develop Medium Term Plans (MTP) for the EANET every five years, starting from 2006. The MTP (2021-2025) was developed in 2020 as the fourth medium term plan for the EANET based on the recommendation of the Mid-Term Review on the Implementation of the MTP for EANET (2016-2020) from January 2016 to June 2018 and the Working Group Meeting on Preparation of Development of the Medium-Term Plan for the EANET (2021-2025) in 2019. It also considered the discussion at the 10th Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC19) and the 21st Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG21) on the EANET in 2019.

As such, the MTP (2021–2025) proposed expanding the scope of EANET to address broader air pollution issues, enhancing activities related to air pollution solutions and measures, and strengthening strategic collaboration with relevant international organizations and among Participating Countries (PCs). The MTP (2021-2025) outlined five (5) specific objectives which activities were classified under. These specific objectives were: 1) monitoring of acid deposition including related chemical substances with quality assurance and quality control; 2) promotion of data utilization and dissemination; 3) promotion of capacity building; 4) enhancement of outreach activities; and 5) enhancement of cooperation and collaboration.

To support the implementation of the MTP (2021-2025), two categories of activities were introduced, Core and Non-Core Activities, with Core Activities comprising of essential functions and priority activities that are considered indispensable for achieving EANET's objectives and are financed through the Core Budget. Non-Core Activities, on the other hand, were introduced to provide greater flexibility in implementing activities beyond those covered under the Core Budget. These include new emerging activities, initiatives supported or co-financed by external partners, activities benefiting only limited number of PCs, and other activities funded through additional voluntary contributions or external financing. A dedicated Non-Core Budget was established to finance these activities through additional financial or in-kind contributions from Participating Countries and other partners.

The Secretariat, the NC, the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC), other relevant bodies of the EANET, and all participating countries under each of the objectives have jointly determined the activities and outputs to be achieved within the given 5-year period.

1.2. Objectives of the Review

The Terminal Review of the MTP (2021-2025) has the following objectives:

1) To provide insights on the current progress in the implementation of the MTP 2021-2025;
2) To provide evidence of results including recommendations to meet accountability requirements; and
3) To promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned for EANET.

1.3. Scope of work

In line with the monitoring plan of the MTP (2021-2025), the Terminal Review (TR) of the MTP 2021-2025 for the EANET was implemented by the Secretariat for the EANET from July to November 2026. As the parent organization of the Secretariat, United Nations Environment Program engaged an independent Reviewer (home-based Consultant) to conduct the TR of the MTP (2021-2025) under the guidance of the Coordinator of Secretariat for the EANET. The Secretariat ensured high-quality deliverables were submitted timely by the Reviewer consisting of analysis of the progress implementation, problems/challenges, and recommendations for improvement, implemented in the second half of the MTP 2021-2025 implementation.

The TR of the MTP 2021-2025 for the EANET reports:

1) The status of implementation of the activities from 2021 to 2025, including the difficulties and problems encountered, mitigation measures undertaken, and lessons learned.
2) Funding sources during this period.
3) Review of progress in achieving the overall objectives of the MTP from 2021-2025, achievements to the outputs and responses towards indicators.
4) Conclusion and recommendations of the terminal review based on situation and development of the EANET and other related activities, issues and developments on acid deposition and air pollution, with specific guidance for implementation of the next MTP (2026-2030).

1.4. Method

The TR used the participatory approach whereby key stakeholders are kept informed and consulted throughout the review process. The TR utilized the results framework outlined in the MTP (2021-2025) to quantify the extent to which the objectives and outputs were achieved over the five-year implementation period. Additionally, the assessment also made use of a five-point evaluation criteria to provide more context and supplement the quantitative data where possible. These evaluation areas include: (i) effectiveness, (ii) efficiency, (iii) relevance, (iv) coherence, and (v) sustainability. Review questions under each of the evaluation areas were presented to the key

informants to guide the discussion (Annex 2). A survey form was also circulated among the NFPs, SAC members, National Centers, and QA/QC managers. The survey focused on assessing the implementation of the MTP recommendations.

The Evaluator presented a draft TR report, virtually, to the Scientific Advisory Council in their 26th Meeeting, held in Kuala Lumpur on October 22, 2026. The Session acknowledged the Draft Terminal Review of EANET MTP (2021-2025) and made comments and recommendations from scientific and technical viewpoints for consideration at the IG28 of EANET, particularly on recommendation to assess the impact of EANET's activities at the country-level, particularly with regard to capacity building and policy development. The meeting accepted the draft report without any request for modification.

Limitations

Key limitations of the review were noted, mainly on the uneven representation of respondents and the low response rate to the online survey (12 out of 83 or 15%), the lack of field data collection to verify results, and language barriers. A total of 21 individual was invited for interviews, and 12 were carried out, resulting in a 57% response rate. Efforts were made to extend the timeframe for data collection to accommodate the availability of respondents and the allowance of written input to the interview questionnaire. The absence of field verification was addressed by relying on EANET's progress monitoring reports and relevant outputs available for review.

Data sources

The findings of the TR were based on the following:

1) Desk review documents:
    a. Medium-Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2021 – 2020) and with reference to previous MTP documents;
    b. EANET key documents: Instruments of EANET, Framework Agreement between EANET and UN Environment;
    c. Current Medium-Term Plan (MTP) for the EANET (2026-2030);
    d. Relevant key meeting background documentation, inter alia reports from Intergovernmental Meeting Reports of EANET, where the focus was given to the years of assessment period; Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting reports, Senior Technical Managers (STM) Meeting reports;
    e. Recent EANET main publications: The Fourth Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia; Summary of the Twentieth Anniversary of EANET; Guidelines for Establishing HAQMN in the EANET Region; Technical Manual for HAQM with Low-cost Sensors;
    f. External documents: Report of the Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project "Providing Support to Countries and Cities in Improving Air Quality in Order to Improve Environmental Quality and Health and Well-Being of All (2019-2023);

g. Other relevant documents, if necessary.

2) Interviews (virtual or by email) with:
   a. UN Environment Programme/ Secretariat for the EANET;
   b. Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP)/ Network Center for the EANET;
   c. Representatives of the EANET National Focal Points;
   d. Representatives of EANET Scientific Advisory Committee members;
   e. Selected EANET partners: Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP), the Asia Pacific Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP), the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP).
3) Surveys: online survey. Given the very low response rate to the survey questionnaire, only 15%, the Reviewer considered the results to be not representative of stakeholders' views. Survey results were therefore not considered in the review.

1.5. Deliverables

The complete process of the Terminal Review encompassed several deliverables:

1) The Inception Report included the desk review information from key documents of EANET, key discussions at the Inception Meeting, and the Framework Assessment included a full work plan and timeline to implement each activity, elaboration on methodology, list of resource persons to be contacted, and reference documents.
2) Draft Terminal Review Report.
3) Final Draft Terminal Review Report after accommodating inputs from Secretariat, the NC, and the National Focal Points and the SAC26 on the Draft Terminal Review Report.
4) A presentation on the findings of the Terminal Review to be presented at the SAC26 Meeting.
5) A Presentation on the findings of the Terminal Review to be presented at the Twenty-eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG28) of EANET after accommodating inputs from Secretariat, the Network Center (NC), the National Focal Points (NFPs), and the SAC26.
6) Revision of the Final Draft of Terminal Review Report by accommodating inputs and suggestions of the IG28.

2. Review of the Medium-Term Plan/MTP (2021-2025)

2.1. Objectives of the MTP (2021-2025)

The Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) was established in January 2001 through a decision (Decision 2/IG2) of the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG2) on the EANET after a consultative and stepwise process, which began in 1998. The EANET aims to create a common understanding on the state of acid deposition problems, to provide useful inputs to policy makers at various levels, and to contribute to cooperation on the issues related to acid deposition among the Participating Countries. In view of the serious threats of air pollution in each country, the EANET has expanded its scope through a decision of the Twenty-third Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG23) to include key atmospheric environment-related substances that are known major air pollutants such as, but not limited to, $PM_{2.5}$, ozone, and VOCs.[1] The objectives of the EANET have consequently been updated to reflect the expanded scope. Further to this, the drafting of the MTP (2021-2025) was anchored on nine (9) principles that the Participating Countries proposed and which EANET's activities are expected to align with:

i. Keep and extend the obtained experience of the EANET in developing the MTP;
ii. Concentration on the real needs of countries in monitoring and data handling or using;
iii. Continue with the scientific assessment of the EANET data and related information over the EANET region;
iv. Initiate and develop new environmental issues being common interest among countries;
v. Maintain the sustainability of the EANET monitoring;
vi. Pursue a policy on data dissemination and assessment;
vii. Develop a more complex evaluation of data including a specific simplified model application and environmental investigation of air pollution effects;
viii. Promote sound financial basis; and
ix. Promote cooperation among countries and with other regional initiatives on new environmental issues in the EANET region.

These principles helped define the MTP's (2021-2025) main objectives, captured in five (5) key points that help operationalize the EANET's core objectives (

Table 1).

[1] https://www.eanet.asia/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Supplementary-Document-Annex-to-EANET-Instrument-adopted-at-IG23-in-2021.pdf

Table 1. Objectives of the EANET and the MTP (2021-2025)

Objectives of the EANET	Objectives of the MTP for the EANET (2021-2025)
1) To create a common understanding of the state of acid deposition and air pollution problems in East Asia	**Objective 1: Monitoring of acid deposition including related chemical substances with quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) -** Assist Participating Countries to conduct qualified monitoring of acid deposition through providing technical guidance, maintenance of the monitoring instrument, improvements of the methods, guidelines, conducting quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) activities. **Objective 2: Promotion of data utilization and dissemination -** Collect, analyze and evaluate data of monitoring of acid deposition and share the results to relevant stakeholders to encourage them to utilize the results to tackle the acid deposition. The results include policy recommendations. To achieve this objective, research activities on selected subjects can be promoted.
2) To provide useful inputs for decision-making at the local, national, and regional levels aimed at preventing, or reducing adverse impacts on the environment caused by acid deposition and air pollution	**Objective 3: Promotion of capacity building -** Strengthen the capacity of the Participating Countries through various activities, including training, workshops, technical supports to Participating Countries, and fostering mutual capacity building cooperation.

Objectives of the EANET	Objectives of the MTP for the EANET (2021-2025)
3) To contribute to cooperation on the issues related to acid deposition and air pollution among the Participating Countries.	**Objective 4: Enhancement of outreach activities -** Enhance outreach to the stakeholders in order to raise their awareness, to encourage them to take appropriate actions and develop collaborative joint activities with EANET. **Objective 5: Enhancement of cooperation and collaboration -** Enhance collaborative and/or joint activities with relevant entities including international and/or regional organizations, acid deposition-related regional frameworks, financial institutions, research institutes, and interested governments of Non-Participating Countries, to tackle acid deposition issues.

2.2. Activities under the MTP (2021-2025)

To achieve the objectives of the MTP for the EANET (2021-2025), activities have been identified for implementation in the 5-year period, by the Secretariat, the NC, the SAC, other relevant bodies of the EANET, and all Participating Countries under each of the objectives. Activities identified under the MTP (2021-2025) are considered as the Core Activities of the EANET, while Non-Core Activities were developed and proposed separately for the approval of the IG in annual meetings. Specific outputs and implementation periods for each activity were identified in the annual Work Programme and Budget.

While the Secretariat and the NC worked together in achieving all the five objectives, the NC took the lead in the implementation of Objectives 1 and 2, while the Secretariat and NC collaborated as co-leads in implementing Objectives 4 and 5. No specific activities were identified under Objective 3 on promoting capacity building, however, as it is mostly achieved through activities carried out under the other four objectives rather than through dedicated activities of its own.

Table 2. Status of EANET core activities under the MTP (2021-2025)

No	Activities	Output	Indicators	Status as of December 2025
Objective 1: Monitoring of acid deposition including related chemical substances with quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC)				
1	Monitoring of acid deposition (acidifying species and related chemical substances) including an increase of EANET monitoring sites, improvement in monitoring methodologies and better instrument maintenance	1. More comprehensive monitoring in accordance with the technical documents	Number of increased monitoring sites and items	Air concentration and acid deposition site in 2024: 65 sites (+1.6% since 2020) The additional $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring sites were under the support of the IBAQ Programme. Ecological survey sites in 2024 Soil and vegetation: 33 plots, 10 countries (+6.5% since 2020) Inland aquatic: 19 lakes/rivers, 11 countries (+0%, no change)
		2. Updated SOP of each lab and QA/QC Guidebook	Number of labs that developed SOP	10
2	Development/revision of (technical) guidelines, technical manuals, and documents, as necessary	3. Revised guidelines for acid deposition in East Asia, revised technical manuals for air concentration monitoring and dry deposition flux estimation in East Asia by the respective task forces and/or expert groups under SAC	Numbers of increased sites and parameters related to improved guidelines, technical manuals, etc.	Two documents have been published that serve as guidelines for senior government officials, describing the institutional responsibilities, site selection criteria, and governance considerations[2]: (a) Guidelines for Establishing the HAQMN in the EANET region (Nov 2025) (b) Technical manual for HAQM with LCSs: Implementation Guidelines in EANET (Nov 2025) During the period from 2021 to 2025, the number of $PM_{2.5}$ and O_3 sites increased by 2, and the number of PM_{10} sites increased by 1, while the number of sites for SO_2, HNO_3, HCl, and NH_3 remained largely unchanged.
3	Development/update of strategy papers for guidance on the future direction of the	4. Updated strategy papers prepared by the respective task forces under SAC	Number of improved and/or new activities in	*Air quality* The Task Force on Monitoring and Assessment of the Atmospheric Environment (TFAE)

[2] https://www.eanet.asia/expanding-air-quality-monitoring-with-low-cost-sensors-what-policymakers-and-practitioners-need-to-know/

No	Activities	Output	Indicators	Status as of December 2025
Objective 1: Monitoring of acid deposition including related chemical substances with quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC)				
	monitoring, as necessary		accordance with the updated strategy papers	reported the following specific achievements and progress as of 2024: 1) Draft Technical Manual for Air Concentration Monitoring in East Asia 2) Draft Technical Manual on Dry Deposition Flux Estimation in East Asia 3) Analysis of long-term trends in sulfur and nitrogen deposition and inter-site comparisons 4) Implementation of the HAQMN (Hybrid Air Quality Monitoring Network) EANET project 5) Implementation of the EANET project for VOCs capacity building 6) Implementation of the EANET project for $PM_{2.5}$ source analysis *Ecological impacts*[3] Activities under the strategic document include the following: A. Accumulation of information on air pollution effects in forests and agricultural fields: 1) Annual scientific meetings for knowledge sharing 2) Project plan for trial campaign on ozone effects on plants 3) Conduct of ozone-effects trial campaign 4) Collaboration with other regional networks such as ICP Forests and ICP Vegetation B. Promotion of catchment analysis: 1) Advanced regular watershed monitoring

[3]Strategy Paper for Future Direction of EANET on Monitoring of Effects on Agricultural Crops, Forest and Inland Water by Acidifying Species and Related Chemical Substances https://www.eanet.asia/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Ecological_strategy_paper_2020.pdf

No	Activities	Output	Indicators	Status as of December 2025
Objective 1: Monitoring of acid deposition including related chemical substances with quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC)				
				and conducted watershed analyses C. Promotion of regional impact assessment 1) Conducted a study to examine methodologies for regional impact assessments in East Asia, highlighting the significance of nitrogen deposition.
4	Implementation of quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) activities on acid deposition	5. Annual inter-laboratory comparison surveys to identify analytical problems	Number of participating labs and number (percentage) of labs that all of the data are within the data quality objectives (DQOs)	Total no. of labs = 36 <u>Wet</u> No. of participating labs: 28 No. of labs submitting results: 25 No. (percentage) of labs that all of the data are within the DQOs: 40.0%[4] <u>Dry</u> No. of participating labs: 19 No. of labs that submitted results: 16 No. (percentage) of labs that all of the data are within the DQOs: 56.3%[5] <u>Soil</u> No. of participating labs: 6 No. of labs that submitted results: 16 No. (percentage) of labs that all of the data are within the DQOs: Not reported[6] <u>Aquatic</u> No. of participating labs: 17 No. of labs that submitted results: "Most" (pg.79) No. (percentage) of labs that all of the data are within the DQOs: 80%[7]

[4] ILC2025 pg. 15: The number of laboratories without flagged data was 10, which corresponds to 40% of all the participating laboratories.
[5] ILC2024 pg. 55: Figure 3.6 shows that the no. of labs having zero flagged data was 9. That corresponds to 9/16 = 56.3% of labs that submitted results.
[6] ILC2024 pg. 68: "data variability … is still too large for accurate comparison of regular monitoring data among participating countries."
[7] ILC2024 pg. 85: "The percentage of the laboratories without flagged data was 80%..."

No	Activities	Output	Indicators	Status as of December 2025
Objective 1: Monitoring of acid deposition including related chemical substances with quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC)				
5	Routine compilation, verification, evaluation, storage and provision of data and maintenance of database	6. A complete, updated dataset available within the next year		Data Reports for 2021 to 2024 are published and made available on the EANET website: • Data report 2021 • Data report 2022 • Data report 2023 • Data report 2024 • Data report 2025 (forthcoming)
		7. Annual publication of Data Report M3: Adoption of Data Report at SAC	Number of scientific papers citing EANET Data Reports	Number of research papers using EANET Data[8]: 2025: 72 2024: 64 No data for previous years. Data reports were adopted at the following SAC sessions: 2025 – TBD 2024 – SAC25 2023 – SAC24 2022 – SAC23 2021 – SAC22

[8] https://www.eanet.asia/list-of-research-papers-related-to-eanet-2024-2025/

No	Activities	Output	Indicators	Status as of December 2025
Objective 2: Promotion of data dissemination and utilization				
6	Conduct annual assessment of the state of acid deposition using trend analysis, numerical models	8. Assessments of the EANET data by the Task Forces and SAC including assessment of current status, trends, and use of model outputs	Number of scientific papers citing EANET Data Reports	Same as indicator/update above.
7	Development of Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PRSAD, regional assessment report published every 5 years), including the impact on plants and ecosystems.	9. Periodic Reports on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia (PRSAD)	Number of scientific papers citing PRSAD	No information on the number of scientific papers citing PRSAD. PRSAE5 is currently in preparation.
8	Regular updating of the website	10. Regularly updated website	Number of visited people to EANET website	<u>Number of website users:</u> 2025 – 7,400 (Jan to Sep 2025) 2024 – 7,373 (Jan to Sep 2024) 2023 – 7,400 (Jan to Oct 2023) 2022 – 10,044 (Aug 2021 to 2022) 2021 – 8,234 (Aug 2020 to 2021) <u>Number of email subscribers:</u> 2025 – 743 2024 – 745 2023 – 670 2022 – 387 2021 – 196 <u>Number of web stories published:</u> 2025 – 18 2024 – 24 2023 – 18 2022 – 14 2021 - 21 The email subscriber base has increased since

No	Activities	Output	Indicators	Status as of December 2025
Objective 2: Promotion of data dissemination and utilization				
				2021, but both user and subscriber counts have plateaued from 2023 to 2025.
9	Upgrading of the data management system in the NC to enable easy access by approved users	11. An improved data management system at the NC	Number of applications to obtain EANET data	Number of registered data users as of October 2025: 454 2024: Not available 2023: Not available 2022: Not available 2021: Not available Continuous improvements were made to the data management system as reported over the period of 2021-2025.

No	Activities	Output	Indicators	Status as of December 2025
Objective 3: Promotion of capacity building				
	No core activities under this objective (as its main objective)			

No	Activities	Output	Indicators	Status as of December 2025
Objective 4: Enhancement of outreach activities				
10	Promotion of public awareness on acid deposition including other priority chemical species, etc.	12. Public awareness and environmental education materials disseminated through publications, video promotional of EANET, info briefs, banners, email blurb, and photo archives	Number of related materials distributed	Communication Strategy and Plan including the promotion of EANET Project Fund. EANET Secretariat's LinkedIn Page was launched in June 2024. EANET publications/materials for public awareness and education: 1) Webstories (see status for No. 8) 2) Summary of the 20th Anniversary of the EANET (2021)

No	Activities	Output	Indicators	Status as of December 2025
Objective 4: Enhancement of outreach activities				
				3) Various videos of workshops/trainings
		13. Periodic issues of the Newsletter	Number of visited people to the related website	No information on the number of visits to the related website (news page). 10 newsletters disseminated from Jan 2021 to Dec 2025 (bi-annual schedule).
		14. Regional and/or national workshops on the prevention of acid deposition, including webinars, and to be implemented in line with EANET communication and media plan	Number of the public attended the awareness workshop	Five (5) EANET Regional Awareness workshops held from 2021-2025. Participants of the event: 2021 – 204 (online) 2022 – 79 (online; may be underestimated as several organizations connected with only a single account) 2023 – 129 (47 in person + 82 online) 2024 – 212 (123 in person + 89 online) 2025 – 372 (organized as part of Clean Air Week event)

No	Activities	Output	Indicators	Status as of December 2025
Objective 5: Enhancement of cooperation and collaboration				
11	Arrangements for the EANET Session agreed to by the IG	15. 1 session per year for the IG and SAC; and some TF/EG meetings held	Number of EANET Sessions held as planned	• Five (5) IG meetings • Five (5) SAC meetings • 10 WG meetings
		16. 1 session per year for the STM meetings held	Number of EANET Sessions held as planned	Five (5) STM meetings organized from 2021-2025 (annual).
12	Consideration on future development of the EANET	17. Recommendation on future development of the EANET as appropriate	Number of new and/or expanded activities	Number of projects/activities included in WPBs/AREPs: 2025 - 12 2024 - 10 2023 – 5 (Oct-Dec 2023)

No	Activities	Output	Indicators	Status as of December 2025
Objective 5: Enhancement of cooperation and collaboration				
				2022 - 11 2021 - 9
13	Review the arrangements of the EANET Secretariat and the NC	18. Improved performance and transparency of the Secretariat and the NC	Questionnaire survey to the participating countries	Results of the questionnaire survey were not available. However, it may be noted that the Secretariat and the NC organized regular coordination meetings throughout the period under review, including working group meetings, SAC, and IG meetings.
14	Revision of Guidelines on Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the NC taking account of the new decisions of the IG	19. Improved Guidelines on Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the NC if necessary	Implementation of periodic revision of Guidelines	Completed. Revisions to the Guidelines on Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and the NC was presented at the IG22 and IG25.
15	Review of the MTP (2016-2020), revision of the MTP (2021-2025) if necessary, and development of the next MTP for the EANET (2026-2030)	20. Final report on the review of the implementation of the MTP for the EANET (2016-2020)	Implementation of final review	Completed. The Terminal Review of the MTP (2016-2020) was presented at the IG23 and recommendations were to be considered for the drafting of the next MTP.
		21. Report on the mid-term review on the implementation of the MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) and Revised MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) as appropriate	Implementation of mid-term review	Completed. The Mid-Term Review recommendations were deliberated, and action points were proposed for discussion and consideration of the IG25. The outcome of which was to take into consideration the Mid-term Review's recommendations in the drafting of the next MTP, without necessitating PCs to adopt or endorse the Mid-Term Review Report.
		22. MTP for the EANET (2026-2030)	Development of the MTP (2026-2030)	Completed. Initial meetings for the drafting of MTP (2026-2030) were done in 2024 and the final draft was formally adopted by IG27 in Nov 2025, with some modifications. The final version is

No	Activities	Output	Indicators	Status as of December 2025
Objective 5: Enhancement of cooperation and collaboration				
				published on EANET's website[9].
16	Sharing a common understanding on atmospheric environment issues among the scientific community	23. Information sharing with scientific communities	Number of international organizations exchanged information	Number of events/organizations with which EANET data was shared: 1) ESCAP's RAPAP 2) CCAC/UNEP AQMx platform 3) WHO Air Quality, Energy and Health: Science and Policy Summaries 4) Africa Clean Air Programme Consultative meeting 5) 2025 Air Sensors International Conference, University of California Davis 6) Regional Dialogue on Tackling the Health Impacts of Haze Pollution 7) University of Eastern Finland – UNEP 19th Course on MEAs 8) Thematic discussions on Advancing the "Africa Clean Air Programme" through Africa-Asia Collaboration 9) UNECE and UNEP Mongolia Safer and Cleaner Vehicles Workshop

[9] https://www.eanet.asia/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/MTP2026-2030_ADOPTED-public-disclosure-no-budget_compressed.pdf

2.3. Funding sources of MTP (2021-2025) activities

The total voluntary financial contributions received from the PCs to the Secretariat and the NC budget for the five-year period is presented in Table 3. On the average, the Secretariat and the NC secured 77% and 78% of the approved budget, respectively[10].

The annual expenditure of the Secretariat for the five-year period was consistently within the approved budget and mostly within actual revenue received, although some years have noted the expenditure going beyond the respective revenues received. In 2023, expenditure (US$519,161) exceeded the revenue (US$421,626) by around 23%, while in 2024, expenditure (US$499,838) exceeded revenue (US$416,766) by around 20%. This was possible due to utilization of accumulated cash balance from prior years.

For the NC, the actual expenditure for the same period was also mostly within its actual budget, except in 2021 and 2023, when exceedances were noted. In 2021, the expenditure (US$468,048) exceeded the actual budget (US$439,961) by around 6%. In 2023, expenditure (US$358,145) exceeded the actual budget (US$355,142) to a lesser extent, by around 1%.

The data presented in Table 3 also points to the declining trend in the actual voluntrary contributions received by the Secretariat over the five-year period, indicating a persistent issue in funding. The share of estimated revenue (US$ 607,200 annually) actually secured declined steadily, from 88% in 2021 to 78% in 2025, reaching its lowest of 69% in 2023 and 2024. While the NC has also experienced funding gaps in some years, the year-on-year trend in its budget for core activities has only fluctuated and did not see a steady decline, with notable increase in 2024 (US$401,452) and 2025 (US$548,799).

Timely payment of financial contributions is cited as one of the major challenges to the implementation of activities. In some cases, particularly for the Secretariat, this has also led to delays in the contracting of a full-time coordinator which may have implications for some of the critical activities such as resource mobilization and coordination with partners. It is therefore essential that voluntary financial contributions from the PCs are provided on time in accordance with UN assessment scale.

The number of EANET Projects implemented under the MTP (2021-2025), which received funding from the EANET Project Fund and external contributions, including in-kind, are presented in Table 4. The implementation period of the EANET Projects is from 2022 to 2025, while Non-Core Activities in 2021 were implemented prior to the formal establishment of the EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline, which were adopted at IG23 in November 2021. Based on the approved Non-Core Budget for 2021, several activities were primarily financed by the surplus from the Secretariat and with financial or in-kind contributions by PCs.

[10] As reported in the MTP (2026-2030) and does not yet include contributions for 2025.

Since the implementation of the EANET Project Fund mechanism, the financial contributions grew from US$31,500 in 2022, to US$235,652 in 2024. Most notable, co-financing sources diversified in 2024 to include research and academic institutions (JSPS and Fudan University), and the Secretariat's available cash balance. The number of in-kind contributors also saw an increase specifically in 2024, with 12 different national agencies, research institutions, and partners organizations supporting EANET Projects.

Majority of the EANET Projects implemented under the MTP (2021-2025) were in support of Objectives 1 and 3, specifically for 2022 up to 2024. In 2021, the Non-Core Activities contributed towards other objectives which were not carried forward in subsequent years. This is notable as the MTP (2021-2025) does not have specific Core Activities under Objective 3, suggesting that Non-Core Activities were the primary means to achieveing this objective.

Table 3. Annual budget and expenditure from 2021 to 2025 (in USD)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Secretariat					
Approved budget	625,900	572,600	637,885	632,235	420,925
Actual revenue (from voluntary contributions)	535,074	475,793	421,626	416,766	476,299
Actual expenditure	436,683	427,169	519,161	499,838	214,029
Network Center					
Core activities					
Actual budget[11]	439,961	504,603	355,142	401,452	548,799[12]
Actual expenditure	468,048	465,188	358,145	399,690	No data[13]
Non-core activities					
Actual budget	223,397	-	-	-	-
Actual expenditure	195,943	-	-	-	-

[11] Total voluntary contributions to the NC by PCs and excluding support from Niigata Prefecture and Niigata City.
[12] Estimated budget as reported in WPB 2025.
[13] Not yet available.

Table 4. EPF budget and fund sources from 2021 to 2025 (in US$)

Year	Number of projects implemented, per objective	EANET Project Fund (in US$)	Co-finance (in US$)	In-kind contribution (in US$)
2021	Objective 1: 2 Objective 3: 4 Objective 4: 1 Objective 5: 2	N/A	400,300 *Approved Non-Core Budget	1) Russia 2) China 3) Rep. of Korea
2022	Objective 1: 1 Objective 3: 2	31,500	1) 31,500 (Japan)	
2023	Objective 1: 3 Objective 3: 5	191,589	2) 206,859	1) 38,000 (JSPS) 2) 3,700 (Philippines)
2024	Objective 1: 3 Objective 3: 7	235,652	1) 120,672 (Japan) 2) 29,956 (JSPS) 3) 2,500 (Philippines) 4) 77,700 (NIER, Rep of Korea) 5) 42,000 (Fudan University, China) 6) 42,000 (Secretariat available cash balance) TOTAL: 314,828	1) MoNRE-VN-IMHEN 2) DMH, Myanmar 3) PCD-MONRE, Thailand 4) GMIRT 5) AQMS-EQMD, EMB DENR, Philippines 6) MoE Cambodia 7) CESS 8) CRAES 9) JARI 10) NIES 11) Konkuk University 12) Clean Air Asia
2025	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available

2.4. Implementation of the recommendations of the MTR of the MTP (2021-2025)

The Mid-term Review of the MTP (2021-2025) was carried out in 2023 and offered eight (8) specific recommendations at the strategic, programmatic, and implementation levels. It should be noted that the Mid-term Review report was not formally adopted or endorsed by the Participating Countries, therefore no formal compliance assessment can be made on the implementation of each recommendation. Nevertheless, the Secretariat and the NC prepared the corresponding action points to the Mid-term Review's findings and recommendations for the consideration of the IG25, as presented in Table 5. The response generally expressed the suitability of incorporating the recommendations into the design of the next MTP (2026-2030), rather than implementing these within the remainder of the MTP (2021-2025) period. As such, the status presented in the table below describes the extent to which each recommendation appears to be reflected in the adopted MTP (2026-2030).

Table 5. Mid-term Review recommendations, corresponding action points, and status as of Dec 2025

Action point prepared by the Secretariat and NC	Status	
RECOMMENDATION 1: For EANET to make use of project level activities to explore the role that it can play in the wider issue of air quality monitoring and management in the region, based on its comparative advantage and options for added value.		
▪ The Secretariat and the Network Center are already using the project level activities to support the wider issue of air quality monitoring and management; further linkages will be integrated into the MTP (2026-2030).	▪ The Fifth MTP (2026-2030) is described to be the first MTP to substantially address EANET's expanded scope with wider atmospheric environment pollutants, and with proposed activities that align with the outcomes of the MTP (2026-2030).	
RECOMMENDATION 2: For EANET to develop a change management plan to inform the transition process of EANET aiming at the expansion of the scope of the network and ways in which to achieve this, informed by the learnings from project level initiatives and what these mean for the direction of the network.		
▪ A change management plan can be discussed and defined for consideration of the IG as part of the preparation of the MTP (2026-2030).	▪ No change management plan reflected in the MTP (2026-2030) or prepared as a standalone document.	
RECOMMENDATION 3: For EANET to develop its capacities in results-based management and apply this approach to the design, implementation, and review of core as well as project activities and in this way enhance aspects of accountability and learning across the network and its initiatives.		

Action point prepared by the Secretariat and NC	Status	
▪ The proposed modifications to the Project Fund and Project Guideline include clarifying and strengthening the results-based management logical framework; a results-based management training was planned for 2024 (online).	▪ The MTP (2026-2030) now includes a Theory of Change, an output-outcome results framework with milestones. ▪ Workshop on Results Based Management to Support the EANET Project Development and Evaluation was conducted virtually by ACAP(with support from MoEJ) in March 2024	
RECOMMENDATION 4: For UNEP ROAP to ensure it uses both its technical and strategic capacities to support EANET's development and the expansion of its scope, while clearly firewalling such support from the Secretariat function that UNEP provides to the network.		
▪ UNEP ROAP to ensure its role as host to the Secretariat of the EANET and sustain its efforts to support activities and strengthen linkages with global, regional, and national air quality management-related efforts.	▪ Ongoing. UNEP ROAP maintains its role as the host of EANET's Secretariat.	
RECOMMENDATION 5: For EANET and the NC to explore the opportunities for expanding the number of technical network centers that provide support to PCs on acid deposition and air quality monitoring and management related issues and in this way enhancing institutional capacities in the region.		
▪ The Secretariat and the Network Center can clarify and define what technical network centers are and how such centers can support EANET, for discussion as part of the prepararion of the MTP (2026-2030).	▪ Not reflected in the MTP (2026-2030).	
RECOMMENDATION 6: For EANET and its partners, to enhance linkages between EANET's role of air quality monitoring and policy level decision-making on air quality management issues at national and regional levels.		
▪ The enhancement of linkages to policy level decision-making on air quality management issues may be discussed and proposed as part of the draft MTP (2026-2030).	▪ This is reflected in the MTP (2026-2030). Part of Outcome 2 is to increase the access to evidence-based policy relevant information with science and policy interface activities, which include contributing to dialogues led by partners (e.g., NEACAP).	
RECOMMENDATION 7: For EANET and the PCs, to enhance the financial sustainability of EANET, including enhancing and diversifying the budget for project activities and improving timeliness of submissions of resources to the EANET Trust Fund.		
▪ The EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline is meant to supplement the financial sustainability project activities. A Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy is being prepared by the	▪ The EANET Project Fund and Project Guidelines was revised in 2024 and adopted by the IG25. A Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy has been incorporated in the MTP	

Action point prepared by the Secretariat and NC	Status	
Secretariat and will be discussed and proposed as part of the MTP (2026-2030).	(2026-2030).	
RECOMMENDATION 8: For EANET to provide opportunities for the development of an online community of practice, linked to the EANET website and enhance other aspects of the website, enhancing EANET's visibility.		
▪ Strategies to improve EANET website's visibility and engagement tools can be further discussed in 2024 and included in the draft MTP (2026-2030).	▪ This is reflected in the MTP (2026-2030). Part of Outcome 3 activities intend to promote EANET's work through various communication channels (i.e., newsletter, website, and social media platforms). However, there is no explicit output that includes developing an online community of practice.	

Legend

Good progress
Deferred to next MTP
No action/no deferment

3. Findings

3.1. Effectiveness

Key question: To what extent were the intended outputs and outcomes of the activities under the MTP (2021-2025) have been achieved?

The indicators identified under the results framework of the MTP (2021-2025) were utilized to objectively assess the status of implementation of activities and is presented in Table 2. Highlights of the general progress achieved under each objective are described below.

Objective 1: Monitoring of acid deposition, including related chemical substances with quality assurance and quality control – *Assist Participating Countries to conduct qualified monitoring of acid deposition through providing technical guidance, maintenance of the monitoring instrument, improvements of the methods, guidelines, conducting QA/QC activities.*

Progress achieved

a) The number of air concentration and acid deposition monitoring sites in 2024 has increased to 65, from 64 in 2020. The number of ecological survey sites for soil and vegetation has increased to 33 in 2024, from 31 in 2020. The number of inland aquatic sites remains the same since 2020 with 19 sites.
b) Annual inter-laboratory comparison (ILC) surveys carried out, with reports published from 2021 to 2024. In the 2024 ILC report, all the analytical data of 2 laboratories met DQO, while the percentage of the data within DQO in 6 laboratories was below 80%. This is in comparison to 7 laboratories with below 80% in previous years.
c) The Guidelines on establishing Hybrid Air Quality Monitoring Network (HAQMN) and the Technical Manual for Low-Cost Sensors (LCS) were published in 2025.
d) Publication of the Data Reports for 2021 to 2024 within the anticipated timeframe (1-year), with 2025 still in preparation as of reporting.

Key findings

Overall, the EANET activities on monitoring for acid deposition and related chemical substances have been completed according to plan. Delivery of technical support and capacity building activities are still expected to continue to be offered to LDC members of the EANET. The demonstration project on the LCS and HAQMN monitoring is one that purposely addresses the key constraints among resource limited countries, by providing cost-effective solutions to the expansion of the monitoring network. However, the need for external financial support continuous to be the outstanding issue in the implementation of the HAQMN system.

Routine support was offered by the NC to the PCs to address technical issues in wet and dry deposition monitoring, and the QA/QC exercises have been beneficial for PCs. Some improvements, while modest, have been noted in the decrease in number of laboratories with percentage of data

within DQO below 80% as recorded over the span of the MTP (2021-2025) implementation period.

Some views about the applicability of study results and data have been raised, particularly on the $PM_{2.5}$ source apportionment, as study areas were implemented in countries outside of their own and which might have different environmental conditions and emission source profiles. This raises the concern to which such location-specific studies can appriopriately inform policies or response actions in other PCs.

Feedback from stakeholders on the usefulness of strategy papers were generally positive, with some noting how the strategy papers have provided long term scientific direction by identifying their monitoring gaps and parameters, rather than prescribing activities in their national monitoring plans.

Objective 2: Promotion of data dissemination and utilization – *Collect, analyze and evaluate data of monitoring of acid deposition and share the results to relevant stakeholders to encourage them to utilize the results to tackle the acid deposition. The results include policy recommendations. To achieve this objective, research activities on selected subjects can be promoted.*

Progress achieved

a) Data Reports for 2021 to 2024 have been made available on EANET's website.
b) Drafting of the Fifth Periodic Reports on the State of Atmospheric Environnment in East Asia (PRSAE5) has been initated with the organization of the Drafting Committee and Lead Authors meeting.
c) EANET website regularly updated with relevant content, including the reflection of the expansion of scope of the EANET with the EANET Project Fund and Project Guidelines.
d) EANET data is promoted on the AQMx platform[14] developed by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, and on the RAPAP platform[15].
e) Maintenance of the data management system have been carried out by the NC, including identification of problems and points for improvement to the system.

Key findings

There is a general appreciation of the EANET's data and publications, and it is often credited by PCs and partners to be the most valuable reference on acid deposition monitoring in the region due to its long-established dataset. In the last two years, EANET monitoring data was utilized by 136 peer-reviewed papers. Feedback from partners have also suggested EANET's data and technical resources have served as their point for engagement, such as the case with ESCAP's RAPAP and NEACAP, and mainly through information sharing at meetings and workshops. The PRSAE (previously referred to as PRSAD) encapsulates the results of all the monitoring activities of the EANET and is important in communicating EANET's work. It's publication, however, is delayed by at least one year after the reporting period, which may affect the timeliness of the information available to stakeholders.

[14] https://aqmx.org
[15] https://www.rapap-platform.org/Multilateral-Mechanisms

Nonetheless, this suggests that EANET's comparative advantage lies in its long-term monitoring activities and data output. Information on specific monitoring indicators for Activity 7 on the PRSAD development, specifically on the number of scientific papers citing the PRSAD, was not available at the time of writing.

The EANET website has effectively served as the primary repository of data and information. In the latest communication survey among users (contact persons, NFPs, and QA/QC managers) administered in 2025, it was found that the EANET website was still largely favored over email updates and direct contacts, serving as the primary engagement medium to stay informed about EANET. In previous surveys, it was reported that the website was the main source for accessing classified documents, download monitoring data, publication and reports, and for keeping posted on upcoming events. The number of website users is reportedly at 7,400 as of 2025, which has remained relatively consistent since 2023 following the user database cleanup. In terms of expanding the userbase, suggestions have surfaced to consider the primary channels (specifically among the available social media platforms) the target demographics are using.

Objective 3: Promotion of capacity building – *Strengthen the capacity of the PCs through various activities, including training, workshops, technical supports to PCs, and fostering mutual capacity building cooperation.*

Progress achieved

a) Training and capacity building delivery are embded in majority of the EANET Projects. The total number of EANET Projects approved between 2021 and 2025 is 48.

Key findings

Capacity building activities are not immediately identified in the MTP (2021-2025), but EANET Projects are the primary means for achieving this objective. Trainings and capacity building activities were carried out as part of EANET Project plans, as such, no clearly defined or uniform monitoring indicators are presented in the project completion reports. Individual EANET Projects may also have multiple components that target different technical competencies in atmospheric environmental monitoring and management.

Feedback from key informant interviews generally agree on the positive impact of EANET's capacity building on the overall process including monitoring and QA/QC activities, among others. Notably with the expansion of scope is the addition of specific topics or themes, such as the $PM_{2.5}$ and VOCs monitoring and management, indicating that the expansion of scope has translated to substantive changes in the project work areas.

The collaboration between the NC and the Republic of Korea's National Institute of Environment Research (NIER) to deliver individualized trainings, through the Technical and Training (TNT) and Capacity Building Program that aims to improve key areas of competencies for air quality monitoring,

has been in place since 2021. It stands out for being an institutionalized capacity building program that provides PCs continuous opportunities to build technical skills.

Some of the complications during the first years of the MTP period was due to the pandemic restrictions on travel. In-person events were cancelled, and online delivery of trainings and seminars were necessitated to fulfull the project plans. The benefit of this arrangement was the reduced cost for logistics, however some feedback from participants and stakeholders interviewed their preference for interactive activities that might only be possible in in-person events.

Obejctive 4: Enhancement of outreach activities – *Enhance outrach to the stakeholder in order to raise their awareness, to encourage them to take appropriate actions and develop collaborative joint activities with EANET.*

Progress achieved

a) A Communication Strategy and Plan was developed that included the promotion of the EANET Project Fund.
b) Annual regional and national workshops were held for 2021 to 2025.
c) A total of 10 biannual issues of the EANET newsletters has been released between 2021 and 2025.
d) Recordings of webinars have been shared for public viewing.
e) A Digital Data Report was prepared that included recommendations on increasing the engagement of website and social media channels.
f) Email campaigns were released regularly every two months in 2025.

Key findings

Core activities of the Secretariat and NC for this objective focus mainly on developing materials and delivering awareness raising activities, which were consistently implemented over the course of the MTP (2021-2025). Among these include the regional awarenes workshops organized annually that brings together the stakeholders from all PCs and the broader public to strengthen recognition of EANET's work and the issues it addresses. Over the years, participation in these workshops has improved substantially, from 204 participants in 2021 to 372 in 2025. The shift to hybrid online and in-person delivery may have contributed to this increased number of participants, although online formats may not be fully verifiable.

The technical materials produced from EANET Projects, such as reports and webinar recordings, are also showcased and disseminated through various communication channels. The increased efforts by the Secretariat to utilize social media were seen as necessary to reach a broader audience and direct to the EANET website, which has seen a plateau in the number of visits.

Beyond the engagement metrics, there is limited evidence that monitoring of the actual impact of EANET’s outreach activities is being carried out. Moreover, understanding the communication

preferences of each stakeholder group may help EANET or the PC themselves in designing more targeted and contextualized outreach strategies, as expressed by some stakeholders who have noted that certain channels (i.e., website and newsletters) are not necessarily effective in their countries when targeting the broader public. Demonstrating that outreach efforts are genuinely resonating with stakeholders, potential donors, and partners can strengthen the evidence base needed to justify continued or increased financial support for the network.

Objective 5: Enhancement of cooperation and collaboration – *Enhance collaborative and/or joint activities with relevant entities including international and/or regional organizations, acid deposition-related regional frameworks, financial institutions, research institutes, and interested governments of Non-Participating Countries, to tackle acid deposition issues.*

Progress achieved

a) Regional awareness workshop held in conjunction with other events, i.e., Clean Air Week,
b) The Partnership and Resource Mobilizaation Strategy was developed as part of the MTP (2026-2030).
c) Revision of the Guidelines on Administrative and Financial Management for the Secreatriat and NC in 2024.
d) The MTP (2021-2025) review and MTP (2026-2030) drafting process were carried out within the planned period.

Key findings

Core Activities under Objective 5 in the MTP (2021-2025) are focused on the EANET's institutional governance and targeted information exchange. Essential operations such as the organizing of sessions for the IG, SAC, WG, and STM were regularly held as planned, and the MTP review and development process were delivered within the required period, with the mid-term review carried out in 2023 and the MTP (2026-2030) prepared by 2025. The Guidelines on Administrative and Financial Management for the Secretariat and NC was revised and adopted in 2024.

The indicator for the review of the Secretariat and NC arrangements called for the conduct of questionnaire survey among the PCs, the results of which were not available for this TR. Corresponding to this, the Secretariat and the NC have held regular coordination meetings during milestone activities, i.e., IG and SAC meetings.

Information sharing with scientific communities were delivered mostly through collaboration with other organizations and initiatives, most notably in the joint events and forums that cover technical discussions with PCs, policymakers, and researchers. These enagements bolster EANET's relevance within the broader international scientific communities, but a question remains as to what this translates to in terms of concrete outcomes, which are not currently captured unde this objective's indicators.

Perhaps the most tangible illustration of EANET's influence beyond its current membership is interest expressed by the Government of Sri Lanka to become a member of the network. Due considerations were given to allowing this membership, however, the current financial situation of the EANET seems to be the most significant factor constraining its ability to accommodate new members, given the challenges in securing sufficient and timely voluntary contributions from the current members. Enagement with non-PC, in this case, remains limited to participation in meetings and information exhanges. This also highlights that there is demand for EANET's expertise, but the current financial arrangements and membership model may limit the network's ability to respond to that demand.

Based on the implementation status and the outputs under this objective, it may be described that all requirements of each activity have been fulfilled. However, contrast to the broader indicators used to describe Objective 5, that is to "*Enhance collaborative and/or joint activities with relevant entities including international and/or regional organizations, acid deposition-related regional frameworks, financial institutions, research institutes, and interested governments of Non-Participating Countries, to tackle acid deposition issues,*" some gaps are observed in terms of tracking the engagement with financial and research institutions as part of Objective 5 itself. This suggests an opportunity in future MTP development and reviews to capture as specific indicators of activities the partnerships with financial and research insitutions, as well as Non-Participating Countries, and the envisioned outcomes of these engagements.

3.2. Efficiency

Key question: To what extent were the activities under the MTP 2021-2025 implemented efficiently to achieve the intended outputs and outcomes?

Key findings

While most of the Core Activities outlined in the MTP (2021-2025) have been implemented as planned, concerted effort was made to efficiently deliver the outputs and results in light of the financial situation of the EANET. The delays in the remittance of the voluntary contributions is reportedly the single most significant factor in the timely implementation of activities.

Where administrative requirements have affected the participation of certain PCs in specific activities, the NC has played a complementary role as the fund holder, helping to facilitate the country's continued participation. This flexibility in the financial and administarive arrangement helped EANET eliminate some of the barriers to participation of some countries.

While the EANET Project Fund mechanism is well underway, with the Project Guidelines already approved and published, there is still some uncertainty among PCs on the administrative process for accesing the fund.

Communication and coordination among the Secretariat, the NC, and PCs were generally regarded as efficient given the well-established relationship forged between these stakeholders, despite the changes in the Secretariat's set-up in the past year due to the vacancy in the coordinator post.

3.3. Relevance

Key question: To what extent did the MTP 2021-2025 address the needs and priorities of the PCs and of the region?

Key findings

EANET has effectively confirmed its expanded scope through the various projects approved and implemented over the course of the MTP (2021-2025) period. The expanded scope was welcomed by stakeholders in general as there has been a shift in the priorities for some PCs, specifically towards tackling air pollution and the impacts of meteorological conditions on air pollution, and that acid deposition may no longer be a concern in other parts of the region.

Stakeholders have expressed interest in further expanding activites of the EANET to explore the nexus of air pollution, climate change, health, and ecological impacts. This may help enhance EANET's relevance in the region, but an important consideration is the extent to which EANET is allowed to engage in partnerships or collaborations in these interconnected topics, given that project proposals need to adhere to the limits of the scope of the EANET, but are also subject to the approval of the IG. There are also interests in strengthening EANET's monitoring approach by complementing ground-based monitoring with satellite data, modelling, and emerging technologies such as drones and low-cost sensors. This points to the opportunity to expand the spatial coverage of the monitoring network and dataset through cost-effective methods.

Some stakeholders noted there may be duplication of efforts particularly in trainings delivered by EANET with those offered on other platforms. It should be noted however, that trainings and seminars delivered under EANET Projects are often targeted or tailored to the context of the region or of the PCs involved, and proposals would have undergone deliberation prior to their implementation.

3.4. Coherence

Key question: To what extent was the MTP 2021-2025 coherent with and complementary to other national, regional, and international initiatives addressing acid deposition and air pollution?

Key findings

EANET has demonstrated coherence with other regional cooperation mechanisms on air quality, mainly through collaborations in joint events such as with ESCAP and APCAP, and through its role as a Contributing Network to the WMO's Global Atmoshpere Watch (GAW) Programme. EANET is also well placed within the air quality portfolio of UNEP, serving as a knowledge base on acid deposition and air quality information, and allowing relative ease in coordinating with other initiatives and intergovernmental bodies, including RAPAP, NEACAP, and the ASEAN haze agreement.

It is widely acknowledged that EANET's long-established regional monitoring data and network of technical experts is its key added value to any collaboration. Opportunities to promote the adoption or application of EANET-developed guidelines and manuals on LCS is an example, through collaborating with partners on projects that support LCS deployment in the region. At the same time, stakeholders have expressed interest in having EANET work closely with initiatives recognized as highly interconnected with air pollution and acid deposition, such as those addressing climate change, health, and agricultural impacts.

3.5. Sustainability

Key question: To what extent are the achievements of the EANET, specifically under the MTP 2021-2025, likely to be sustained?

Key findings

The recurring issue in delayed voluntary contributions has impacted EANET's success in delivery of activities and its regular administrative operations. From 2021 to 2023, voluntary contributions to the Secretariat were mostly transmitted during the 3rd quarter of the calendar year, which poses significant implications in the capacity of the Secretariat to deliver activities and outputs. As UNEP requires a reserve fund to maintain operations of the Secretariat, timely transmittal of voluntary contributions is important to help meet this requirement.

Apart from the delays, the steady and consistent decrease in the contributions secured over the five-year period has been noted. The support to the Secretariat's Core Budget dropped by 21.6% between 2021 and 2024, from US$535,074 to US$416,766.[16] Some stakeholders have expressed the need to

[16] Data for 2025 not yer available as of writing.

highlight evidence of EANET's success and contribution in individual countries to help substantiate the cause for contributing to EANET.

The Non-Core Budget or EANET Project Fund mechanism received generally positive feedback from the NC and PCs in terms of its practicality, particularly in the diversity of funding sources it allows and its responsiveness to the specific needs or priorities of PCs in the short-term. In recent years of the MTP implementation, a more diverse fund source has supported the implementation of projects. In 2024, there were over 10 contributors that included PCs and external partners that offered either financial or in-kind support.

The recurring delays and declining Core Budget contributions highlight the need for a more diversified resource base, while the positive experience with the Non-Core Budget demonstrates the benefit of maintaining flexible funding mechanisms to support specific projects. Beyond financial resources, the commitment of PCs, the technical expertise of individual staff, and the wider scope of activities are considered as key factors in sustaining the network.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

Over the last 20 years, EANET has maintained momentum and strengthened its role in addressing acid deposition in the region, first and foremost, by providing comprehensive monitoring data and continually developing the monitoring capacities of PCs. This is seen as the single most important accomplishment of the network, something that should be continued and further enhanced. Further reinforcing its importance is the decision to expand the scope of EANET to include atmospheric environment related substances, which was widely welcomed by stakeholders and was seen as a timely and necessary response to the air pollution challenges in the region. This has allowed the EANET to remain relevant amid the shifting priorities among some PCs, while still fulfilling its original purpose of addressing acid deposition in the region.

The introduction of the Project Fund mechanism in 2021 has enabled EANET to diversify its funding base for non-core activities and gives due merit to the non-financial contributions that PCs and external partners can offer. The diverse Project Fund contributors is a promising signal of the collaborative potential of EANET's work, particularly on building the evidence-base for development of air pollution control strategies.

Institutionalizing EANET within UNEP has benefited the network in several ways, such as when UNEP has maintained its administrative support to the Secretariat, allowing for some of the day-to-day operations to continue despite the absence of a coordinator. Additionally, it has facilitated the coordination with other regional platforms, specifically ESCAP's RAPAP and NEACAP, and in regional events such as the annual Clean Air Week organized by UNEP which allowed EANET to achieve its objective in sharing information to a wider audience.

Despite the accomplishments achieved in this period, a fundamental barrier to EANET's continued success is its financial sustainability, as shown in the delayed and declining voluntary contributions of PCs. Stakeholders have recognized that this is symptomatic of the nature of an intergovernmental network reliant on voluntary contributions, which are inherently contingent on the priorities of individual countries. The calls for evidence on EANET's impact may support the case for renewing and continuing financial support from PCs. Nonetheless, EANET should be promoted on the grounds of its distinctive intergovernmental arrangement that espouses knowledge sharing and mutual capacity building to address a shared environmental challenge, while emphasizing its value beyond measureable outputs and indicators through the opportunities it creates for sustaining regional cooperation.

4.1. Recommendations

Several recommendations are offered below to address the network's multifaceted, covering areas that encourage the strategic promotion of EANET, cooperation and coordination with partners, and addressing the financial sustainability of the network.

1. **For EANET to plan an assessment of the impact of its activities in each PC, focusing on the policy development related to acid deposition and air quality management carried out since EANET's inception.** There is a clear impetus to demonstrate the EANET's consequential impact over the years, specifically on how its data has led to policy outcomes that addresses acid deposition and atmospheric pollution in each country. Ideally, this will provide strong evidence to reassure PCs of the continued value in supporting EANET's Core Activities and encourage participation in EANET Projects. Project-level assessments may also be considered to aid in the planning and design of subsequent related activities or project phase.

    a. As part of future MTP evaluations, consider reporting on the individual PCs progress in key result areas that may be defined and agreed upon by the PCs themselves. This may include verifying whether specific capacity building activities led to demonstrated improvements in the corresponding technical skill or process targeted by the activity.

    b. Adopting the indicators identified in the MTP for the annual progress reports to the IG can help in providing consistency of information and to track progress through quantifiable indicators.

2. **For EANET to leverage its comprehensive data set and expanded scope on atmospheric environment-related substances to position itself as the leading authority and data repository on air quality and acid deposition in the region.** With over two decades of monitoring data and a uniquely structured intergovernmental framework, EANET is well-positioned to serve as the legitimate technical knowledge base and coordinating body in the field, one that regional mechanisms and initiatives with overlapping objectives (i.e., NEACAP and RAPAP) can draw evidence from and jointly implement activities that have common goals. In addition, EANET should also position itself to be a key technical reference for development institutions, such as the ADB and World Bank, particularly for projects and programs relating to air quality management and pollution control; this would help ensure EANET's data will be utilized for designing interventions, thereby increasing its utility and providing further evidence to sustain support for the network.

3. **For PCs to take a more active role in initiating synergies by leveraging their involvement in other existing bilateral initiatives and platforms as part of mapping of funding opportunities for EANET Projects.** It is necessary to be cognizant of the commonalities across the various mechanisms, particularly in air pollution monitoring, science-to-policy linkages, and regional cooperation, in order to maximize access to resources and funding opportunities that may otherwise be siloed within individual platforms. This will be one way of operationalizing the PC's role of being a strategic advocate for the EANET as outlined in the Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy

of the MTP (2026-2030). The Secretariat can also leverage UNEP ROAP's standing relationship with development banks and other grantmaking organizations to access project financing. This builds on Recommendation 4 of the Mid-term Review (2023) [to use UNEP's technical and strategic capacities to support EANET, "firewalled" from its Secretariat function].

   a. EANET may consider partnerships with the private sector to implement specific EANET Projects either in part or in whole. It is imperative to conduct due diligence to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure each EANET Project's outcome and impact do not compromise the network's scientific credibility and independence as an intergovernmental body.

4. **For the EANET endorsing and approving bodies to encourage the development of project proposals that consider the realistic funding opportunities available**, to improve the likelihood of securing funds for implementation. Project proposals should take into account the eligibility requirements, fundings modalities, and application timeline. Where appropriate, the EANET Secretariat could support proponents in identifying suitable funding opportunities and providing guidance to proposal development. Ideally, funding feasibility should inform project prioritization and design, but strategic relevance and the needs of the PCs should remain the primary considerations in determining which projects are prioritized and pursued.

Annex 1. Terms of Reference of the Review

1. Purpose:

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. UNEP's Asia and the Pacific Office geographically serves 41 countries across the region to promote and implement sustainable development solutions. It assists countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including providing technical expertise, facilitating access to finance, undertaking cutting-edge science-policy assessments, offering advisory services and strengthening laws, policies, management and governance.

UNEP supports initiatives to increase impacts and strengthen regional presence and collaboration in tackling environmental issues. One of them is the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), a regional intergovernmental initiative established by countries in Northeast and Southeast Asia in January 2001. EANET aims to create a shared understanding of the state of acid deposition and air pollution problems in East Asia, provide useful inputs for decision-making at various levels to prevent adverse impacts on the environment, and contribute to active collaboration on the issues related to acid deposition and air pollution among countries.

EANET is governed by the Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia, and under the guidance of five-year Medium-Term Plans (MTP) as decided by the Intergovernmental (IG) Meeting in 2006. The MTP (2021-2025) was developed in 2020 as the fourth Medium-Term Plan for the EANET based on the results of the review of the activities during the MTP in the period of 2016-2020 and revised at the 23rd Session of the IG in Nov 2021, to accommodate the expansion of scope of the EANET Instrument and the establishment of the EANET Project Fund mechanism. As part of the MTP (2021-2025), it is stated that a mid-term review of the MTP will be conducted in 2023 and a final review in 2026.

The MTP describes the review as below:

The purpose of the consultancy: EANET seeks to recruit a consultant (reviewer) to conduct the final review of the EANET MTP 2021-2025.

This consultancy will produce a Final Review Report for submission to the 28th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting of the EANET scheduled for 24–25 November 2026 in Niigata, Japan. The Consultant will be required to deliver an online presentation at the session. A Draft version of the report will be submitted to the Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of the EANET, to be held end of October 2026. The Consultant will also be expected to participate virtually in relevant meetings throughout the evaluation period.

2. Objective:

The objective of the consultancy is to carry out an independent assessment regarding the performance of the MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) from July 2026 to November 2026.

The Final Review has the following objectives:

• to provide insights on the current progress in the implementation of the MTP 2021-2025

• to provide evidence of results including recommendations to meet accountability requirements
• to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned for EANET.

Therefore, the Review will analyze the progress of implementation, problems/ challenges and recommendations for corrective actions, and highlight important results and outcomes, as well as lessons of operational relevance for future project formulation and implementation.

The consultant will conduct the final review of the MTP for the EANET (2021-2025) under the guidance of the Coordinator, Secretariat for the EANET. The consultant will provide technical advice and follow-up with NFPs on their comments.

3. Work Assignments & Outputs:
Under the direct supervision of the EANET Coordinator, the consultant is required to prepare:

Draft and final versions of the Final Review Report of the EANET MTP 2021-2025, that includes an executive summary
that can act as a stand-alone document; detailed analysis of the review findings and recommendations in accordance
with the provided information on the implemented activities, financial issues as provided by the Secretariat and the
Network Center for the EANET.

During the EANET Working Group in 2026 which will take place 4-5 August 2026, the consultant will be required to
attend and present the outline of the draft Final Review.

The draft Final Review will report:
- Status of implementation of the activities from 2021-2025, including difficulties and problems encountered, mitigation measures undertaken, and lessons learned.
- Funding sources during this period
- Review of progress in achieving the overall objectives of the MTP from 2021-2025, achievements to the outputs and responses towards indicators.
- Conclusions and recommendations of the Final Review based on situation and development of the EANET and other related activities, issues and developments on acid deposition and air pollution, with specific guidance for implementation of the next MTP (2026-2030)

Consultations with project stakeholders
The consultant should maintain close communication with EANET project management team of UNEP as well as other project partners as indicated and promote information exchange throughout the review and implementation phase in order to increase their (and other stakeholder) ownership of the Review findings.

Outputs	Deliverables	Delivery date
1. Draft Final Review Report	a. Outline of the Draft Final Review Report describing preliminary findings, suggested report table of contents, and in accordance with relevant report template.	20/07/20206
	b. Power Point Presentation on the outline of the Draft Final Review to be presented at the virtual Working Group in 2026 Meeting.	31/07/2026
	c. Draft Final Review Report in accordance with report templates, that succinctly presents all analysis	01/09/2026
2. Final Review Report and PowerPoint Presentation	a. Final Review Report incorporating all required changes as received from the project management team and relevant stakeholders, and in accordance with relevant report template.	21/09/2026
	b. Power Point Presentation on the findings of the Final Review Report to be presented at the SAC26 Meeting	20/10/2026
	c. Revised Final Review Report after incorporating inputs from SAC26 Meeting.	30/10/2026
	d. Power Point Presentation to be delivered at the IG28 Meeting.	16/11/2026
	e. Revision of Final Review Report by accommodating comments at the IG28 Meeting.	30/11/2026

Annex 2. Terminal Review of MTP 2021025 Interview Guide

Interview guide (Network Center, UNEP/EANET Secretariat, Partner Organizations)

A. EFFECTIVENESS

Key question: To what extent were the intended outputs and outcomes of the activities under the MTP 2021-2025 have been achieved?

Objective 1: Monitoring of acid deposition including related chemical substances with quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC)
1) To what extent has EANET contributed to improving your countries' monitoring systems during the MTP 2021-2025 period?
2) How useful were the technical guidelines, manuals, and QA/QC activities?
3) How have the strategy papers influenced the direction of monitoring activities in the countries?
Objective 2: Promotion of data dissemination and utilization
4) To what extent have the data and information products (i.e., annual assessments, PRSAD, website, and database) contributed to a better understanding of acid deposition issues in EANET countries or the region?
5) To what extent has the upgraded data management system improved access to monitoring data?
Objective 3: Promotion of capacity building
6) What have been the most significant capacity improvements in the countries resulting from EANET's support?
Objective 4: Enhancement of outreach activities
7) To what extent have EANET's outreach activities increased stakeholders' awareness and understanding of acid deposition?
Objective 5: Enhancement of cooperation and collaboration
8) To what extent has EANET engaged organizations/initiatives that were not previously involved, including non-participating countries?
9) What have been the significant outcomes or achievements resulting from EANET's collaborative or joint activities?

B. EFFICIENCY

Key question: To what extent were the activities under the MTP 2021-2025 implemented efficiently to achieve the intended outputs and outcomes?

Timeliness
1) Were activities implemented in a timely manner? Were there significant delays? If so, what were the main causes?
Resource utilization
2) Were the financial and technical resources adequate and appropriately utilized to support the implementation of activities?
3) How effective was the introduction of the Non-Core Budget arrangement in supporting the implementation of activities?
Implementation and coordination
4) How effective were the implementation and coordination arrangements among the Secretariat, NC, and PCs?

C. RELEVANCE

Key question: To what extent did the MTP 2021-2025 address the needs and priorities of the PCs and of the region?

Responsiveness
1) To what extent did the expanded scope of the MTP 2021-2025 (on supporting air pollution solutions and measures) respond to the needs of the countries?
2) To what extent did the MTP's emphasis on strengthening collaboration with international organizations and among countries address existing cooperation needs?
Strategic priorities
3) Are there emerging priorities that should be reflected in EANET's future strategic direction and scope of activities?

D. COHERENCE

Key question: To what extent was the MTP 2021-2025 coherent with and complementary to other national, regional, and international initiatives addressing acid deposition and air pollution?

Regional coordination and synergies
1) How well did the MTP 2021-2025 activities complement the work of other organizations and initiatives addressing acid deposition and air pollution in the region? What value, if any, did EANET's work provide?
2) Were there opportunities for stronger coordination that were not fully realized?

E. SUSTAINABILITY

Key question: To what extent are the achievements of the EANET, specifically under the MTP 2021-2025, likely to be sustained?

Financial sustainability
1) To what extent has the introduction of the Non-Core Budget arrangement strengthened the long-term sustainability of EANET's activities and results?
Enabling factors and risks
2) What are the factors that will support, or hinder, the sustainability of the MTP's results?

Terminal Review of MTP 2021-2025

Interview guide (Participating Countries and Scientific Advisory Committee)

A. EFFECTIVENESS

Key question: To what extent were the intended outputs and outcomes of the activities under the MTP 2021-2025 have been achieved?

Objective 1: Monitoring of acid deposition including related chemical substances with quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC)	
1. To what extent has EANET contributed to improving countries' monitoring systems during the MTP 2021-2025 period?	
2. How useful were the technical guidelines, manuals, and QA/QC activities?	
3. How have the strategy papers influenced the direction of countries' monitoring activities?	
Objective 2: Promotion of data dissemination and utilization	
4. To what extent have the data and information products (i.e., annual assessments, PRSAD, website, and database) contributed to a better understanding of acid deposition issues in your country or in the region?	
5. To what extent has the upgraded data management system improved access to monitoring data?	
Objective 3: Promotion of capacity building	
6. What have been the most significant capacity improvements in your country or in the region resulting from EANET's support?	
Objective 4: Enhancement of outreach activities	
7. To what extent have EANET's outreach activities increased stakeholders' awareness and understanding of acid deposition, air pollution, and climate change?	
Objective 5: Enhancement of cooperation and collaboration	
8. To what extent has EANET engaged organizations/initiatives that were not previously involved, including non-participating countries?	
9. What have been the significant outcomes or achievements resulting from EANET's collaborative or joint activities?	

B. EFFICIENCY

Key question: To what extent were the activities under the MTP 2021-2025 implemented efficiently to achieve the intended outputs and outcomes?

Timeliness	
1. Were activities implemented in a timely manner? Were there significant delays? If so, what were the main causes?	
Resource utilization	
2. Were the financial and technical resources adequate and appropriately utilized to support the implementation of activities?	
3. How effective was the introduction of the Non-Core Budget arrangement in supporting the implementation of activities? To what extent did the Non-Core Budget arrangement contribute to the efficient implementation of projects and activities?	
Implementation and coordination	
4. How efficient were the implementation and coordination arrangements among the Secretariat, Network Center, and participating countries in delivering projects and activities?	

C. RELEVANCE

Key question: To what extent did the MTP 2021-2025 address the needs and priorities of the PCs and of the region?

Responsiveness	
1. To what extent did the expanded scope of the MTP 2021-2025 (on supporting air pollution solutions and measures) respond to the needs of the countries?	
2. To what extent did the MTP's emphasis on strengthening collaboration with international organizations and among participating countries address existing cooperation needs?	
Strategic priorities	
3. Are there emerging priorities that should be reflected in EANET's future strategic direction and scope of activities?	

D. COHERENCE

Key question: To what extent was the MTP 2021-2025 coherent with and complementary to other national, regional, and international initiatives addressing acid deposition and air pollution?

Regional coordination and synergies	
1. How well did the MTP 2021-2025 activities complement the work of other organizations and initiatives addressing acid deposition and air pollution in the region? What value, if any, did EANET's work provide?	
2. Were there opportunities for stronger coordination that were not fully realized?	

E. SUSTAINABILITY

Key question: To what extent are the achievements of the EANET, specifically under the MTP 2021-2025, likely to be sustained?

Financial sustainability	
1. To what extent has the introduction of the Non-Core Budget arrangement strengthened the long-term sustainability of EANET's activities and results?	
Enabling factors and risks	
2. What are the factors that will support, or hinder, the sustainability of the MTP's results?	