

3. ENVIRONMENT

The environment comprises anything that creates natural conditions for the existence of organisms, including human beings, and is a prerequisite for their further evolution. Its compartments are especially air, water, rocks, soil, organisms, ecosystems, and energy.

The Act of the Czech National Council No. 114/1992 Sb., on nature conservation and landscape protection distinguishes six categories of specially protected areas as follows:

Large-size protected areas:

- National parks are large areas unique at the national or international scales, major parts of which are occupied by natural or nature-close ecosystems where species of flora and fauna, and abiotic nature are of extraordinary scientific and educational importance;
- Protected landscape areas are large areas with harmonically formed landscape, characteristic relief, significant shares of forest and permanent grassland natural ecosystems, high abundance of tree species, or, as the case may be, preserved monuments of historical settlements.

Small-size protected areas:

- National natural monuments are smaller natural formations (including those formed by human activity besides the forces of nature), deposits of minerals or habitats of endangered species on fragments of ecosystems of the national or international environmental, scientific, or aesthetic importance;
- National nature reserves are smaller areas where ecosystems important at the national or international levels of extraordinary natural value are bound to natural their relief with a typical geological structure;
- Natural monuments are areas defined similar way as the national natural monuments yet important at the regional level only;
- Natural reserves are smaller areas of concentrated natural value with represented ecosystems characteristic to and important for the given geographical area.

Environmental protection expenditure includes investment expenditure on the acquisition of tangible fixed assets and non-investment expenditure related to environmental protection activities. **Tangible fixed assets (TFA)** for environmental protection are the sum expended by reporting units on the TFA acquisition (by purchase or own activities) and the total value of the TFA acquired for free or by transfer according to relevant legislation or by a change from private use to business. The **non-investment expenditure** for environmental protection includes wages and salaries, payments for rent, energy and other material, and payments for services the main purpose of which is to protect the environment.

Economic benefits from environmental protection activities refer to revenues from sale of environmental protection services, revenues from sale of by-products that originated at activities related to environmental protection and savings from recycling and reuse of by-products generated due to environmental protection.

An **emission** shall mean a process in which pollutants of various states are introduced into the atmosphere. Emissions are given in kilograms per hour or in tonnes per year. Amounts of the given pollutants released into the air are listed in the **Register of Emissions and Air Pollution Sources (REZZO)**, which keeps records of the following types of pollution sources broken down by thermal output REZZO 1 (large stationary pollution sources), REZZO 2 (mid-sized stationary pollution sources), REZZO 3 (small stationary pollution sources), and REZZO 4 mobile pollution sources (especially road and motor vehicles, railway vehicles, boats, vessels, and aircraft).

Waste shall mean any movable thing which its owner disposes of or intends to dispose of or has the duty to dispose of and which is classified to a category of wastes enlisted in the Act No. 185/2001 Sb. on waste. **Hazardous waste** shall mean waste included in the List of Hazardous Wastes and any other waste exhibiting one or more hazardous characteristics enlisted in the Act on Waste.

Waste management shall mean the gathering, collecting, concentrating, purchase, sorting, transport, storage, treatment, use, and disposal of waste. The methods of waste management are divided into waste recovery (R codes), waste disposal (D codes), and other waste management operations (N codes).

The **municipal waste** shall mean all types of waste generated on the territory of a municipality in activities of natural persons, which is classified to Group 20 of the Catalogue of Waste, except for waste produced by legal or natural persons holding a business licence. In this publication the municipal waste also includes commercial waste composition of which is similar to that of municipal waste and which is generated in non-production activities of legal or natural persons holding a business licence.

The **industry of water supply and sewerage systems** involves water management activities related to the administration and operation of water supply and sewerage collection systems that means with the providing for sufficient supply of quality drinking water and for removal of waste water and its treatment. **Public water supply systems and sewerage systems** include water supply systems and sewerage systems established and run in the public interest. The **water produced** includes both invoiced and non-invoiced water. The sum of data for invoiced and non-invoiced water may differ from amounts of the water produced for an amount of water taken from other organizations, or for water handed over to other organizations.

The **waste water treatment plant (WWTP)** shall mean premises and equipment serving for waste water treatment having the mechanical, biological, and/or further stage of treatment. Equipment used for coarse pre-treatment of waste water (racks, grit traps, oil traps, etc.), cesspools, sumps, and simple devices with a mechanical function, which are not monitored and operated regularly, are not considered to be waste water treatment plants.

The **WWTP capacity** refers to the design capacity (m^3/day). A higher capacity than the design one is given where implemented intensification measures have been approved by the water authority.

Data on how respective municipalities are equipped with technical infrastructure devices and instruments (water mains, sewerage systems, natural gas grids) were measured by an extraordinary supplement to the statistical questionnaire VI 1-01.