ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS IN ZIMBABWE

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Country Background

- Zimbabwe is situated between latitudes15^0 30” and 22^0 30” south of the Equator and between longitudes 25^0 and 33^0 10” east of the Greenwich Meridian.
- The country is bordered by Mozambique to the East, South Africa to the South, Botswana to the West and Zambia to the North and North-west.
- The main feature is the plateau/High veld, that lies mostly at an altitude between 1 200 and 1 500 metres above sea level
- Middle veld has an altitude between 600 to 1200 metres while the low veld has an altitude below 600 metres.

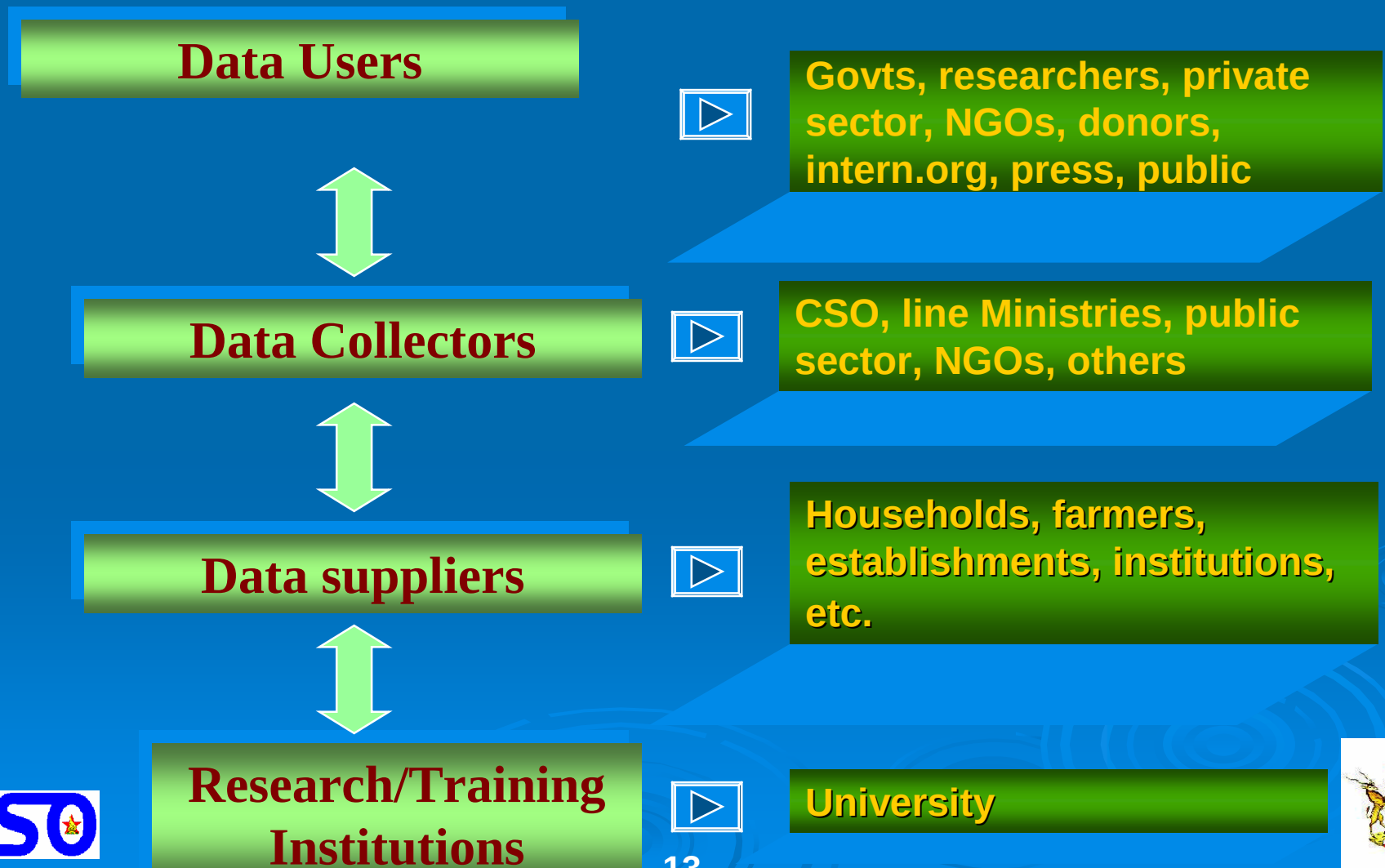
Country Background (*Contd)*

- The total land area is approximately 390 757 km^2
- Estimated population of 11,6 million; 5,6 million males & 6,0 million females.
- 35% of the population lives in urban areas.
- There are 12 national parks, one transfrontier park (Trans Zambezi National Park), and other protected areas.
- Flora is dry miombo woodland, with mopane woodland and other woodlands types dominating, serpentine grasslands are found in the Great Dyke.
- Montane forest interspersed amongst high-altitude grasslands & heath is found in the Eastern Highlands

Situation of Environment Statistics in Zimbabwe

- Formulation of DEAP programme and introduction urban component in cities by the International Council for Local Environmental initiatives after Agenda 21.
- MET, is leading the process of developing a national environmental policy that will compliment the Environmental Management Act.
- MET identified about 100 indicators that need to be prioritized.
- MET coordinated Zimbabwe Sustainable Indicators Database.

Components of the NSS



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Efforts within CSO

- Collaborates with other organizations – meetings, data provision, user producer workshops etc.
- 1991 User/Producer workshop intensified efforts to collect environment statistics
- Environment statistics publication – 1994, 2000, 2004.
- Conducts Environment Statistics User Inquiries before production of Environment publication.
- Stakeholder Workshop dedicated to Environment Statistics in April 2005.

Objectives of User Inquiries

- Identify national environmental concerns;
- Identify data gaps relevant to activities and programmes on environmental management;
- Assess awareness of international environmental regulations and conventions;
- Determine sources and availability of existing data; and
- Update the contents of the Environment Statistics Publication

Environment Statistics Users

- Major users are policy makers, planners, scientists, students, international organizations, research institutions, private sector, schools, media, individuals, including farmers.

Government ministries & line departments need the data to

- facilitate effective and efficient planning;
- promote debates on environmental issues such as Convention in Trade of Endangered Species;
- formulate, monitor and implement environmental policy and legislation;
- identify and quantify specific environmental categories; and
- define the linkage between development and the environment.

Environment Statistics Users *(Contd)*

- Research institutions/scientist/international organizations - for assessment of environmental impacts and monitor status and progress of environment indicators over time,
- Individuals, farmers and investors - for market analysis,
- Schools need data in writing up their academic projects, and
- media need it for awareness and publicity.

2006 UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire Completion Workshop Recommendations

- The time needed to complete the questionnaire is too short.
- Need for an appraisal workshop before the return.
- Stakeholders requested for an honorarium.
- Need for a wider stakeholder involvement.
- Provision of previous data supplied to reduce response burden.
- Need for templates updated by institutions continuously to enable quick supply of data as and when requested.
- CSO was advised to mobilize funds to facilitate completion of the questionnaire.
- The questionnaire should be customized to suit sub regions, for example Sub Saharan Africa, to reduce irrelevant questions.

Data Sources

- Socio-economic statistics surveys e.g. ICDS, LFS, ICES & ZDHS including national population censuses.
- CSO sister sections - Data on tourism, trade, production, environmental crimes, agriculture, environmental diseases.
- Most data come from specialist organizations e.g. Met office and ZINWA.
- Other sources are administrative records, monitoring data and remote sensing.
- Hence, most statistics exist scattered in various primary and secondary data producers.

Dissemination of Statistics

- CSO produces Environment Statistics publication
- Zimbabwe Statistical Database (ZIMDAT) - disseminated through presentations and CDs annually.
- National publications e.g. SoER.
- Global Reports e.g the Global Outlook reports.
- Pamphlets, e.g. at Agricultural Shows and Zimbabwe International Trade Fares (ZITF).
- Completion of questionnaires e.g UNSD/UNEP questionnaire.

Challenges of Statistics Production

- Lack of institutional set-up/coordination.
- Little information sharing between stakeholders for because of inadequate information and communication technologies (ICT).
- Inadequate capacity to use information.
- Most data usually lack continuity and incomplete data sets.
- Use of obsolete recording/measuring equipment or unavailability.

Challenges of Statistics Production (*Contd)*

- High staff turnover resulting in skill gaps.
- Lack of funding - transport, manpower and ICT.
- Further calculations using data from different institutions are usually not done.
- Conflicting data mainly due to differences in methodologies used.
- insufficient hardware - data exist unprocessed.

Future Plans

- Improved institutional set-up and coordination.
- Creation of a National Statistical System (NSS). Capacity is expected to be build.
- Increase in human personnel, hardware and software
- Adoption DPSIR framework
- Collection of urban environmental indicators data.
- continue conducting user inquiries.

THE END

THANK YOU

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