

Part II: Questionnaire for Representatives of International Organizations

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1. Please describe current activities of your organization in the area of environmental and economic accounts.

Within UN-DESA, the Division for Sustainable Development provides coordinated support for the implementation of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the Rio Declaration, the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as well as the recent work programmes and decisions adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg) and by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

It monitors implementation through the assessment of data collected at the national, regional and international levels relating to the work on indicators of sustainable development.

It promotes inter-agency collaboration and coordination in the area of sustainable development through facilitating actions in the United Nations system for the implementation of Agenda 21 and other intergovernmental mandates in the field of sustainable development. For example, DESA provides the secretariat for UN-Water, the UN inter-agency mechanism on water issues which involve 24 UN-system agencies concerned by water.

DESA provides also policy advisory services and technical cooperation activities, in particular for the incorporation of sustainable development concerns into national sectoral plans and strategies and in the field of energy, freshwater and mineral resources management.

Within this last mandate it assists Member States to increase their capacity to implement recommendations issued by UN intergovernmental debates. Among them, the development of environmental-economic accounts at country level as recommended in Agenda 21 (chapter 8). In coordination with the UNDESA-Statistic Division , the water branch of DSD, has

mobilized its technical expertise and experience to contribute to the elaboration of parts of the handbook on water accounting.

In addition, DSD has jointly financed and organized with the Government of Morocco and SD, an international workshop on “integrated water accounting” in Afourer (Morocco) in January 2004. This workshop was based on preliminary results obtained from a pilot study aiming at compiling water accounts of a complex sub-basin in Morocco. This pilot study has been conducted, with the support of training sessions organized by DESA, by Moroccan specialists after the implementation of a cross-sectoral mechanism based on DSD experience in Technical Cooperation on multidisciplinary issues with the involvement of many concerned actors.

Outcomes of this international workshop have been important and are encouraging despite difficulties and obstacles clearly identified. The final declaration is attached. In addition to Morocco, all other representatives of developing countries (Chad, Mali and Tunisia) are interested by this process for their own country, on a medium term base.

2. Please, describe future activities in the area of environmental and economic accounts.

UNDESA-DSD is working on the following activities :

- preparation of a proposed text for the Handbook on Water Accounting : “ Chapter 10 : Implementation of Water Accounts”, in collaboration with UNDESA-SD and the London Group;

-collaboration with the government of Morocco, at its request, for appropriate methodological and technical supports to the Statistic Direction, the Ministry in charge of water and its eight river-basin organizations;

-promotion of the “integrated water accounting” approach for IWRM within intergovernmental debates, in particular through the UN Secretary General reports to CSD-12 and CSD-13, which are focused in 2004 and 2005 on water, sanitation and human settlements.

3. In your opinion, what should be the role of the Task Force on environmental-economic accounting?

This role could be :

1. To support and diffuse national or regional experiences or programmes.

- awareness and training
- diagnosis
- design of pilot projects
- handbooks
- operational guidelines
- diffusion of national results
- organized exchange of national experiences
- international or regional workshops

2. To facilitate cooperation between global institutions or specialized institutes

- at the methodological level
- at the operational level in support to the above national initiatives or requests

3. To promote IEEA within global events and through joint methodological researchs aiming towards a consistent measurement, by countries, of progress towards Sustainable Development.

- inclusion of the social accounting component and integration with the economic and environmental ones;
- participation within international forums;
- organisation, when appropriate, of a global event on IEEA, with interested countries, equally from North and South.

4. To mobilize jointly funds and capacities in support to the three above points

4. In your opinion, which activities of the Task Force would best facilitate the implementation of environmental-economic accounting in the countries?

-For the sustainability of each IEEA process, develop systematically principles of IEEA implementation, in particular to overcome institutional obstacles in data compilation at the country level when many institutions are concerned by data or when data compilation has to be done at the decentralized level;

-Focused on subject already advanced and having strong national interests;

-Develop, as a priority, indicators and examples to demonstrate multiple interests in policy-use of IEEA in order to convince decision-makers; Develop principles of a communication strategy in order to mainstream IEEA in addition to UN efforts.

5. In your opinion, which activities of the Task Force would best facilitate the promotion of the uses of environmental-economic accounting at the policy level?

See above

Additional comments:

Attached document :

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International Workshop on Water Accounts

Case-study of the Oum-Er-Bia River Basin

13-15 January 2004 Afourer (Morocco)

Final declaration (English version)

The international workshop on Integrated Water Resource Accounting in Morocco was organized by the Government of Morocco and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs from 13-15 January 2004 in Afourer (Morocco). The Workshop was opened by HE. the Wali of the region of Tadla-Azilal, who was accompanied by H.E. the Governor of the province of Azilal.

The Workshop was attended by approximately 80 participants :

- Representatives from Mali, Tchad and Tunisia ;
- High level officials of numerous Moroccan central and regional institutions, in particular from the region of Tadla-Azilal, concerned by water issues, as well as river basin agencies;

- Representatives of users of water resources;
- Representatives of the European Union and of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (Division for Sustainable Development and Statistics Division).

We, participants in the international workshop on integrated water resource accounting after having taken into account that :

- integrated water resource accounting is an internationally recognized tool for :
 - Monitoring the impact (in physical term) of human activities on water resources (flows and stocks – quantity and quality);
 - Identifying the economic valuations and costs, as well as social impacts, of mobilizing, storing, distributing and purifying water, as well as the collection and treatment of wastewater.
- integrated water resource accounts are an information system which presents in a coherent framework the economic, environmental and social information related to water, using standardized concepts, definitions and classifications consistent with hydrological laws and the conventional national accounts;
- the multiplicity of existent data collection systems, often dispersed in and not fully exploited by the various water-related institutions, has been an obstacle for the integrated management of water resources and that the integrated water accounting framework presents a unique opportunity for overcoming these obstacles;
- the implementation of these accounts is a major undertaking for the governmental administration of Morocco and that this work, supported and facilitated at the political level, should contribute to the efforts of decentralization and coordination at the regional level;
- consistent indicators can be derived from the integrated water resource accounting. These indicators will allow the monitoring of trends and departure from set objectives, such as the Millennium Development Goals, and provide, annually, the basis for designing adaptive policies in the rapidly-changing water sector;

We, participants, after three days of discussion on the complex topic of integrated water resource accounting, reached the following conclusions :

- Considering that integrated water resource accounting represents an important tool for integrated water resources management in a semi-arid country ;
- Considering the need for a developing country like Morocco to have an integrating tool for the monitoring and management of water resources;
- Considering the importance of water on the improvement in the quality of life of the people, on the reduction of poverty and on the sustainable development of the country;
- Considering the necessity to preserve water for future generations through the efficient use of the resource and treatment and re-use of wastewater;
- Considering the role of the region in the planning and implementation of a decentralized strategy of sustainable development;
- Considering the fundamental role of the river basin agencies in the integrated development and management of water resources;

We recommend, in particular:

- To expand the pilot compilation of the water accounts at the sub-basin level to the whole Oum-Er-Rbia river basin, under the responsibility and leadership of the River Basin Agency and to extend, after a validation of this work at the national level, the water accounts to all river basins within Morocco, with the objective of establishing a national satellite water accounts to be obtained by aggregation;
- To take the necessary steps to institutionalize the National Committee for Water Accounts;
- That the Ministry for Land use planning, Water and Environment (MATEE), in charge of the River Basin Agencies, recognize the water accounts as an important and useful tool for the monitoring and integrated management of water resources in Morocco and establish the implementation of water accounting as a priority in future action programmes of River Basin Agencies, as well as in its own training and action-research programmes at the central level;
- To prepare, with the support of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in the context of the River Basin Agencies and at the request of the Ministry for Land use planning, Water and Environment (MATEE) and other ministries concerned with water, in particular the Ministry and Department in charge

of Agriculture and “eaux et forêts”, in coordination with the High Planning Secretariat (Statistical Directorate and National Accounts Directorate), a project document to be submitted to the Moroccan Government and to donors, on building capacity in the country to ensure the successful implementation of water accounts;

- To prepare, within this project, practical guidelines, a capacity building programme and a special study analyzing the institutional, technical and organizational issues for establishing water accounts by river-basin in the whole country;
- To establish water accounts, after a short transition period of training supported by the above mentioned project, within the regular programme of work of the government administrations, businesses or offices dealing with water, and in particular of regional administrations and River Basin Agencies, in order to ensure, under the responsibility of the River Basin Agencies, the sustainability of the process;
- To participate in the international discussion on the development of water accounting methodology and to work in cooperation with the countries in the region interested in the topic, in particular, Mali, Chad and Tunisia, in order to tailor the implementation of the water accounts to the needs and conditions of each country and to actively participate with United Nations in promoting water accounting at the international level in the context of South-South cooperation;
- And finally, to officially communicate the conclusions and recommendations of this Workshop to the Commission of Sustainable Development and to the Statistical Commission of the United Nation.