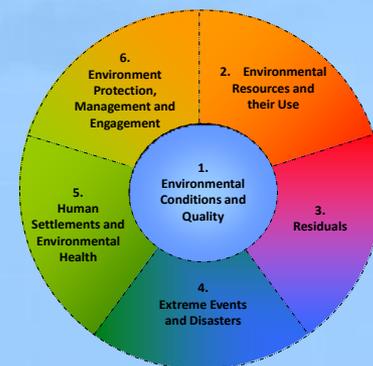




# The Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT)

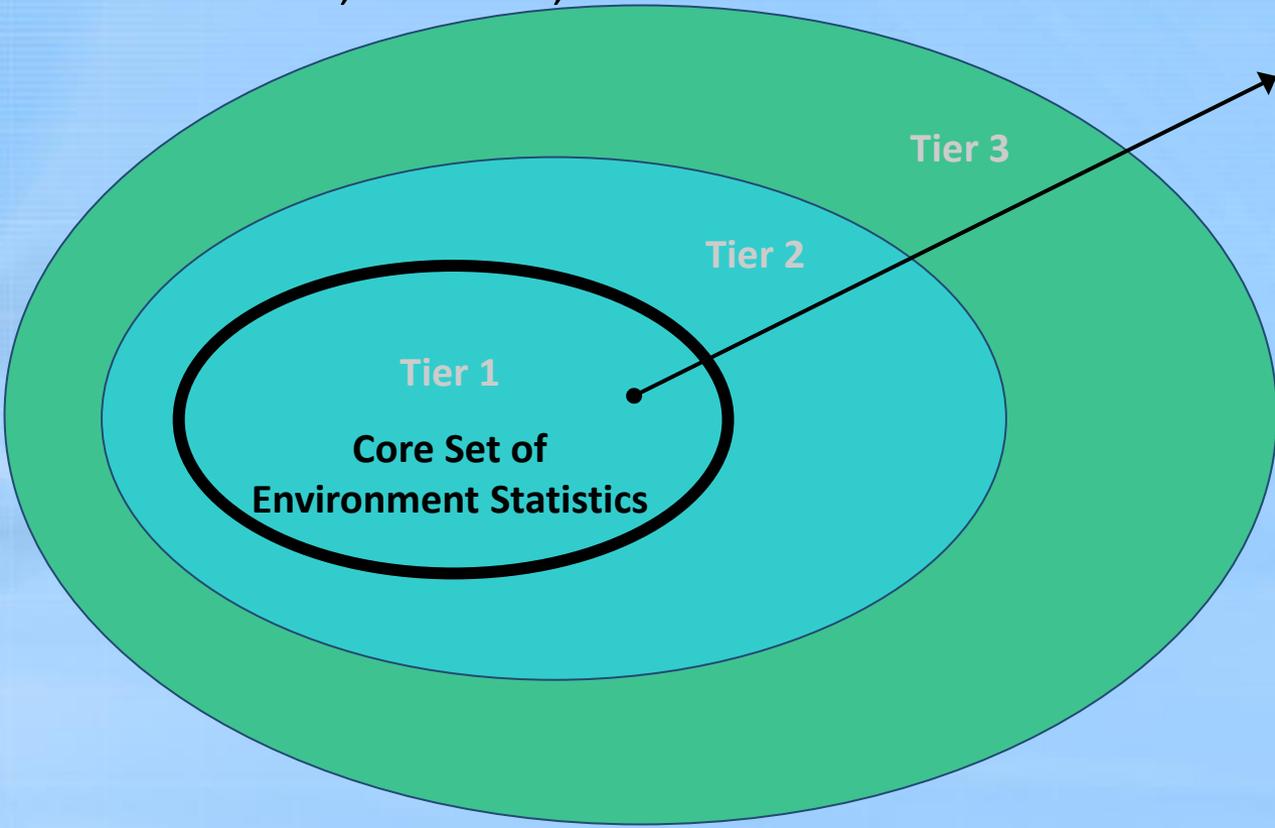
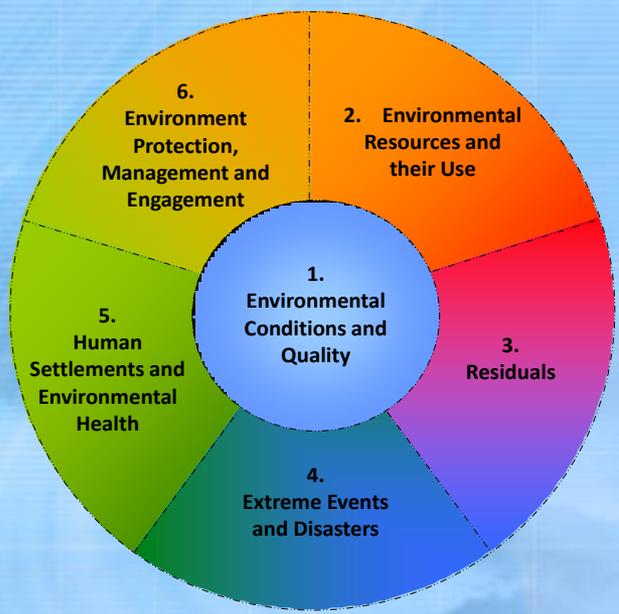
Environment Statistics Section  
Environment and Energy Statistics Branch  
United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

Expert Group Meeting on Environment Statistics  
New York, 26-28 March 2014



There are six components...

= 21 sub-components = 60 topics = 492 Basic Set Statistics, of which, 107 are Core Set Statistics



|               | Component 1 | Component 2 | Component 3 | Component 4 | Component 5 | Component 6 | Total |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| <b>Tier 1</b> | 35          | 35          | 19          | 4           | 11          | 3           | 107   |
| <b>Tier 2</b> | 83          | 46          | 33          | 12          | 17          | 21          | 212   |
| <b>Tier 3</b> | 64          | 43          | 5           | 17          | 21          | 23          | 173   |
| <b>Total</b>  | 182         | 124         | 57          | 33          | 49          | 47          | 492   |





## Background of ESSAT

- In 2013, the 44th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission approved the work programme of the implementation of the FDES. This included the development of a tool for countries to use in assessing and diagnosing the state of environment statistics in the application of the FDES.
- The Self-Assessment tool was developed through the experience and suggestions of collaborating countries' work in the field of environment statistics, following a process which included assistance from many countries in UNSD's Pilot of the Draft Core Set of Environment Statistics in 2012.



## What is ESSAT

- It is a tool containing relevant information on environment statistics at the national level in consistence with the scope of the FDES.
- It consists of a comparison of the Basic Set of Environment Statistics (approx. 492 statistics) contained in the FDES with available national environment statistics, environmental policy objectives and international reporting requirements.

# Objective of the ESSAT

- To improve the capacity of countries to assess their national priorities and data availability at the topic and the statistic level.
- A means for countries to assess their current position and set a basis from which they may construct and/or strengthen their environment statistics programmes within the national statistical systems.

# Specific Objectives of the ESSAT

- Comparing the Basic Set of Environment Statistics with those collected in the country in order to identify where the two sets of statistics align and where there are gaps;
- Identifying the primary reasons for any gaps which are identified;
- Providing a comprehensive basic set of environment statistics from which countries may want to select, adapt and supplement according to their priorities and needs in developing a national set of environment statistics that is relevant at the national level.



# From the Pilot to the ESSAT

Pilot included general questions about countries' opinions of the Core Set (which are not included in the ESSAT).

Pilot included individual statistics divided into two Tiers. The ESSAT now has three Tiers, based on the level of relevance, availability and methodological development of the statistics. Tier 1 corresponds to the Core Set.

# Countries that have used the Pilot/ESSAT

- Pilot –

Developing - Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, India, Jamaica, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Vietnam, United Arab Emirates

Developed – Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, USA

International organizations – Eurostat, UNEP

- Bhutan, Qatar – have tested the implementation of FDES
- Ecuador, Colombia, Indonesia, Philippines, Mongolia – more recently have been using the ESSAT Tool
- Botswana – using the FDES and Basic Set
- Arab countries in 2013 (workshop) – used the ESSAT

# Structure of the ESSAT

Currently consists of 2 parts:

**Part I: Topic Level Assessment** - aims to capture the information at a more aggregated level, specifically up to the environment statistics topic level.

**Part II: Statistics Level Assessment** - goes in more detail and it captures information concerning the whole Basic Set of Environment Statistics, up to the individual environment statistics level.

**Part III – Institutional Dimension of Environment Statistics – under development**



# Discussion points on Parts I and II

- General comments on the ESSAT:
  - Is it useful?
  - Does it fulfil its purpose?
- Specific comments on the structure, fields, contents and layout of the Questionnaires:
  - Is the level of individual statistics useful?
  - Are two separate documents helpful – topic level and statistic level?
- Should it contain additional columns, such as: national definition, unit of measurement, periodicity, time lag/latest year, national data source (institution), format of the data.
- Should the questions in Part 1 apply at the statistics level and not just to the topic level?



## Part III: Institutional Dimension of Environment Statistics

- First draft developed by UNSD based on the Global Assessment carried out in 2006.
- Colombia (on behalf of the ILAC initiative) is currently developing a questionnaire on institutional aspects, so some material has been drawn from their draft.
- Intended for the NSO to complete in consultation with other national institutions.



# Part III: Institutional Dimension of Environment Statistics

Three parts:

- A: Identification of respondent
- B: Mandate and organization of national statistics
- C: Environment statistics programmes/units
  - C1. Mandate and organization of environment statistics
  - C2. Inter-institutional collaboration for production of env stats
  - C3. Existing and required resources for env stats
  - C4. Uses of environment statistics
  - C5. The way forward in environment statistics

Discussion points:

- General comments on Part III: Institutional Dimension
- Is it useful, are there missing/additional questions?
- Who is willing to collaborate in its further development?

