

**PUTTING THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS (FDES) TO WORK -
A BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION**

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Putting the FDES to work – a Blueprint for Action

1. Background

1. The Rio+20 Conference (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, June 2012) stressed the need to strengthen the monitoring of sustainable development, through improved data collection and the establishment of indicators. Of the three pillars of sustainable development, monitoring and measurement of progress towards environmental sustainability is the weakest. The capacity to inform about environmental sustainability is curtailed by the insufficient production of environment statistics. Any measure of sustainable development requires a strong foundation in environment statistics. Environment statistics are necessary for producing state of the environment reports, environmental compendia, environmental indicators and indicators of sustainable development.

2. This does not mean that there is always a lack of data and information. On the contrary these appear to be increasing in volume. The challenge is to build national capacities to adequately transform basic data into environment statistics within official statistical systems and regular programmes of work. The revised FDES and the Core Set of Environment Statistics provide an appropriate means for addressing this situation and will contribute significantly to improved monitoring and measurement of the environmental pillar of sustainable development.

3. The FDES is a multipurpose conceptual and statistical framework that is comprehensive and integrative in nature. It provides an organizing structure to guide the collection and compilation of environment statistics and to synthesize data from various subject areas and sources. It is broad and holistic in nature, covering the issues and aspects of the environment that are relevant for analysis, policy and decision making. Within the FDES a Core Set of Environment Statistics has been identified to guide countries in the development of their environment statistics programmes. The Core Set is complemented with a wider set of environment statistics that can be implemented in a flexible and incremental fashion depending on countries' resources and priorities.

4. Improving national statistical systems is an important part of the mandate and goals of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). In that regard, UNSD is actively engaged in supporting countries' efforts to develop and improve their environment statistics programmes. Putting the FDES into practice is an important element in accomplishing that goal. Additionally, promoting the harmonization among countries, of concepts and methods in environment statistics is a particular advantage not only at the national level, but also for assessment and monitoring at regional and international levels. The 43rd session of the Statistical Commission in 2012 requested that a plan be formulated to outline a course of action for putting the FDES into practice.

2. Objective of the Blueprint

5. The objective of the Blueprint is to document a way forward for making the FDES operational in countries that need guidance for starting or further developing their environment

statistics programmes. It focuses on putting the conditions and technical resources into place for the FDES to be effectively used at the national level. It will strengthen countries' environment statistics programmes by enabling them, in an incremental manner to produce a comprehensive set of statistics that can be useful and responsive to the demands of a cross section of users.

6. The intent of the Blueprint is not to exact strict compliance regarding the provision of a predetermined set of statistics, as in environment statistics, priorities will vary from country to country. Rather, the Blueprint has been developed as a tool for assisting countries to address the demands of their policies and planning as well as responding to the general need for reliable information on the environment. Timely generation of high quality environment statistics at national level will serve as its own best advocate. Statistics that are useful and responsive to the needs of policy planners and the public and which are presented in a user-friendly manner will go a long way to ensuring their own continued production at national level. Importantly, at the international level, the need for harmonization and coordination is well recognized and supported, thus enabling the production of these kinds of statistics.

3. The strategic pillars

7. The Blueprint centres on facilitating the appropriate conditions and technical resources for countries to engage in and strengthen their environment statistics programmes, so that they are incrementally and regularly capable of producing environment statistics of high quality, thus enabling them to better respond to the increasing demands of their users.

8. To facilitate this, the overall strategy is focused on assisting countries that are most in need of developing and strengthening their environment statistics production and dissemination. The support to be given to countries should cover both their technical capacities (environment statistics methodologies) and their institutional capacities (institutional strengthening and interagency collaboration) inherent to the specific domain of environment statistics.

9. The strategy relies on the dissemination and use of the knowledge and tools provided by the FDES and the Core Set of Environment Statistics, and on complementary methodological guidance. To be effective the strategy should be embedded in a globally coordinated programme consisting of capacity building, technical assistance and networking, in which the global, regional and national institutions and the different key players have inter-dependent but differentiated roles that synergize their individual contributions to benefit the countries, particularly the developing ones. Given that current resources are not sufficient to finance the incremental effort and activities described, considerable effort is needed for the mobilization of resources.

10. To develop environment statistics programmes at a faster pace and with better quality and sustainability there are fundamental pillars, strongly interrelated and supporting one another that need to be developed and integrated. These integral pillars are the following:

- I. Partnerships among global, regional and national agencies: main partners and stakeholders
- II. Methodological development and dissemination of know-how
- III. Capacity building and technical assistance to the countries in need
- IV. Networking
- V. Resource mobilization

VI. Advocacy

3.1 Partnerships among global, regional and national agencies: main partners and stakeholders

11. The cross-cutting nature of environment statistics requires careful organization to ensure the best contribution from key players at different levels and at different stages of the processes.

12. Partnerships among global, regional and national agencies is a necessary and ongoing process that needs strengthening and expansion to cover more countries and more institutions and their programmes, so that the cross-cutting field of environment statistics can improve, particularly in developing countries. Institutions at these three levels have different attributes, resources and capacities, and there is room for them to collaborate in an integrated effort to attain the achievements sought.

13. Also important is the collaboration of the three main communities that contribute to the development of environment statistics: the statistical, the environmental policy and management, and the scientific community. Because of the nature of this domain of statistics, their contribution is essential at global, regional and national levels. Partnerships enabling the contribution of expertise and knowledge by all these communities will be necessary to fully address the quality and sustainability needs of ongoing data collections.

14. The statistical community as a whole makes a principal contribution in statistical methodological expertise and its mandate is to produce and/or regulate the production and dissemination of national official statistics according to the highest professional standards, following international principles of statistics and agreed methodologies, recommendations and norms as they apply to all fields that are relevant for environment statistics.

15. The environmental policy and management community and its sectoral partners (i.e., policy and decision makers, as well as administrative bodies regulating and/or managing water, forest, agriculture, atmosphere, climate, oceans and marine environment, energy, etc.) contribute enormous technical resources as well as management expertise. Within their subject matter domains, they are aware of the most important environmental issues and challenges for specific countries and their related regions. They can therefore help in identifying the needs for quantitative information for assessment, policy and planning applications, and contribute a wide array of valuable administrative and other data sets that are essential to be included in environment statistics.

16. The participation of the scientific community is vital, since they can contribute their in-depth and extensive knowledge at all levels. It is crucial to develop collaboration with scientists and experts on specific aspects of the environment who can be consulted as needed. Experts and researchers in academic and research institutions dealing with highly specialized subject matters within environmental themes are in the position to contribute to a better understanding and promote decision-making on specific environmental phenomena and their corresponding data sets and indicators, both in the context of starting a first environment statistics production, and in subsequently updating and upgrading those statistical holdings.

17. The combined expertise and knowledge of these players has proven to work to the benefit of the quality and sustainability of the results. It is most important to optimize their

respective contributions by clearly identifying and appreciating their complementary expertise in different aspects and stages of the collaborative work.

18. Developing the best organizational structure for this collaboration is crucial, as formal arrangements for increasing synergies requires not only complementary expertise, but also careful consideration of the different levels (global, regional and national) and stages where the diverse partners operate most productively.

3.2 Methodological development and dissemination of know-how

19. Methodological development and the dissemination of know-how are essential in the development of environment statistics at all levels. The revised FDES and the Core Set of Environment Statistics are important tools developed as methodological resources for the use of countries. Together with other available methodological resources, they can be used intensively to build and strengthen technical and statistical capacities and while providing technical assistance in environment statistics to countries and regions. However, additional and intensified efforts are also needed to provide further, more detailed methodological and hands-on guidance, given that the field of environment statistics is multidisciplinary and requires a combination of different expertise.

20. The design and development of the necessary instructional materials to transfer knowledge in the area of data collection, analysis and dissemination for environment statistics is critical to methodological development and training. International recommendations on classifications, definitions and methodologies and manuals that provide guidance on: acquisition of data from multiple sources; extraction of relevant information from the data sets that are acquired; analyzing and organizing the data that are procured; drawing conclusions and informing decision makers and others of the relevant findings, are a fundamental part and mainstay of this process. It is important to note that the collection of geospatial and related data will form an important adjunct to many national statistical offices' current repositories of environment statistics and their development is therefore germane as part of this process.

21. The dissemination of know-how will be ensured by publishing methodological documents in all UN official languages and through electronic means such as knowledge bases, websites and e-learning tools as well as by capacity building and technical assistance to countries in need.

3.3 Capacity building and technical assistance to countries in need

22. The countries that are in an emerging to intermediate phase of developing their national programmes of environment statistics require the contribution of the regional and global bodies as well as from other countries that are advanced in environment statistics, to build capacities and benefit from technical assistance. Without the technical and institutional know-how, it is very difficult to set up, develop and sustain national programmes of environment statistics that stand the test of time and administrative cycles. It would therefore be advantageous for horizontal cooperation from neighbouring countries that are at a more advanced stage in the field of environment statistics to be featured into the capacity building roadmap.

23. In keeping with the mandate of UNSD, technical assistance and capacity building activities will be an important aspect of operationalizing the FDES. These activities will be organized at regional/sub-regional levels as well as at country level. Main technical assistance partners will be UNSD, international and regional partner institutions, as well as national statistical offices or other national institutions and experts with advanced knowledge and expertise in the field, as well as with adequate resources.

24. Training workshops aimed at specific sub-regions will be a primary vehicle for delivering this type of assistance. This type of delivery offers economies of scale in transferring experiences. Consultancies will be an important complement. Consultants will not only be needed from the pool of experienced environment statisticians, but also in the areas of GIS and other such technical areas, as appropriate for addressing environment statistics topics that are particularly pertinent within a given region/sub-region/country. Among other things, training workshops will cover technical content, management and institutional concerns, sourcing of data as well as data sharing and technological issues.

25. The development of on-line resources and e-training will play an increasing role in the provision of technical assistance. Finally, as there is finite pool of trainers with the required technical expertise, training of trainers will be an important element of the strategy.

26. In the process of putting the FDES to work, the overall coordination of activities pertaining to capacity building and technical assistance is very important. However, the coordination with other relevant initiatives related to the environment statistics domain can be equally important. The coordination and possible co-execution of different activities in the same territories and with the same partners should be carefully considered and promoted by the United Nations agencies at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels. Despite the fact that different initiatives and projects have to work with different mandates, commitments, deliverables and deadlines, it should be considered from the start that these and other future activities that are related to environment statistics at all levels will greatly benefit in terms of impacts and efficiency of resources if they are coordinated and planned with joint effort from the earliest stages possible.

3.4 Networking

27. Global, regional and national networks of experts and institutions working in the field of environment statistics have to be set up to support the development of environment statistics in the countries by sharing knowledge and expertise. Participating in global, regional and sub-regional communities where environment statistics experiences, programmes and results are being periodically presented and discussed benefits all participants as they can learn and consult with peers in different countries under similar circumstances.

28. Creating and sustaining different types of networks can be supported by different formats, including electronic forums or specialized virtual groups, as well as face to face seminars and meetings of practitioner groups. The networks can be official or informal in nature, as networking relies strongly on human networks and not only institutional ones. Animating and sustaining networks is productive and can significantly contribute to sharing resources, know-how and support at the global, regional and national levels.

3.5 Resource mobilization

29. Equally important to the fundamentals above are efforts to increase the speed and efficiency of the results sought. It is critical that adequate resources be mobilized to bring about a comprehensive initiative of development of environment statistics in the near future.

30. At the global level, the process will need to mobilize donor resources for technical assistance in a substantive proportion to complement the financing of the operations in countries and regions. While countries at early stages of the development of environment statistics are the chief beneficiaries of this initiative to put the FDES into practice, and they should therefore incur significant costs associated with their individual progress, UNSD and international/regional partner agencies, together with willing, statistically advanced countries will be the main technical assistance and capacity building providers. Less advanced countries will be benefited by the provision of these resources for improving their potential to produce environment statistics.

3.6 Advocacy

31. The importance of environment statistics and its role in policy and decision making as well as in informing the general public need to be advocated at international, regional and national fora involving producers and users of statistics. A successful communication strategy is essential for creating the political will and commitment of countries to develop an environment statistics programme and for resource mobilization. The development of environment statistics programmes benefit greatly from active and vocal advocates who can engage with the different institutions involved in the production of environment statistics, in order to bring these different data sets together into a coordinated environment statistics programme. This advocacy can take place on the national, regional or global level. It involves both advocating for a more optimal coordination of activities related to environment statistics, but it also involves working to influence public policy regarding environment statistics in order to more regularly collect high quality environment statistics and create the subsequent statistical products which are based on these statistics. The FDES is a tool to assist in environment statistics advocacy by providing a framework around which an environment statistics programme can be based. Strong advocacy for the production and dissemination of environment statistics, and the utilization of the FDES in this process, is a critical element of the strategy to put the FDES into action.

4. Plan of Work

32. The Plan of Work is based on the pillars of the strategy described above for the global, regional and national levels, as well as based on the collaboration of key players articulated at the different levels. The main actions, organized by global, regional and national contributions and roles, are described below.

4.1 Global level

33. The global institutions that are main players in the implementation phase include UNSD and partner agencies such as FAO, UNEP, UNDP and other institutions. Other collaborating

partner agencies, such as the United Nations regional commissions and regional inter-governmental organizations can be very important in mobilizing resources and in deploying their technical capacities at the regional and national levels in support of strengthening environment statistics in the countries.

34. Although some technical resources are already in existence, others will be developed, published and translated in the following years.

35. Prompt completion and dissemination of the FDES in the official United Nations languages, in print and electronic formats is a *sine qua non*.

36. Early production of a handbook or implementation manual on the FDES is paramount. Such a manual will provide definitions, classifications and hands-on information on the sourcing, collection, analysis and dissemination of the statistics contained in the Core Set of Environment Statistics. It may also address matters of technology, hardware, software and data exchange implications in the production of environment statistics. Production of such a manual in the official United Nations languages should be treated as a top priority.

37. Work must also be organized around the development of additional methodological resources to address other important or supplementary aspects of environment statistics. Guidelines for building institutional capacities for environment statistics should also be developed.

38. Digital resources are also a very efficient means for the dissemination of methodological resources and a potential mechanism for the presentation of technical assistance. Digital documents and web links can be organized and presented, by subject, on the Internet within a knowledge base format. Useful international, regional and national reports and publications on best practices can form the core of these digital resources and can be uploaded and organized in the knowledge base on an ongoing basis. The knowledge base may be structured in a format that mirrors the structure of the FDES. This will be populated over time to become an extensive repository of information on data collection, analysis and dissemination related to the statistics in the FDES. It may also encompass institutional and organizational issues relating to implementation. It will allow for collection, organization, sharing, research and utilization of relevant methodological and conceptual information for the FDES in a transparent, open format. This sharing will help to reduce the cost of acquiring essential information for the production of environment statistics.

39. As part of UNSD's information delivery mechanisms, the Environment Statistics website will continue to provide information on current and important developments in environment statistics, including the FDES. Areas covered under a number of headings will include environment statistics "Methodology", "Technical cooperation (projects and workshops)", Coordination (activities of working groups/subgroups), "Statistical Commission" reporting, an "Environment Statistics Newsletter" and "Other" useful links.

40. As in the development of the FDES, a representative international advisory organ would be essential in guiding the task of putting the FDES into practice. Accordingly, the recommendation is for newly established Expert Group on Environment Statistics that can carry out such a task. This Expert Group will advise on the application of the FDES including contributions to the necessary methodological and training material. The Expert Group will be responsible for any necessary revision and updating of the FDES, to take into account new

developments in the field with a view to maintaining the relevance of the FDES. Focusing its activities on coordination and support, this Expert Group will meet every year to monitor progress, promote knowledge sharing and provide technical assistance in the documentation of experiences among other tasks.

41. The Environment Statistics Section of UNSD can lead and dedicate a significant proportion of its existing resources to the initiative. However, the magnitude of the effort that is needed, together with the limited amount of staff and regular budget currently available for its global operations makes it necessary to mobilize substantial additional resources. Therefore, proper additional funding from donors should be sought in order to enable its full development. The Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics, extended to all regional commissions, may promote and coordinate the activities related to the Blueprint.

42. Table 1 illustrates the most important actions at the global level, organized by pillars.

Table 1 - Global level of the Blueprint - main lines of work and additional resources needed

Strategic pillar	Main lines of work	Additional resources needed	Main players
Methodological development and dissemination of know-how	Dissemination of FDES and Core Set of Environment Statistics	Increasing the speed of editing and translation of manuals and website material	UNSD with the support of the Expert Group on environment statistics can lead the finalization of methodological guidance manuals and oversee their translation to United Nations official languages. IWG-ENV and regional commissions can edit and finalize translation. IWG-ENV and regional collaborating agencies can organize the electronic and physical dissemination of the methodological resources as they become available.
	Development of a handbook or implementation manual for the Core Set of Environment Statistics	Expert consultants to supplement available technical resources	
	Metadata for common environmental indicators		
	Guidelines for building institutional capacities for environment statistics		
	Digital resources for the dissemination of methodological resources		
Capacity building and technical assistance to the countries in need	Provide technical assistance and capacity building to regions and countries	Donor resources in a substantial proportion to finance the provision of supplementary technical resources in countries and regions.	UNSD, IWG-ENV members and regional partner agencies, together with more advanced countries, will be the main technical assistance and capacity building providers. Less advanced countries will be benefited by these actions (in an inter-agency manner).
Networking	Construct a global network of experts and institutions working in environment statistics	Investment to develop an online forum for networking	Through the Statistical Commission and other forums by UNSD, UN agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, United Nations Regional Commissions as well as countries.

Resource mobilization	Mobilize incremental resources for capacity building and technical assistance projects	Current resources should be enough to formulate project proposals and develop new ones to secure new resources	Global partner agencies and working groups can work together to mobilize resources
Advocacy	Develop communication strategy Provide materials to advocate the importance of developing improving quality of environment statistics	Production of materials to support advocacy	UNSD, global partner agencies, global working groups and interagency collaborative committees can organize and strengthen this network

4.2 Regional level

43. The main regional partnerships can be constituted from the United Nations Regional Commissions (their statistical and sustainable development divisions); regional UNEP offices and regional FAO offices; regional development banks, regional inter-governmental institutions, and also sub-regional bodies; and other key regional and sub-regional partners.

44. These regional partnerships can contribute greatly to the process of putting the FDES into practice, both in terms of their contribution of financial resources as well as through making their technical capacities available. The regional bodies have typically cultivated closer relationships with the member States of their region/sub-region and are very familiar with the needs of the institutions and practitioners at the national level. They are also able to collaborate with regional institutions and can provide assistance and cooperation in commonly used languages.

45. Importantly, these regional bodies also have very good capacities to mobilize financial resources from donors, and acting together with other regional, global and national bodies, they have, in some instances, accomplished very good results in the field of environment statistics.

46. The following are some illustrative, suggested main lines of work, resources and players needed in order to further the process at the regional level.

Table 2 – Regional level of the Blueprint - main lines of work and additional resources needed

Strategic pillar	Main lines of work	Additional resources needed	Main players
Capacity building and technical assistance to the countries in need	Implement regional projects for development of environment statistics in their regions	Donor resources mobilized by international or regional sources	UNSD and regional partner agencies, together with more advanced countries, will be the main technical assistance and capacity building providers. Less advanced countries will benefit from these actions
Networking	Organize / strengthen regional working groups of environment statistics including NSOs, environmental ministries and other relevant agencies		Regional partner agencies, regional working groups and interagency collaborative committees at the national level can organize and strengthen these networks
Resource mobilization	Mobilize incremental resources for capacity building and technical assistance regional projects	Current resources should be enough to formulate project proposals and develop new ones to secure new resources	Regional partner agencies, regional working groups and NSOs and Environmental Ministries can work together to mobilize resources

4.3 National level

47. Detailed national plans will have to be developed for each country that embarks on the development of its environment statistics programme by using the FDES. These will depend on the unique mix of national circumstances facing a given country. However, they should correspond to the basic elements of the Blueprint.

48. Necessary strategic planning objectives include the identification of current strengths and weaknesses in the country's statistical system, the necessary actions and resources to address the weaknesses that are documented, and the goals and deliverables.

49. The development of a national environment statistics system requires a lot of work which is of an institutional nature in order to strengthen the inter-institutional cooperation mechanisms, and the institutionalization of environment statistics programmes.

50. At the national level, the organization of the three contributing key communities is crucial. The main players are: a) National Statistical Offices or Institutes, b) Environment and other environmentally relevant line Ministries or authorities; and c) National experts and researchers with extensive and in depth knowledge of specific environmental phenomena. Additionally, if they exist or are created during the process, national committees or working groups on environment statistics that are inter-institutional in nature should be engaged for their assistance.

51. It is incumbent upon countries to constitute coordinating mechanisms to bring the relevant partners and stakeholders together in the early planning stages of putting the FDES into practice. It is fundamental for the success of the programme to constitute a high level decision making intergovernmental body whose members will have the political aptitude and the authority of making decisions and overseeing implementation at a national level. They should also be capable of assisting substantially with the mobilization of resources. Advocating at national level, they will give environment statistics the prominence that it needs to ensure that the legal mandate and management organs that are put in place are appropriate for accomplishing the tasks at hand.

52. Another important component is an intergovernmental advisory group that comprises users and producers of environment statistics from the three main communities mentioned above. The purpose of this group would be to ensure that activities of data collection, analysis and dissemination of environment statistics are planned in response to the needs of all important actors.

53. Presented below are the basic elements of a rudimentary roadmap for developing environment statistics at the national level:

A. Preparatory Stage

- Creating a team, establishing leadership and responsibilities
- Collaboration with other agencies and within the institution
- Reviewing of legal framework, mandate and national policy priorities related to the environment
- Assessment of methodological resources available

B. Foundational Stage

- Revision of possible data sources for environment statistics
- Technical capacities: technical assistance, study tours, capacity building workshops
- Formalizing and supporting inter- and intra-institutional collaboration mechanisms and focal points
- Defining the environment statistics product(s)
- Quality assurance

C. Operational Stage

- Adapting the FDES and the Core Set of Environment Statistics to the country
- Defining a set of environment statistics to be collected
- Developing collaboration with national scientists and experts on specific realms of the environment to consult as needed
- Developing and piloting the data collection instrument
- Undertaking the data collection process
- Data validation
- Statistics description - metadata
- Preparing publications
- Preparing launch events
- Dissemination
- Feedback

D. Consolidation Stage

- Institutional development and strengthening of environment statistics units
- Formalization of national inter-institutional collaboration platforms
- Budget and staff resources dedicated to environment statistics
- Connecting with and participating in regional and global expert groups, networks and resources
- Continuous development and progression of environment statistics coverage and timeliness
- Quality assurance

54. To measure success and assess the efficacy of this roadmap, it is necessary to establish the state of availability of the statistics described in the FDES, and in particular, the Core Set. Accordingly, it may be advantageous to carry out a preliminary self-assessment to evaluate the existing state of affairs regarding the production of environment statistics. This would be based on the existing tools used in the Pilot Exercise of the Core Set.

55. This would serve to document the situation ex ante, recognizing the base from which efforts are being launched. Subsequent enquiries, based on the same matrix of questions could then be used to establish the situation ex post, recording progress in given areas over time. This could be seen as an important metric of the status of availability, quality and other characteristics of the Core Set and will serve as a good indicator of the speed and effectiveness with which the FDES is put into practice worldwide.

56. Success indicators for efficacy of the roadmap at national level would include evidence of: state-wide sustained coordination activities concerning the environment; agreement and support of stakeholder groups; sustained funding sources in the production of environment statistics; formation of clear work plans; introduction of practices for monitoring the availability

and quality of data produced; production of information on relevance, improved comparability and adaptability of the environment statistics that are being produced; the use of a forum to register any needs for change.

57. The following are some illustrative suggested lines of work, resources and players needed to advance the process of putting the FDES into practice at the national level in countries where capacity building and technical assistance is most needed. This table is indicative and generic which will necessarily need to be discussed and adapted to reflect the needs and perspectives of different countries.

Table 3 - National level of the Blueprint - main lines of work and additional resources needed

Strategic pillars	Main lines of work	Additional resources needed
Partnerships among global, regional and national agencies	Start/strengthen national committees for inter-institutional collaboration in the development of environment statistics	National resources have to be mobilized in order to build and/or strengthen national inter-agency organizations
Methodological development and dissemination of know-how	Start/strengthen national development of environment statistics	National resources have to be mobilized to properly fund environment statistics programmes
Capacity building and technical assistance to the countries in need	Delivering capacity building, technical assistance and networking to countries. Global and regional bodies, as well as more advanced countries will be the providers.	International/regional projects should mobilize donor resources to finance the investment of technical capacity building into the national statistical systems
Networking	Develop national capacities to integrate into or create regional and global networking	No significant additional resources are needed for networking, existing national resources should suffice
Resource mobilization	Organize and strengthen the contribution of statistical, policy/management and expert communities to contribute to the production of environment statistics	National resources have to be mobilized in order to secure the participation of the three key communities of stakeholders
Advocacy	Ensure the legal mandate and management organs that are put in place are appropriate for accomplishing the tasks at hand	National resources have to be mobilized in order to give environment statistics its prominence

5. Coordination with relevant global initiatives

58. There are several ongoing and planned global initiatives relevant to the development of environment statistics. The coordination of the implementation of the FDES with these other initiatives is essential for developing synergies, avoid duplication of efforts and making the best use of resources. Some of the most important global initiatives are described below.

59. The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) is a global partnership of national, regional and international statisticians, analysts, policy-makers, development professionals and other users of statistics. PARIS21 focuses its efforts on encouraging and assisting all low-income and lower middle income countries to design, implement, and monitor *National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)* and to have nationally owned and produced data for all MDG indicators. An NSDS provides a country with a strategy for developing statistical capacity across the entire national statistical system

(NSS). The NSDS provides a vision of where the NSS should be in five to ten years and will set milestones for getting there. It presents a comprehensive and unified framework for continual assessment of evolving user needs and priorities for statistics and for building the capacity needed to meet these needs in a more coordinated, synergistic and efficient manner. It also provides a framework for mobilising, harnessing, and leveraging resources (both national and international) and a basis for effective and results-oriented strategic management of the NSS. Embedding the implementation of the FDES in the NSDS may ensure the establishment and sustainability of environment statistics as part of official statistics.

60. The Strategy for the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework (SEEA-CF) under the auspices of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) will include capacity building and technical assistance to countries, and through those activities, environment statistics that support the compilation of the accounts will also be strengthened. As the FDES and the SEEA-CF are complementary frameworks that build on one another, coordination of technical assistance and capacity building for the implementation of the FDES and that of the SEEA-CF is necessary to achieve synergies of these programmes.

61. Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development¹ is the roadmap to implement a global strategy for the development of several statistical fields relevant to environment statistics.

62. MDG 7 capacity building activities by UNSD and the regional commissions, UNDP, and other international agencies are expected to continue with regions, sub-regions and countries. In the future, coordination with efforts to produce indicators to monitor the planned Sustainable Development Goals will also become important for harvesting synergies with the development of environment statistics.

¹ Led by FAO and WB in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC).