Data for Now

Using Innovative Data, Methods and Tools

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Motivation – reporting progress on SDGs

1 Data Roadmap Forum

- Fill data gaps - Exploring new sources/types of data;
- Strengthen the Data Ecosystem - citizens as data producers;
- Encourage Data Use - Ensure data connects to decision-making and meets user needs.

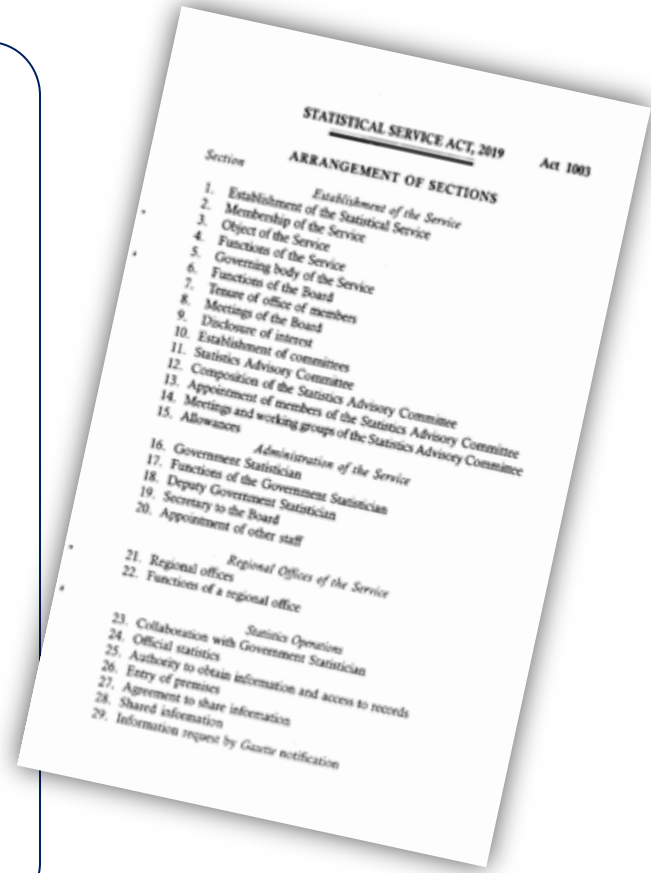
2 Mandate

Statistical Service Act, 2019:

- **Leadership** and **direction** to MDAs, MMDAs and other statutory bodies in the production of official statistics in Ghana
- Inclusion of Big Data as a valid input for production of official statistics.

3 Emerging Research

- GSS already piloted two citizen generated data initiatives to build evidence for non-traditional data use.
- Systematic review Mapping Citizen Science methodologies to SDGS (Fraisl et al., 2020); GSS partnered with IIASA and UNEP on the Citizen Science for SDGs (CS4SDGs) pilot.



STATISTICAL SERVICE ACT, 2019 Act 1003

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

Establishment of the Service

1. Establishment of the Statistical Service
2. Membership of the Service
3. Object of the Service
4. Functions of the Service
5. Governing body of the Service
6. Functions of the Board
7. Tenure of office of members
8. Meetings of the Board
9. Disclosure of interest
10. Establishment of committees
11. Statistics Advisory Committee
12. Composition of the Statistics Advisory Committee
13. Appointment of members of the Statistics Advisory Committee
14. Meetings and working groups of the Statistics Advisory Committee
15. Allowances

Administration of the Service

16. Government Statistician
17. Functions of the Government Statistician
18. Deputy Government Statistician
19. Secretary to the Board
20. Appointment of other staff

Regional Offices of the Service

21. Regional offices
22. Functions of a regional office

Statistics Operations

23. Collaboration with Government Statistician
24. Official statistics
25. Authority to obtain information and access to records
26. Entry of premises
27. Agreement to share information
28. Shared information
29. Information request by Gazette notification

Reporting on the SDGs

In Ghana's first VNR published in June 2019, **only 1 SDG indicator each** were reported for Goals 13, 14 and 15.

Some other indicators are monitored but with insufficient frequency. To **fill the data gap** alternative methods are required to measure these SDGs.

In 2019, Act 1003 the Statistical Service Act was passed into law, incorporating the use of **non-traditional data sources** into GSS' mandate.

Marine Litter Landscape

Ghana's ocean faces excessive pollution of the beaches and dumping of waste.

In line with UNCLOS 1982, Ghana passed six main Laws and Acts to regulate marine activities.

Ghana was first African nation to join **Global Plastic Action Partnership** in Oct 2019, with the President pledging to achieve zero leakage of plastic waste into oceans and waterways.

A growing beach-clean up community is active along Ghana's coast.

Between 2015 - 2018, there were 25 clean-ups with 7461 volunteers [TIDES].

Harnessing existing networks and incorporating them into the data ecosystem, data collection can become efficient and locally-owned

Partnerships

In exploring the national priorities for measuring 14.1.1b, a **Policy Roundtable** brought together Ministries, Academia and CSOs who agreed to explore Citizen Science methodologies and incorporate results into their **Oceans Plan**

Mobilising Networks

For over a decade beach clean ups have been happening on a large scale across Ghana's coast by leading NGO Smart Nature Freaks (SNFYVF). Since 2016, they have used the ICC Ocean Conservancy methodology to collect volume and type of waste collected on beach cleanups.

Plastic Punch, another NGO, customized their own data collection tool to nationalize the taxonomy of items collected.

International Coastal Cleanup

- In Ghana, ICC uses data cards and apps (Clean Swell) to track marine litter, with an emphasis on plastics, single use plastic debris items.
- The data recorded includes the location, the number of participants, the weight or an estimate of weight of the debris collected and the distance covered.
- When the SNFYVF do cleanups, they make sure that they identify each item found, record and count them.
- Results reported on an online global database, TIDES

Ocean Conservancy

Overview of the Process

How citizen science data was used to report on SDG indicator 14.1.1b

1

Mapping of Priorities and Instruments

Indicators of interest identified by GSS. IIASA connected to relevant initiatives and off-the-shelf tools.

2

Coordination around data collection

Approaches (via the Wilson Centre) to existing environmental networks in Ghana led to finding the ICC's TIDES dataset. Began conversations with Ocean Conservancy on harmonisation

3

Workshops to harmonise

Government, academic and CSO stakeholders invited to WS in Ghana to consider nationalisation. Simultaneously UNEP held WS reviewing accepted methodologies for 14.1.1b.

4

Validation by relevant line ministry

The Environmental Protection Agency validated the dataset, supported by UNEP guidelines. Data submitted to UNEP (custodian) for the global database in 2021

Results

Reporting to the global database

This will be the first time in Ghana that Citizen Science data will contribute to reporting a national statistic and also the first time Ghana has reported on 14.1.1b

Reuse of existing data

The information collected had been previously disseminated by the CSO who collected it, but there wasn't previously an awareness of how it could be reported officially. This has generated Interest from other CSOs in the reuse of their data.

Embedding data in wider strategies

The Environmental Protection Agency indicated in the Ghana multi-stakeholder workshop that once validated, the data and results collected by Ocean Conservancy could be integrated into Ghana's Oceans Plan currently in development, thus embedding the data in national strategy.

Lessons/Outcomes

Utilisation of existing tools	Rather than the time- and resource-intensive process of designing a digital mobile instrument from scratch, using an **off-the-shelf solutions** such as CleanSwell requires fewer resources to implement.
Utilisation of existing networks	By tapping into Smart Nature Freaks Youth Volunteers, an **already established and sustainable networks**, data could be efficiently collected as a by-product of existing activities.
Multi-stakeholder Data Partnerships	Importance of creating time and spaces for the government, international organisation and CSOs to meet, in order to **build trust, common goals and ownership** over the result. National roundtable led by EPA expected in the coming weeks to engage further on **institutionalisation**
National adoption	Process has led to **adoption in 2021 National SDGs Progress Report,** which forms the basis for **Ghana's 2022 VNR**

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