

Environmental Statistics in ECOWAS Region

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Overview

1. EACH MINUTE

- ▶ At least 51 acres of tropical forest are destroyed.
- ▶ We consume almost 35,000 barrels of oil.
- ▶ 50 tons of fertile soil are washed or blown off cropland.
- ▶ We add 12,000 tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.

Overview Contd

2. EACH HOUR

- ▶ 1,692 acres of productive dry land become desert.
- ▶ 1,800 children die of malnutrition and hunger
- ▶ 120 million dollars are spent for military expenditures
- ▶ 55 people are poisoned by the pesticides they use; 5 die.
- ▶ 60 new cases of cancer are diagnosed in the U.S.A alone.

Overview Contd

3. EACH DAY

- ▶ Over 230,000 babies are born.
- ▶ 25,000 people die of water shortage or contamination.
- ▶ 10 tons of nuclear waste are being generated by the 350 existing nuclear plants.
- ▶ 250,000 tons of sulfuric acid fall as acid rain in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ▶ 60 tons of plastic packaging and 372 tons of fishing net are dumped into the sea by commercial fishermen.
- ▶ Almost 5 species of life become extinct.

Introduction

- ▶ Environmental concerns have increasingly become the subject of mainstream socio-economic policies both at international and national levels.
- ▶ In ECOWAS region, water scarcity, water quality and land degradation are of primary concern, also air quality, waste management and biodiversity are important issues.

Introduction

- ▶ These environmental challenges cannot be met without the availability of scientifically reliable information obtained on the basis of knowledge of what is happening both quantitatively and qualitatively.
- ▶ A major difficulty in supporting informed decision-making and assessing the outcomes of such decisions has been the lack of basic environmental statistics and indicators.

I. Environmental problems in West Africa

1. Climate
2. Air pollution
3. Deforestation
4. Conservation of Biological Diversity
5. Desertification
6. Coastal erosion
7. Waste

II: ECOWAS Environmental Policy

- ▶ Document on ECOWAS Environmental Policy envisages to address the following concerns:
 - ✓ Stabilize the environment,
 - ✓ Reverse the heavy tendencies of degradation,
 - ✓ Reduction of dependence on natural resources,
 - ✓ Rehabilitate and maintain healthy environment.

ECOWAS Environmental Policy

- ▶ The Strategic Axes of ECOWAS Environmental Policy are to:
 - ✓ (1) Promote knowledge and capacities
 - ✓ (2) Contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources for the fight against poverty and food insecurity
 - ✓ (3) Ensure the maintenance or sustainable restoration of an healthy environment
 - ✓ (4) Promote Ecocitoyenneté (Communicate, Educate, Sensitize and Demonstrate) for more responsibility on environment
 - ✓ (5) Promote Partnerships for the Improvement of the Environment

Main issues to be addressed by environment statistics in ECOWAS region

► Water statistics

1. Water resources (rainfall, evapo-transpiration, river inflow/outflow, import of water) and its water quality,
2. Groundwater and surface water abstraction, desalinization,
3. Water supply by source, cost of water production, water quality of the supplied water,
4. Water use by sector (agriculture, industry, households, power stations) and its water quality,
5. Waste water treatment, waste water treatment plants, balance between water abstraction and available freshwater (ratio of used to total available water), non-traditional sources.

Main issues to be covered by environment statistics in ECOWAS region

► Solid waste statistics, including hazardous waste, municipal waste

1. Waste generation (quantity of waste generated by source),
2. Waste collection,
3. Waste treatment and disposal (e.g. landfill, incineration, recycling and composting),
4. Cost of disposing of waste and related waste indicators.

Main issues to be covered by environment statistics in ECOWAS region

► Main Air statistics

1. Emission of greenhouse gases,
2. Air quality (NO_x, SO₂, windblown sand, and dust), air quality in 'hot spots',
3. Emissions of air pollutants (quantities of pollutants emitted by source).

Main issues to be covered by environment statistics in ECOWAS region

► Land statistics

1. Land use (e.g. agriculture, forestry, built-up land, and classification of land by agro-climatic zone),
2. Changes in land use,
3. Land degradation (desertification, soil erosion).

Main issues to be covered by environment statistics in ECOWAS region

- ▶ Biodiversity (threatened species, protected areas),
- ▶ Environmental and sustainable development indicators,
- ▶ Natural resource statistics.

VII: Framework of Environment Statistics in ECOWAS Region

- ▶ **ECOWAS Commission** with technical support of **UNSD** and regional experts developed a Framework to strengthen capacity and institutionalize environment statistics in the region. The primary objective was to build a sound base of environment statistics.

VII: Framework of Environment Statistics in ECOWAS Region

- ▶ Specific **Objectives** (12)
- ▶ Actions at **Regional** level
 - 1. Resource mobilization***
 - 2. Institutionalization***
 - 3. Coordination***
 - 4. Training and technical assistance***
 - 5. Data collection and dissemination***

VII: Framework of Environment Statistics in ECOWAS Region

► Actions at National level

1. Legislation
2. Resource mobilization
3. Institutionalization
4. Coordination
5. Training and technical assistance
6. Data collection and dissemination

Challenges that faced the implementation of the regional Framework

- ▶ The challenges emanated from the Member States namely:
 1. Non availability of focal point in NSOs
 2. Lack of coordination and cooperation by MDAs
 3. Lack of capacity
 4. Staff turnover
 5. Limited financial resources

The way forward

- ▶ For environmental Statistics to become a reality both ECOWAS and the Member states have serious roles to play.
- ▶ The regional institution:
 - i. Has to ensure that the FDES 2013 agenda are integrated into the ECOWAS framework
 - ii. The new framework is adopted and implemented.

The way forward...

- iii Resources are mobilized
- iv capacities are strengthened and built
- v Focal point established

▶ Member States

- a. Legislation
- b. Focal point established
- c. To be budgeted annually
- d. Resources mobilized

The way forward

d. Activities coordinated

e. Data collected and disseminated

The End

► Thank you for your attention.