

International Requirements for Environmental Statistics and Indicators



Workshop on Environment Statistics in support of the implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013) (Lomé, Togo, 19-23 October 2015)

Environment Statistics Section, United Nations Statistics Division



Requirements for environment statistics

- ❖ Global
- ❖ International
- ❖ Regional
- ❖ National/sub-national

These requirements may overlap. We will focus on the international requirements.



Main types of international requirements

International requirements are for assessment, monitoring and planning (measurement in the past, current, future) for:

- ❖ Follow up on global conferences
- ❖ Reporting to international conventions
- ❖ Supporting thematic/topical international data collections
- ❖ Contributing to comprehensive international environment statistics data collections
- ❖ Can also provide a model for country collections



Advantages of identifying international requirements:

- ❖ Identifying what should be measured in different domains of environment statistics;
- ❖ Identifying the standards, concepts, classifications and definitions that will enable coordination and harmonization for international comparability;
- ❖ Allowing countries to see where there is need for improvement;
- ❖ Identifying data gaps.



Global versus International

- ❖ Global statistics: give a picture of the world as a whole (e.g. global environmental issues like climate change).
- ❖ International statistics: provide comparable country statistics that can be aggregated to regional/global level (e.g. contribution to pressures that cause the global concern).



Global reporting — follow up on global conferences

- ❖ Millennium Development Goals Indicators (2000-2015)
- ❖ Indicators of Sustainable Development
- ❖ Indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030)
- ❖ Other Development Indicator sets
- ❖ Objective: to monitor progress based on an agreed set of indicators
- ❖ Level: global (MDGs, SDGs); national (indicators for sustainable development)



SDGs Goals

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote **sustainable** agriculture;
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all;
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
6. **Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;**
7. **Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all;**
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and **sustainable** economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and **sustainable** industrialization and foster innovation;
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries;
11. **Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;**
12. **Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;**
13. **Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;**
14. **Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;**
15. **Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;**
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for **sustainable development**, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.



SDGs: goals and targets

- ❖ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 goals and 169 targets that were adopted by member States in the UN Summit 25-27 September 2015, convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the GA
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>
- ❖ Goals 1-6 build on the advance of the core agenda of the MDGs, while goals 7-17 break new ground.
- ❖ The well-recognized defects of MDG 7, which only partially integrated the environmental dimension, have been corrected in the SDGs. The environmental dimensions of sustainable development are fully fleshed out in the goals on oceans and marine resources, ecosystems and biodiversity including land degradation and desertification, and are also mainstreamed under all other goals.



International reporting — to international conventions

Objective: to monitor compliance with regulations based on a prescribed set of data

Examples:

- ❖ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- ❖ Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

Level: national (parties)



ECOWAS countries' participation in climate change and other international environmental agreements — as of 2014

Country	Basel Conv.	Conv. on Biological Diversity	CITES	Conv. on Migratory Species	World Heritage Conv.	Montreal Protocol	Ramsar Conv.	Rotterdam Conv.	Stockholm Conv.	UN Conv. to Combat Desertification	UN Conv. on the Law of the Sea
Benin	1997	1994	1984	1986	1982	1993	2000	2003	2004	1996	1997
Burkina Faso	1999	1993	1989	1990	1987	1989	1990	2001	2004	1996	2005
Cabo Verde	1999	1995	2005	2006	1988	2001	2005	2005	2006	1995	1987
Côte d'Ivoire	1994	1994	1994	2003	1981	1993	1996	2003	2004	1997	1984
The Gambia	1997	1994	1977	2001	1987	1990	1997	2001	2006	1996	1984
Ghana	2003	1994	1975	1988	1975	1989	1988	2002	2003	1996	1983
Guinea	1995	1993	1981	1993	1979	1992	1993	1999	2007	1997	1985
Guinea Bissau	2005	1995	1990	1995	2006	2002	1990	2007	2008	1995	1986
Liberia	2004	2000	1981	2004	2002	1996	2003	2003	2002	1998	2008
Mali	2000	1995	1994	1987	1977	1994	1987	2002	2003	1995	1985
Niger	1998	1995	1975	1983	1974	1992	1987	2005	2006	1996	2013
Nigeria	1991	1994	1974	1987	1974	1988	2001	2000	2004	1997	1986
Senegal	1992	1994	1977	1988	1976	1993	1977	2000	2003	1995	1984
Sierra Leone	...	1994	1994	...	2005	2001	2000	...	2003	1997	1994
Togo	2004	1995	1978	1996	1998	1991	1995	2003	2004	1995	1985



Thematic/topical international data collections

Objective: provide internationally comparable data based on standard questionnaires and methodology. The aim is not directly environmental but the data are used in environment statistics.

Examples:

- ❖ UNSD
 - Energy statistics, industrial statistics, trade statistics, national accounts, demographic statistics
- ❖ FAO
 - AQUASTAT (water)
 - FAOSTAT (agriculture, nutrition, fisheries, forestry, food aid, land use and population)
 - FISHSTAT (fisheries)
 - FORIS (forests)
 - GLIPHA (Global Livestock Production and Health Atlas)
- ❖ UNEP
 - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (protected areas)
 - GEMS-Water (water quality)

Level: national



Comprehensive international environment statistics data collections

Objective: to provide internationally comparable statistics on environmental issues based on standard questionnaires and methodology.

Examples:

- ❖ UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics
- ❖ OECD/Eurostat Questionnaire on the State of the Environment

Level: national



UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics

- ❖ 2004 Questionnaire included: Air; Land; **Waste**; and **Water** sections
- ❖ 2006 Questionnaire included: **Waste**; and **Water** sections
- ❖ 2008 Questionnaire includes: **Waste**; and **Water** sections
- ❖ 2010 Questionnaire includes: **Waste**; and **Water** sections
- ❖ 2013 Questionnaire includes: **Waste**; and **Water** sections

2004 Questionnaires: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/questionnaire2004.htm>

2006 Questionnaires: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/questionnaire2006.htm>

2008 Questionnaires: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/questionnaire2008.htm>

2010 Questionnaires: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/questionnaire2010.htm>

2013 Questionnaires: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/questionnaire2013.html>

All Questionnaires: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/questionnaire.htm>



UNSD/UNEP 2013 Questionnaire content

❖ Waste

- R1: Generation of Waste by Source
- R2: Management of Hazardous Waste
- R3: Management of Municipal Waste
- R4: Composition of Municipal Waste
- R5: Management of Municipal Waste — City Data
- R6: Supplementary information sheet

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/Questionnaires/q2013Waste_French.pdf

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/Questionnaires/q2013Waste_English.pdf



UNSD/UNEP 2013 Questionnaire content (cont.)

❖ Water

- W1 Renewable Freshwater Resources
- W2 Freshwater Abstraction and Use
- W3 Water Supply Industry (ISIC 36)
- W4 Wastewater Generation and Treatment
- W5 Population Connected to Wastewater Treatment
- W6 Supplementary information sheet

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/Questionnaires/q2013Water_French.pdf
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/Questionnaires/q2013Water_English.pdf



UNSD Questionnaires:

1999-2013: responses as of 29 September 2015

Country (current name)	1999	2001	2004	2006	2008	2010	2013
Benin			Benin			Benin	
Burkina Faso			Burkina Faso			Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso
Cabo Verde							Cabo Verde
Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire		Côte d'Ivoire				
The Gambia	The Gambia		The Gambia	The Gambia	The Gambia	The Gambia	The Gambia
Ghana			Ghana				
Guinea			Guinea	Guinea	Guinea	Guinea	
Guinea Bissau			Guinea Bissau				
Mali			Mali	Mali			
Niger			Niger	Niger	Niger		Niger
Nigeria			Nigeria	Nigeria			
Senegal					Senegal		
Sierra Leone			Sierra Leone		Sierra Leone		
Togo					Togo	Togo	Togo

No response received from Liberia.



Responding to international data requests

In the questionnaires, key guidance is provided in the area of environment statistics:

- ❖ Classifications to be used [e.g., ISIC]
- ❖ Definitions
- ❖ Concepts spelled out

But this is a two-way street:

- ❖ Through supplementary information provided by countries, information is also provided to international agencies on practices in the field. This informs on general availability of data and may influence future standards.



UNSD Data Dissemination

UNSD disseminates data through:

- ❖ UNSD Environmental Indicators (Air and climate, Biodiversity, Energy and minerals, Forests, Governance, Inland water resources, Land and agriculture, Marine and coastal areas, Natural disasters, and Waste) (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/qindicators.htm>)
- ❖ Country Files (access to country files is restricted to countries and international organizations that participate in the data collection (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/Questionnaires/index.asp>))
- ❖ Country Snapshots (these include UNSD environmental indicators and other economic/demographic data (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/Questionnaires/country_snapshots.htm))
- ❖ Environment statistics in UNData (<http://data.un.org/>)



UNSD Environmental Indicators



United Nations Statistics Division

Home Statistical Databases Publications Methods & Classifications Meetings & Events Technical Newsletters [Site search] Go

Environment Statistics

- History and current activities
- Brochure on Environment Statistics
- FAQ

▼ **Methodology**

- FDES 2013
- International Recommendations for Water Statistics
- Concepts and methods in Environment Statistics
- Glossary
- Working Papers

▼ **Data**

- UNSD environmental indicators
- Country Snapshots
- Country Files (Limited access)
- Questionnaires

▼ **Technical cooperation**

- ECOWAS project
- ESCWA project
- CARICOM project
- Workshops

▼ **Coordination**

- Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics
- Work Session on Water Statistics

▼ **Reports to the Statistical Commission**

▼ **ENVSTATS newsletters**

▼ **Useful links**

- National data sources
- International and regional data sources
- Environmental accounting

UNSD Environmental Indicators

UNSD Environmental Indicators disseminate global environment statistics on ten indicator themes compiled from a wide range of data sources. The themes and indicator tables were selected based on the current demands for international environmental statistics and the availability of internationally comparable data. Indicator tables, charts and maps with relatively good quality and coverage across countries, as well as links to other international sources, are provided under each theme.

Statistics on Water and Waste are based on official statistics supplied by national statistical offices and/or ministries of environment (or equivalent institutions) in response to the biennial UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics, complemented with comparable statistics from OECD and Eurostat, and water resources data from FAO Aquastat. Statistics on other themes were compiled by UNSD from other international sources. In a few cases, UNSD has made some calculations in order to derive the indicators. However, generally no adjustments have been made to the values received from the source. UNSD is not responsible for the quality, completeness/availability, and validity of the data.


Environment statistics is still in an early stage of development in many countries, and data are often sparse. The indicators selected here are those of relatively good quality and geographic coverage. Information on data quality and comparability is given at the end of each table together with other important metadata.

- ✚ Air and Climate
- ✚ Biodiversity
- ✚ Energy and Minerals
- ✚ Forests
- ✚ Governance
- ✚ Inland Water Resources
- ✚ Land and Agriculture
- ✚ Marine and Coastal Areas
- ✚ Natural Disasters
- ✚ Waste



Environmental Indicators—Forest area

UN Home | Department of Economic and Social Affairs | Economic and Social Development Home | About us | Contact us | Site Map


 United Nations Statistics Division


Home | Statistical Databases | Publications | Methods & Classifications | Meetings & Events | Technical Newsletters | [Site search]

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

Forests







last update: December 2010

Forest area 

 **Percentage of Land Area Covered by Forest in 2010**

0 2,000 4,000 Km

Units: %

	0.0 - 10.0		10.1 - 20.0		20.1 - 40.0		40.1 - 60.0		60.1 - 98.0		No data available
---	------------	---	-------------	---	-------------	---	-------------	--	-------------	---	-------------------

Data Source: FAO
Map Source: UNGIWO

Last Update: December 2010
Map available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/indicators>

Error on page.

Local intranet 100%

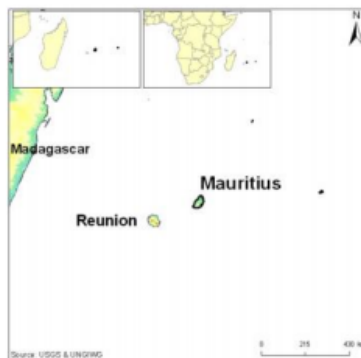


Mauritius



Air and climate

Emissions of:		Year
SO ₂ (1000t)	11	2006
SO ₂ per capita (kg)	9	2006
NO _x (1000t)	15	2006
NO _x per capita (kg)	12	2006
CO ₂ (million tonnes)	4	2009
CO ₂ per capita (tonnes)	3	2009
GHG (million tonnes CO ₂ eq.)	5	2006
GHG per capita (tonnes CO ₂ eq.)	4	2006
Consumption of ozone depleting CFCs (ODP t)	0	2009



Note: The boundaries, the names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Biodiversity

		Year
Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected (%)	1	2010
Number of threatened species	224	2011
Fish catch (tonnes)	7 786	2010
Change in fish catch from previous year (%)	1	2010

Permanent meadows and pastures (% of agric. land)	8	2011
Change in agricultural land area since 1990 (%)	-20	2011
Forest area (sq km)	350	2011
Change in forest area since 1990 (%)	-10	2011

Economy

GDP growth rate from previous year (%)	4	2011
GDP per capita (at current prices - \$US)	8 659	2011
% Value added: agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing	4	2011
% Value added: mining, manufacturing, utilities	20	2011

Population

Population (1000)	1 299	2010
Population growth rate from previous year (%)	1	2010

Energy

Energy consumption (1000t oil eq.)	1 174	2009
Energy consumption per capita (kg oil eq.)	909	2009
Energy use intensity (kg oil eq.) per \$1,000 GDP (Constant 2005 PPP\$)	86	2007
Renewable electricity production (%)	5	2009

Waste

Total population served by municipal waste collection (%)	98	2009
Municipal waste collected (1000t)	408	2009
Hazardous waste generated (1000t)	4	2008

Land and agriculture

Total area (sq km)	1 969	2011
Agricultural land (sq km)	890	2011
Arable land (% of agric. land)	0	2011
Permanent crops (% of agric. land)	4	2011

Water and sanitation

Long-term average renewable freshwater resources (mio m ³ /yr)	2 590	N / A
Urban population with access to improved drinking water source (%)	100	2010
Rural population with access to improved drinking water source (%)	99	2010
Urban population with access to improved sanitation (%)	91	2010
Rural population with access to improved sanitation (%)	88	2010

Country Snapshot — Mauritius

Source: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/Questionnaires/country_snapshots.htm



Environment Statistics Country Snapshot

Last updated: February 2013

These snapshots provide data about the environment and other related statistics at a point in time that will allow comparison between countries. For up to date data, time series, downloadable data, and additional information, please visit original sources. UNSD is not responsible for the quality, completeness / availability, and validity of data obtained from other data providers. Original sources should be cited when Environment Statistics Country Snapshot data are referenced. A list of sources and corresponding URLs are shown below.

Data Sources

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Database

Fish catch, Change in fish catch from previous year, Agricultural land, Arable land, Permanent crops, Permanent meadows and pastures, Change in agricultural land area since 1990, Forest area, Change in forest area since 1990, and some of Long-term average renewable freshwater resources data are extracted from FAO.

FAOSTAT: <http://faostat.fao.org/>

AQUASTAT: <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/dbase/index.stm>

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Number of threatened species data are extracted from the IUCN.

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

UNdata

GDP growth rate from previous year, and GDP per capita (at current prices) data are retrieved from the UNdata portal. UNdata was launched by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). It brings the various UN statistical databases within easy reach of users through a single entry point. Users can search and download a variety of statistical resources provided by the UN System.

<http://data.un.org/>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Prospects

All 'per capita' variables use population data obtained from this source. *Population and Population growth rate from previous year* data are also retrieved from this source.

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/>

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat

SO₂ emissions, SO₂ per capita emissions, NO_x emissions, NO_x per capita emissions, GHG emissions and GHG per capita are obtained from the UNFCCC Greenhouse Gas Emissions Database.

http://unfccc.int/ghg_emissions_data/items/3800.php

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) Demographic Statistics Yearbook

Total area data are extracted from this source.

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/default.htm>

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) Energy Statistics Database

Energy consumption, Energy consumption per capita, and Renewable electricity production figures are extracted from the UNSD Energy Statistics Database.

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/default.htm>

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) Environment Statistics Database

Total population served by municipal waste collection, Municipal waste collected, Hazardous waste generated and some of Long-term average renewable freshwater resources data are extracted from the UNSD Environment Statistics Database (note: database also includes data from OECD and Eurostat).

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/qindicators.htm>

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Indicator Database

Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected, CO₂ emissions, CO₂ emissions per capita, Consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs, Energy use intensity (kg oil eq.) per \$1,000 (PPP) GDP, Urban population with access to improved drinking water source, Rural population with access to improved drinking water source, Urban population with access to improved sanitation, and Rural population with access to improved sanitation data are extracted from the MDG database.

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) National Accounts Database

% value added - agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing; and % value added - mining, manufacturing, utilities are obtained from the National Accounts Main Aggregates Database, according to the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC).

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nasama/introduction.asp>

Country Snapshot — Mauritius (cont.)

Source: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/Questionnaires/country_snapshots.htm



Environment statistics — UN Data



The screenshot shows the UNdata website interface. At the top is the UNdata logo with the tagline "A world of information". Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for "Data", "Glossary", "Metadata", "API", and "More". A search bar is located to the right of the menu, with a "Search" button. Below the search bar, it indicates "34 databases - 60 million records" and "Update calendar".

The main content area is divided into three columns:

- Databases:** Lists categories like "Crime" (with sub-item "UNODC Homicide Statistics 2012, UNODC") and "Education" (with sub-item "UIS Data Centre, UNESCO UIS").
- Updates:** Shows a tweet from @undata dated 24 Oct, mentioning "The World Tourism Data table in @UNdata was updated with available stats as of mid-Oct 2014: bit.ly/1yulpAm; thanks @UNWTO".
- Country data services:** Lists countries such as Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, and Angola.

Below these columns is a green banner for "MBS Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and other UNSD data resources". Further down are sections for "Popular searches" and "Feedback and reviews" with logos for Library Journal, PC, and Cnet.

At the bottom of the page is a row of logos for various UN agencies, including UNESCO, FAO, ILO, ITU, UNIDO, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNHCR, UNWTO, WHO, and WFP. The footer contains navigation links: "Home | About Us | FAQ | Feedback | Site usage".



Responsibilities of International agencies — Addressing duplication of requests and related problems

- ❖ International organizations may ask for the same or similar data/indicators, creating unnecessary burden on countries;
- ❖ Equally, more than one national organization may collect (and provide to the international organizations) the same or similar data in parallel, ending up with diverging figures for the same country;
- ❖ International organizations use different concepts, definitions and classifications that end up with apparently duplicate data requests;
- ❖ Deviations from the international definitions motivate organizations to manipulate country data to ensure comparability and as a result, there will be differences between data from international and national sources.



Consistency between questionnaires

- ❖ **UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire is consistent with the OECD/Eurostat Questionnaire.**
 - The UNSD questionnaire asks for less detailed information than the OECD/Eurostat questionnaire.
 - The Water questionnaire is consistent with SEEA water accounts.
- ❖ **Any regional questionnaires should be consistent with UNSD/UNEP and OECD/Eurostat questionnaires.**



Coordination

- ❖ Efforts to avoid duplication by using data available at international sources instead of asking it from the countries (however, frequently countries revise data coming from international sources).
- ❖ Sometimes duplication is apparent and unavoidable (e.g. FAO land use statistics versus UNSD land use questionnaire).



International coordination of environment statistics and minimization of reporting burden

- ❖ UNSD is actively promoting coordination between international and regional organizations through the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (IWG-ENV).
- ❖ The main objective of the IWG-ENV is the harmonization of international data and their collection. It focuses on:
 - development and harmonization of:
 - methods
 - concepts, definitions and classifications
 - coordination of data collection
 - coordination of training
 - Members include: UNSD, UN-ECE, UNEP, FAO, OECD, Eurostat



Thank you for your attention.