

# Session 6: ECOWAS Programme on Environment Statistics

By Mr. Christopher AJAERO  
Programme Officer  
Research and Statistics Directorate  
ECOWAS Commission

Workshop on Environment Statistics  
Yaoundé, 5-9 December 2011

# Contents

- ▶ Overview
- ▶ Introduction
- I. Environmental problems in West Africa
- II. ECOWAS Environmental Policy
- III. Situation of Environmental Statistics in ECOWAS region
- IV. Main issues to be addressed by environment statistics in ECOWAS region
- V. Framework of Environment Statistics in ECOWAS Region
- VI. Recent and current activities

# 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 Cont'd

## 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 the ECOWAS region, water scarcity, water quality and land degradation are of primary concern, as well as air quality, waste management and biodiversity are also 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 restore of a healthy environment
  - ✓ (4) Promote Ecocitoyenneté (Communicate, Educate, Sensitize and Demonstrate) for more responsibility on environment
  - ✓ (5) Promote Partnerships for the Improvement of the Environment

# III: Situation of Environmental Statistics in ECOWAS Region

- ▶ As a follow up to the first workshop on environment statistics (organized by UNSD, UNEP and ECOWAS) in 2005, UNSD in collaboration with ECOWAS, prepared a report on the situation of environment statistics in the region.
- ▶ Assessment based on country papers, website information, responses to the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire, and responses from countries to draft country profiles.

# IV: 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<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, 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.



# V: Framework of Environment Statistics in ECOWAS Region

- ▶ **ECOWAS Commission with technical support of UNSD and regional experts developed a “Framework for Strengthening Capacity in the Development and Institutionalization of Environment Statistics in the ECOWAS Region in 2006”. The primary objective is to build a sound base of environment statistics.**

# V: 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

# VI: Recent and current activities

- ▶ 3 workshops in the ECOWAS region (2008, 2010 and 2011) in collaboration with UNSD and UNEP. An Agreed Set of ECOWAS Indicators has been adopted and UNSD has assisted ECOWAS in the development of methodology sheets for the indicators. ECOWAS is currently testing these indicators through a first data collection exercise.
- ▶ ECOWAS plans to produce a first regional compendium on environment statistics.

# VI: Recent and current activities

- ▶ 2 national workshops on environment statistics in Ghana (2010) and Sierra Leone (2011) conducted by UNSD and ECOWAS where various stakeholders were brought together.
- ▶ Requests for additional national workshops have been submitted to ECOWAS.

# The End

► Thank you for your Attention

