

Training Workshop on Environment Statistics
Damascus, 4-8 April 2004Draft AgendaSunday 4 April

- 8:00 – 9:00 am Registration of Participants
- 9:00 – 9:45 am Opening Ceremony
- 9:45 – 10:00 am Adoption of Agenda, Procedural and Organizational Issues
- 9:45 – 10:00 am Break
- 10:00 – 12:30 am Session I: The need for Environment Statistics and Indicators
- Country and regional needs: Environmental assessments; information on natural resources; pollution; sustainability; (Adel Abdelkader, UNEP, 20 min.)
 - The Abu Dhabi Global Environment Data Initiative (Dr. Ayad Altaai, Hashim Mohammed Al Hashimi, AGEDI, Abu Dhabi, 20 min.)
 - International needs: Millennium indicators; Johannesburg goals; sustainable development indicators; (Reena Shah, UNDSO, 20 min.)
 - The UNSD questionnaire on environment statistics, frameworks of Environment Statistics and Indicators, the system of environmental accounts (Reena Shah, UNDSO, & Ulrich Wieland, UNSD, 20 min.)
 - The state of environment statistics in the ESCWA region (Khamis Raddad, Statistical Office of Jordan, 10 min.)
 - Questions/comments
- 12:30 – 1:00 pm Break
- 1:00 – 3:00 pm Session II: Statistics on Wastes
- Environmental policy issues of waste: Toxicity; resource use; National and international waste management policies; sources of waste statistics: national registers; municipalities; waste treatment facilities; waste collectors; industries; concepts, methods and classifications: The waste cycle from generation to disposal or recovery; types of waste; types of waste treatment; waste producers (ISIC); the UNSD questionnaire on waste statistics (Ulrich Wieland, UNSD, 60 min.)
 - Country presentation (Egypt, 15 min.)
 - Discussion

Monday 5 April

- 8:00 – 10:00 am Session III: Statistics on Water: resources and use
- Setting the scope: environmental and policy issues; indicators on water (Jonathan Handley, UNSD, 5 min.)
 - Water resources: Sources of water resources and use statistics: measuring of surface water; estimating available ground water; evapotranspiration and dependable water resources; The UNSD questionnaire on water statistics, table W1 (Khamis Raddad, Statistical Office of Jordan, 30 min.)
 - Application of Statistical Analysis in Water Resource Studies (Mazen Abou Abdullah, ACSAD, Syria, 20 min.)
 - Measuring water abstraction by agriculture, industries, households, estimating water use and water losses; concepts, methods and classifications; the UNSD questionnaire on water statistics, tables W2-W4A (Michael Nagy, Umweltbundesamt Oesterreich, 40 min)
- 10:00 – 10:15 am Break
- 10:15 – 12:00 am Session IV: Statistics on Water: water treatment and water quality
- Sources of water treatment statistics: waste water treatment facilities; municipalities; industries; sources of water quality statistics: how to do reliable measurement; concepts, methods and classifications; the UNSD questionnaire on water statistics, tables W4B-W9 (Michael Nagy, Umweltbundesamt Oesterreich, 80 min.)
 - Discussion
- 12:00 – 12:30 pm Break
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm Session V: Water statistics – country experiences
- Iraq, 15 min
 - Oman, 15 min
 - Discussion
- 1:30 – 3:00 pm Working group discussions 1
- Review of the priority list of environmental water and waste indicators for the ESCWA Region with respect to data availability and with respect to compatibility with the UNSD Questionnaire on Environment Statistics.
 - Presentation and discussion of results

Tuesday 6 April

- 8:00 – 10:00 am Session VI: Data treatment and data dissemination
- Treatment of Environmental Data Application to UNSD Questionnaires on Environment Statistics (Wafa Aboul. Hosn, ESCWA, 20 min.)
 - Dissemination policies; what to disseminate: Aarhus convention; how to disseminate: Web dissemination vs. paper publications (Reena Shah, UNDS, & Jonathan Handley, UNSD, 20 min.)
 - Country experience (Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon)
 - Discussion
- 10:00 – 10:30 am Break

- 10:30 – 12.30 pm Session VII: Statistics on land use
- Setting the scope: environmental and policy issues; sources of land use and land cover statistics: the institutional aspect; concepts, methods and classifications; the Agro-maps initiative; the UNSD questionnaire on land use statistics; linkages to other areas of statistics and data collection (Hubert George, FAO, 50 min.)
 - Country presentation: (Qatar, 15 min.)
- 12.30 Visit to Palmyra

Wednesday 7 April

- 8:30 – 10:30 Session VIII: Land degradation
- Environmental and policy issues of land degradation; The UNSD questionnaire on land degradation (Jonathan Handley, UNSD, 15 min.)
 - Land degradation – concepts, data collection, and presentation; sources of land degradation statistics: the institutional aspect; concepts, methods and classifications; the LADA project (Hubert George, FAO, 30 min.)
 - Data and information collection on land degradation, case study from Yemen (Abdul Rahim Loulou and Ali Abdulah, ACSAD, Syria, 20 min.)
- 10:30 – 11:00 am Break
- 11:00 – 1.15 pm Working group discussions 2
- Review of the priority list of environmental land indicators for the ESCWA region with respect to data availability and with respect to compatibility with the UNSD Questionnaire on Environment Statistics;
 - Presentation and discussion of results
- 1:15 – 1:45 pm Break
- 1:45 – 3:00 pm Session IX: GIS and Remote Sensing
- The use of GIS and remote sensing for environmental data and indicators (Adel Abdelkader, UNEP, 50 min.)
- Discussion

Thursday 8 April

- 8:00 – 9:30 am Session X: Statistics on air emission and air quality
- Environmental policy issues of air emissions: Climate change, health, acidity, ozone layer; international conventions (UNFCCC and CLRTAP) and objectives; concepts, methods and classifications; the UNSD questionnaire on air; linkages to other areas of statistics (Florence Pintus, Plan Bleu, 50 min.)
 - Country presentation: (Saudi Arabia, 15 min.)
 - Discussion
- 9:30 - 10.00 am Session XI: How to strengthen environment statistics in ESCWA countries
- Experiences from results of the Medstat project (Florence Pintus, Plan Bleu, 20 min.)
- 10:00 – 10:15 am Break
- 10:15 – 12:00 am Working group discussions: How can environment statistics in ESCWA countries be strengthened
- Develop ideas on how environment statistics can be better developed in countries and how it can better serve policy makers
 - Presentation and discussion of results
- 12:00 – 12:30 am Break
- 12:30 – 2:30 pm Closing Session: Conclusions and recommendations
- Discussion of the emerging regional list of indicators
 - Conclusions and recommendations
 - Workshop report
 - Workshop evaluation
 - Certificates
 - Closing of the workshop