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**THE ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS
PROGRAMME
IN *COTE D'IVOIRE* AND THE ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES
(*ECOWAS*)**

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CI: Background of Environment Statistics [1]

- **1988:** Speech of the President of Côte d'Ivoire at the National Assembly
- **1995:** The Government of Côte d'Ivoire developed “**the White Paper of the Environment of Côte d'Ivoire**”
 - ◆ presenting a complete diagnosis of the state of the environment in Côte d'Ivoire
 - ◆ proposing a strategy for the protection of the environment: creation of a national system of information.

Priorities set by the government to face this situation:

1. Restore the degraded natural environment (deforestation and bush fires);
2. Improve the quality of rural and urban life (sanitation projects, organization of the collection, treatment and the disposal of waste);
3. Improve the management of water resources and protection of their quality;
4. Inform, sensitize and educate the population.

CI: Background of Environment Statistics [2]

To carry out this mission focused on the priorities set by the Government, National Statistical Office (INS) which is responsible for setting up a statistical system and for ensuring at the national level the consistency of the statistical, economic and social data, has undertaken a number of actions:

- Request the assistance of UNSD in the organization of a seminar on the establishment of the United Nations Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) - 26-27 July 1994 in Abidjan.
- Establishment of an Advisory Commission of Environment Statistics representatives of all the structures producer and user institutions of environmental statistics and a Steering Committee
- Proposal for a pilot project

CI: Background of Environment Statistics [3]

Pilot project:

- Aimed at strengthening the capacity of the INS in the collection, centralization, processing and dissemination of environment statistics
- To allow the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and all institutions working in the environmental sector to have reliable and detailed statistics on the environment as a basis for the development of environmental plans and the management of the phenomenon
- To establish the FDES-CI which resulted in producing:
 - ◆ Report on the Situation of Environment Statistics in Côte d'Ivoire (published in 2005);
 - ◆ Compendium of Environment Statistics (first publication in 2006).

CI: Application and Usefulness of FDES-CI [1]

- ▶ Under the leadership of the Advisory Commission and with the assistance of UNSD, the INS developed FDES-CI in 1996, referring to the concepts and methods of environment statistics of UNSD taking into account the priorities expressed by members of the Advisory Commission of Environment Statistics of Côte d'Ivoire.
- ▶ The contents of the FDES-CI consist of "statistical topics" covering aspects of environmental problems that lend themselves, at least theoretically, to statistical description. The determination of statistical topics within each information category was an important step in identifying the variables of interest for each component of the environment.
- ▶ When developing the variables used in the FDES-CI the list of environmental indicators adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1995, as well as the list of indicators of sustainable development approved by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1996, were also consulted. In addition to the identification of the variables, the FDES-CI was also used to assess the data requirements, and identify the data sources and availability.

CI: Application and Usefulness of FDES-CI [2]

- ▶ After the FDES-CI was produced in 1996 the INS focused its efforts on the preparation of meta-data for each variable as well as on the development of questionnaires to send to the various data producers.
- ▶ The INS requested UNSD again in 1998 to assist them in the review and finalization of these questionnaires as well as to organize another national seminar with all data producers and users where the FDES-CI and the way forward were presented.
- ▶ The overall process of data collection took several years (1998 to 2003) as for some of the institutions it was the first time for them to collect these data and the INS had to undertake the responsibility for data validation, which in this new field of statistics was not always easy. However, in 2005 the INS produced the Report on the Situation of Environment Statistics in Côte d'Ivoire and the first Compendium of Environment Statistics in 2006.

CI: Application and Usefulness of FDES-CI [3]

- ▶ After the publication of the Compendium the pilot project culminated and evolved into an established programme of environment statistics in the INS.
- ▶ Currently in Côte d'Ivoire the INS has committed to producing an environment statistics compendium using the FDES-CI every two years and also participates in the ECOWAS programme for environment statistics region.
- ▶ Despite the number of years that the INS has been working in environment statistics there are still many data gaps and issues of data quality.
- ▶ It is the intention of the INS to also develop integrated environmental and economic accounts once the basic environment statistics are adequately established and their quality is of a satisfactory standard.

ECOWAS: Regional Programme on Environment Statistics [1]

Major Milestone: The 57th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers (Ouagadougou, 18-19 December 2006) adopted the regulation C/REG.24/12/06 on the **Strategic Framework for Strengthening Capacity in the Development and Institutionalization of Environment Statistics in the ECOWAS Region** (further on referred to as strategy). This strategy was developed by ECOWAS in collaboration with UNSD.

Main objective of the Strategy: to strengthen and institutionalize environment statistics at the regional level as well as in the national statistical systems of the ECOWAS countries in the framework of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) in order to build a sound base of environment statistics.

ECOWAS: Regional Programme on Environment Statistics [2]

One of the key activities of the strategy: is linked to the development of an agreed regional programme for environmental statistics and indicators for compilation and dissemination.

UNSD/UNEP/ECOWAS Workshop on Environment Statistics (19 to 23 May 2008, Abuja, Nigeria)

- Adopted, with some modifications, the agreed list of ECA regional environmental indicators (adopted at a UNSD/UNEP/ECA Workshop on Environment Statistics in Addis Ababa in 2007)
- The ECA list of indicators was developed by matching the FDES information categories, statistical topics and variables with The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which served as the policy framework
- Country specific information was collected following a common worksheet format requesting meta-data for each indicator
- As a follow-up to this activity, two consultants were hired by ECOWAS to carry out missions to selected countries in the region.

ECOWAS: Missions to selected countries [1]

Objectives of Consultants' missions to selected ECOWAS countries:

- Evaluate the capacity of the national statistical system in the production of environmental data;
- Discuss the list of environmental indicators for the ECOWAS region adopted in Abuja in May 2008 for the compilation and dissemination of environment statistics;
- Collect relevant information on environment statistics with the aim of developing a regional compendium;
- Propose groundwork for the preparation of the activities of the programme, including the elements of the budget.

ECOWAS: Missions to selected countries [2]

Major observations

- Most of the countries with the exception of Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, do not yet have a National Committee of Environment Statistics;
- Although most of the agencies collect environmental data on a daily basis, there was no real effort in the development of an uniform set of indicators for the collection and dissemination of environment statistics;
- Weak collaboration and co-operation between various agencies and also between the INS/NSO and the other agencies concerned with the production and the management of the environment statistics;
- In about all the countries visited, the INS/NSO has a unit responsible for the collection of the environment statistics although the activities of this unit have different levels of development from one country to the other.

ECOWAS: Missions to selected countries [3]

Conclusions

- It was clear from the missions undertaken that a framework, such as the FDES, would be a very useful tool in assisting the countries in, inter alia, bringing together the main stakeholders, reviewing the environmental problems, selecting statistical topics, identifying variables, and assessing data sources and availability, as was in the case of Côte d'Ivoire.

Overall Conclusions [1]

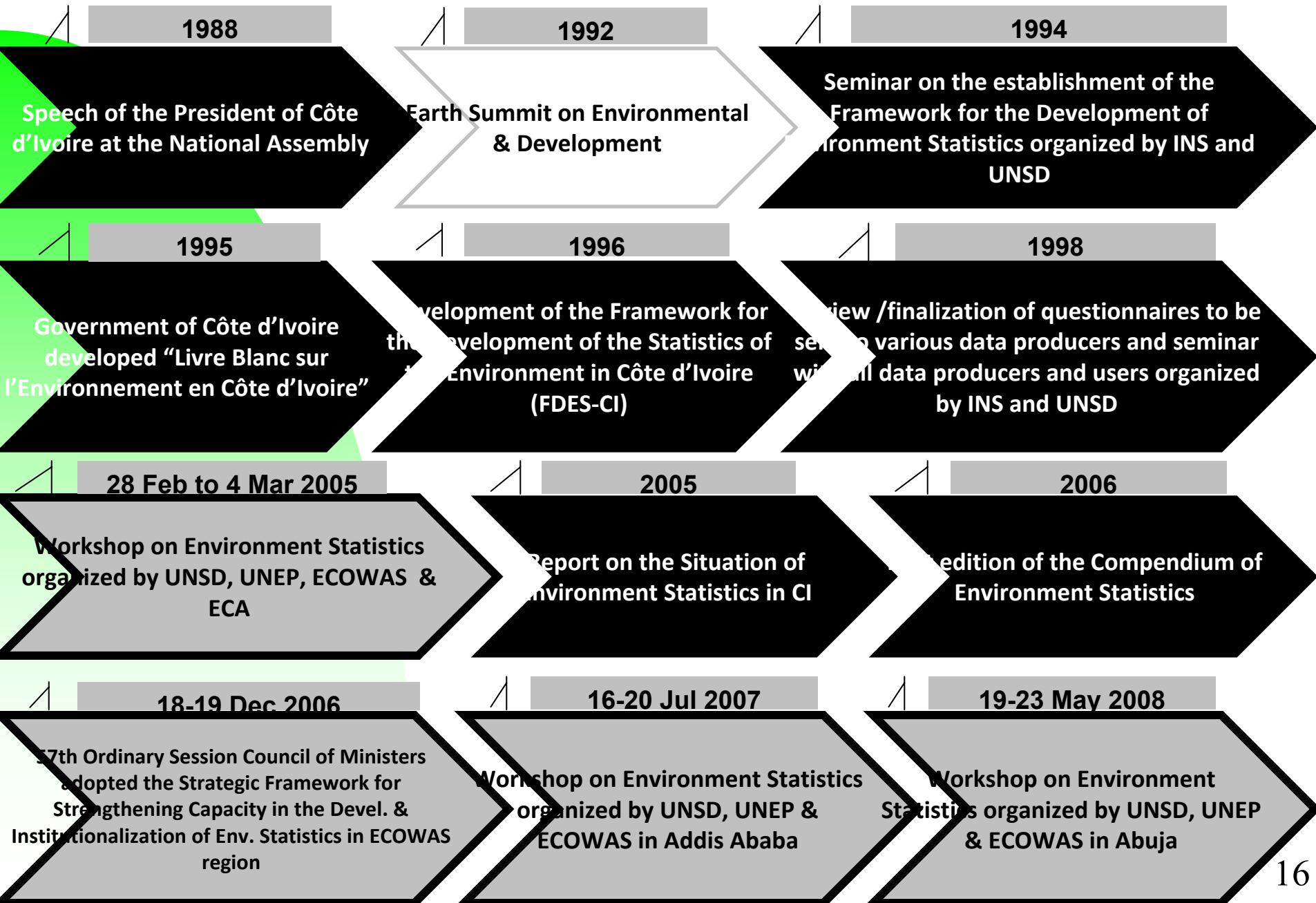
The experience of Côte d'Ivoire and of the ECOWAS region make it possible to draw the following conclusions:

1. The technical support of UNSD in environment statistics has proved to be paramount;
2. The existence of “political will”, support of the “high authorities” and decision makers was also essential;
3. The establishment of institutions for the coordination and collection of relevant information and the establishment of databases in environment statistics are imperative;
4. The effective participation of all actors and the partners in the social and economic sectors is a guarantee for the success of the programme;

Overall Conclusions [2]

5. The FDES has proved to be extremely helpful in achieving points 3 and 4 above, as well as in establishing basic environment statistics in Côte d'Ivoire and would be recommended for other countries in the region;
6. There is a need for assistance from UNSD to help the countries in the establishment of the FDES;
7. It is important to have a list of environmental indicators for countries to embark on the development of environment statistics, such as the ECOWAS list of indicators adopted at the Abuja workshop in 2008 for the ECOWAS region.

Timeline of the Implementation of the Environment Statistics Programme





Thank you !