



# Implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013) and ESSAT in Zimbabwe

By  
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# Background Information

- Zimbabwe has a functional Environment Statistics committee.
- The Committee is chaired by of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate.
- Institute of Environmental Studies, University of Zimbabwe is the co-chair.
- Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) provides secretariat to the Committee.
- A five year environment statistics sector plan was developed with the active participation of the Committee.
- The Committee is composed of 18 key stakeholder institutions in the field of environment.
- Other institutions are co-opted when necessary.



## Background Information (*cont'd*)

- Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate and ZIMSTAT participated at the 2015 workshop FDES 2013 convened by UNSD in collaboration with COMESA in Mauritius.
- The Mauritius workshop set the foundation for FDES 2013 and ESSAT implementation in Zimbabwe.
- COMESA mobilized resources through the Regional Integration Support Mechanism (RISM) to facilitate FDES 2013 implementation.
- The programme is two-fold (a) Environment Statistics production and (b) capacity building.
- Capacity building component was done through procurement of office equipment and training of committee members on GIS & RS (geo-spatial data production).



# Status Prior to FDES 2013 Implementation

- In 2013 the AfDB, AUC, UNECA and UNEP conducted an evaluation of environmental statistics in member states.
- The objective was to review the status of production of environment statistics.
- The evaluation used a questionnaire prepared on the basis of the United Nations methodology documents specially the core set of environmental indicators.
- Environment stakeholder institutions were surveyed.





# Status Prior to FDES 2013 Implementation

- Findings show that Institutions, other than ZIMSTAT, were not prioritizing production of statistics.
- The working relationship between ZIMSTAT and sector institutions was weak.
- The environmental statistics coordination framework was not operating satisfactorily.
- ZIMSTAT was not aware of the data being produced by some institutions and methodologies used.



# FDES 2013 IMPLEMENTATION

## General Activities

- National Coordination Mechanisms for FDES implementation set up
- National assessment/survey on environmental statistics
- Plan of action on compilation environmental statistics
- National Environmental Statistics Report production



# National Coordination Mechanisms for FDES implementation

- The programme was implemented by the Environment Statistics Committee.
- The composition of the committee covers all the six components of the FDES.
- ZIMSTAT coordinates the process.
- A draft programme of implementation was developed by ZIMSTAT which was shared to committee members in the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- Suggested changes to the programme that included the timing of activities were accommodated.



## FDES 2013 Implementation (*cont'd*)

- Draft FDES 2013 manual and ESSAT were printed and shared with committee members.
- The tools were discussed with committee members taking turns in leading the discussions depending on mandate of institution and theme under discussion.
- Indicator Development workshop was conducted from 23rd to 26th of June 2015
  - Done through ESSAT review and consulting FDES 2013 manual
- Indicator prioritization workshop conducted on the 2nd and 3rd of July 2015.
- Output was a prioritized set of indicators for continuous reporting.





# Use of ESSAT

- A register of contacts is very important for data follow ups and new requests.
- Before ESSAT use, the focus was mainly on primary institutions responsible for collecting statistics.
- Use of Tiers, relevance ranks and level of requirement (national /regional/international) assisted in statistic prioritization.
- Main reasons for non availability of statistics were resource constraints, accessibility and existence of data in unprocessed form.
- ESSAT assisted in identification, particularly, of secondary institutions responsible for collecting statistics.
- The collected statistics are standard by using uniform metadata. category of measurement; potential aggregations and scales, unit of measurement, etc.



# Capacity Building Component

Two activities were done under capacity building component.

- Office equipment in form of laptops and printers were procured and distributed to Environment Statistics stakeholder institutions for use in the project.
- Twenty five participants attended the QGIS training.
- Project laptops were used during the training.
- All the participants are from the environment statistics committee.
- The facilitators are from the committee as well.
- Participants were issued with certificates of attendance.



# Data Collection and sources

- National assessment/survey on environmental statistics conducted from the 20th to the 31st of July 2015.
- The data collection exercise was national in scope.
- Environment statistics committee members participated in the survey.
- Data collection teams were formed with grouping criterion of institutional mandate.
- ESSAT was used to select, prioritize and standardize statistics and collection processes.
- The collected data was based on the prioritized indicators.
- Follow up data requests were done by ZIMSTAT officers.
- Was in Harare where most HQs are located.





## Data Collection and Sources (*Cont'd*)

- Each group was led by a representative from a key institution responsible for the thematic area.
- For instance, local authority representative was leading the residuals thematic group.
- The main data suppliers institutions are represented in the environment statistics committee.
- Some institutions had functional data collection system/programme such that the data was collected at one location.
- Main challenge was with the residuals data which are found scattered across the country where ever they exist.
- The Director General (ZIMSTAT) intervened where we experienced data access challenges.





# Compilation of Environmental Statistics

- Data collation and entry was conducted from 14-25 September 2015 by some selected Environment Statistics Committee members with support from ZIMSTAT officers.
- Follow up of data request was mainly done by ZIMSTAT officers from 29 March to 02 April 2016.
- Data cleaning and validation has been a continuous process during programme implementation.
- A workshop dedicated for data cleaning and validation was conducted from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2015.
- Areas with missing data were noted and assigned to some committee members to action.



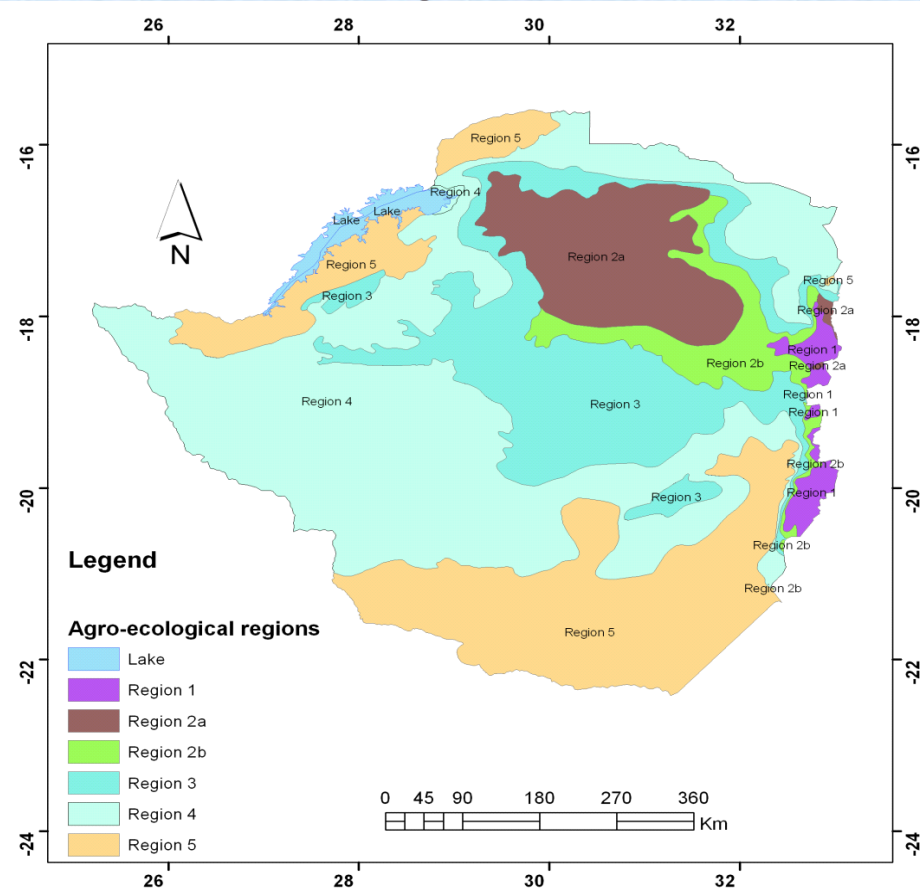
# National environmental statistics report

- Committee proposed and agreed on report structure.
- In addition to the 6 components of FDES 2013 the report has a National Circumstances as its introductory part.
- The national circumstances covers general issues on:
  - Geographic profile
  - Soils of Zimbabwe
  - Climate
  - Natural resources
  - Environmental Challenges
  - Political and Decision Making Structure
  - Institutional Arrangements
  - National economic development programmes
  - Population



# Environment Statistics Report

- The spatial data reporting scale was at national and sub-national levels.
- Sub-national levels are mainly by political demarcations, agro-ecological gradient, catchments and monitoring points.







# Lessons Learnt from FDES 2013 Implementation

- The Committee became active due to resources support and capacity building component of the programme.
- FDES assisted in identification of environmental data sources.
- Data access is easy because of the involvement of the key stakeholder institutions in the programme.
- The quality status of data collected is now known
  - Measurement methods and techniques; Resources and skills levels; Response rates; and Number of measuring points or measured parameters
- FDES provided a platform for validation of environmental statistics in the Country.
- Most data producers do not use international classifications and standard definitions.





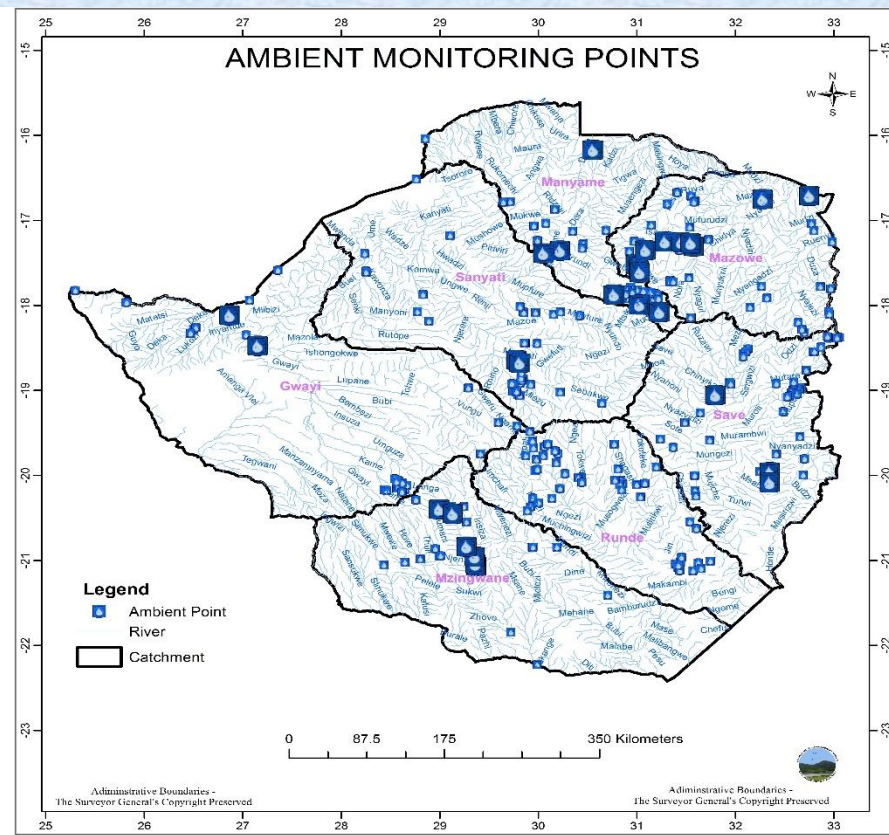
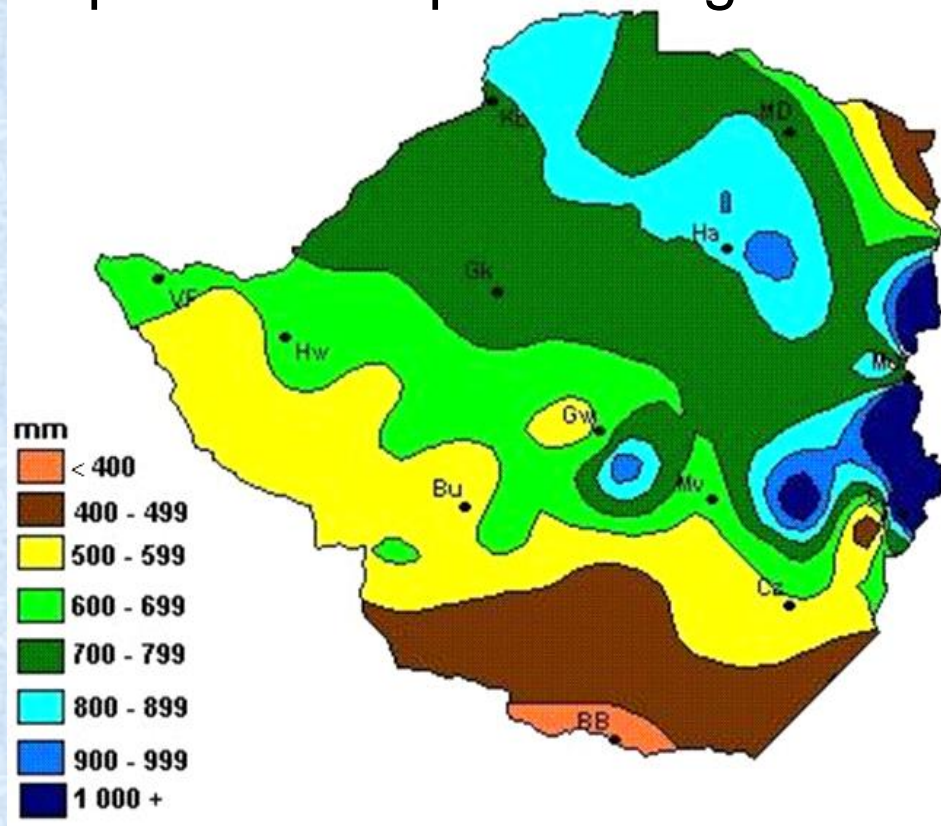
# Challenges

- Data on minerals stocks, though ranked tier 1, was not obtained due to its sensitivity and unavailability.
- Some information still exist in hard copies, especially residual data from local authorities.
- Data gaps due to limited resources for effective collection of data (2005-2008), also attributed to skills turnover.
- Some indicators are collected on project basis, hence continuous data may not be available and are old.
- Resource constraints under ESSAT may need to be unpacked (human, software and hardware).



# Challenges

Data collection activities in some institutions are fragmented and file formats are different within and across institutions: Water statistics from ZINWA and MSD exist in different formats that may require further processing.





# Way Forward

- Populating and continuous updating of the ESSAT tool.
- Environment Statistics report is now at finalization stage.
  - Validation and reviewing of report are in progress
- Report dissemination.
- Annual updating of the report.





*Thank you*