

Environmental Information and Awareness Statistics

Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics of the FDES 2013

Component 6: Environment Protection, Management and Engagement Sub-component 6.4: Environmental Information and Awareness

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Component 6: Environnent Protection, Management and Engagement

Sub-component 6.4: Environmental Information and Awareness

Topic 6.4.1: Environmental information

^{a.} Environmental information systems

1.Existence of publicly accessible environmental information system

2.Annual number of visits/users of specific environmental information programmes or environmental information systems

^{b.} Environment statistics

1.Description of national environment statistics programmes (e.g., existence, year of

establishment, lead agency, human and financial resources)

2.Number and type of environment statistics products and periodicity of updates

3.Existence and number of participant institutions in interagency environment statistics platforms or committees

Component 6: Environment Protection, Management and Engagement

Sub-component 6.4: Environmental Information and Awareness

Topic 6.4.2: Environmental education

a. Environmental education

1.Allocation of resources by central and local authorities for environmental education

2.Number and description of environmental education programmes in schools

3.Number of students pursuing environment-related higher education (e.g., science, management, education, engineering)

Component 6: Environment Protection, Management and Engagement

Sub-component 6.4: Environmental Information and Awareness

Topic 6.4.3: Environmental perception and awareness

a. Public environmental perception and awareness

1. Knowledge and attitudes about environmental issues or concerns

2.Knowledge and attitudes about environmental policies

Component 6: Environment Protection, Management and Engagement

Sub-component 6.4: Environmental Information and Awareness

Topic 6.4.4: Environmental engagement

a. Environmental engagement

1. Existence of pro-environmental NGOs (number of, human and financial resources)

2.Number of people participating in pro-environmental activities

3.Number of pro-environmental programmes

Introduction/ Relevance

- It is important to understand the perception of people regarding their environment.
- People who have environmental awareness are expected to act positively towards the environment.
- Knowledge on environmental issues will result in particular attitudes, which will largely determine the practices and actions of a people towards the environment.
- In 3 fundamental rights set out by Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration as the key pillars of sound environmental governance are access to information, to public participation and to justice. (UN Environment online 2018).
- Environmental engagement and participation is desirable in all environmental management and development programmes and projects.

Definitions and description of the statistics

- Environmental perception is "an intuitive recognition or understanding of the ecosystem and its natural resources, often based on human experiences or cultural attitudes or beliefs." (GEMET: 2017 online).
- Knowledge refers to a community's understanding of a given topic and attitudes refers to their feelings towards the topic. (K. Kaliyaperumal. Online accessed 23 October 2017).
- Public participation: "any process that directly engages the public in decisionmaking and gives full consideration to public input in making that decision." (USEPA online 2018)
- Public participation: a continuum of interaction between government and the public, ranging from informing and listening at one end, to implementing jointly agreed solutions at the other; and in between there is dialogue, debate and analysis." The European Urban Knowledge Network online at http://www.eukn.eu/eukn-research/policy-labs/public-participation-in-the-development-process/general-introduction/what-is-public-participation-different-levels-added-value-and-challenges

Definitions and description of the statistics

- No universal definition of environmental engagement. FDES recommends using the existence of pro-environment NGOs (ENGOs)
- Existence of pro-environmental NGOS (number of NGOs and their respective human and financial resources) (FDES 6.4.4.a.1: An environmental organization is an organization coming out of the conservation or environmental movements that seeks to protect, analyse or monitor the environment against misuse or degradation from human forces.
- Possible ENGO disaggregation by financial and human resources
- Number of people participating in pro-environment activities- no global definitions. Suggested: forums, events, campaigns, and such activities that are geared towards environmental conservation and its advocacy.
- Number of pro-environmental programmes There are no global definitions of pro- environmental programmes.

Definitions and description of the statistics - disaggregation(2)

- Environmental engagement (FDES 6.4.4.a): ENGOs (or as classifications)
 - Mandate or purpose, Human resource capacities, Financial resource capacity, Sources of funding, Population served etc
- Number pro-environmental activities (FDES 6.4.4.a.2)
 - Can cover number of people engaged in pro-environmental activities
 - ✤ Type of activities, age, sex, occupation etc
- Number of pro-environmental programmes (FDES 6.4.4.a.3)
 - Types of programmes (policy, advocacy, protection), by funding, size, purpose and aims or objectives.

International sources and recommendations

- There are no known global surveys or data sources on environmental perception and awareness.
- The European Commission's Eurobarometer surveys on public perception of the environment offer an example of such surveys. On the EU Open Data Portal at

http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2091_83_4_436_ENG

- ENGOs: UN Environment List of accredited organisations (Major groups and stakeholders). <u>http://web.unep.org/about/majorgroups/resources/list-accredited-organizations</u> which is a list of all UN accredited organisations. Observers to the UNEA.
- UNE filters them by Major groups, region and country.

Classifications

- Classification in public participation: No known classifications in environmental perception and awareness.
- Classification in Environmental engagement: Possible classifications of NGOs (Ecologic: 2002)
 - Primary Aims
 - ✤ Type of Activities
 - Scope of activities
 - Type of membership
 - Organisational structure
 - ✤ Funding structure

Reference to international statistical recommendations, frameworks and standards

- Environmental perception and awareness; No known standards
- Environmental engagement; No known standards or frameworks for number of NGOs, number of people participating in pro environment activities and number of pro environment programmes. See accredited list of NGOs of UN Environment.

Commonly used indicators that incorporate this statistic

- Environmental perception and awareness; No known frameworks
- Environmental engagement; No known frameworks
- SDGs: no direct SDG on environmental engagement but other SDGs include civil society in some indicators, e.g. Water and Sanitation and Urban Settlements

Thank you