

Inventory of regular, international
environmental data collection, reporting and
dissemination from countries undertaken by the
UN, its specialized agencies, intergovernmental
organizations and conventions

Fifth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics

New York, United States of America

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Inventory

- First compiled in 2016 by the Environment Statistics Section, UNSD in collaboration with the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (IWG-ENV) and other partner organizations.
- 2nd compilation in 2018 for the attention of the United Nations Statistical Commission (for review by chief statisticians of NSOs worldwide) as a background document:
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/49th-session/documents/BG-Item4k-EnvironmentStatistics-E.pdf>
- Emphasis is on institutions that conduct regular data collection based on a standardized reporting format (via questionnaires, national communications, on-line reporting, etc.)
- Chief purpose is to provide a synthesis of environment statistics data collection processes at the international level, and to encourage countries to provide their own data
- The 2018 version reflects greater currency to Sustainable Development Goal-related data collections
- 28 institutions (international, inter-governmental, specialized agencies, conventions, etc) and 39 data collections
- There are many themes including: climate change (financing for, GHG emissions and mitigation), disasters, energy, fisheries, forests, land, sanitation, waste (hazardous, electronic, municipal), water...

Text from 2017 EGES Final Report...

- “Benefits of such an inventory are that countries’ respondent burden can be reduced... more harmonization of standards, classifications and concepts which can lead to better data comparability across countries and better informed policy decisions.”
- “Experts expressed the usefulness for a similar inventory at national level to be produced by countries who wish to take such initiative forward.”
- “Upon the question being raised by UNSD, experts expressed support for the addition of the following items to the (2016) inventory: focal point, institution’s data, methodological guidance used for data collection, data validation process, assessment of data quality, and data collection and reporting.”

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| Institution name and focal point | Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal – http://www.basel.int Ms. Melisa T.S. Lim, melisa.lim@brsmeas.org | | | | |
| Description of data collection | Hazardous and other wastes Topics covered: generation, import, export and transit of hazardous and other wastes Qualitative information on legislative and regulatory measures to enforce the Convention. Data collection instrument available at: http://www.basel.int/Countries/NationalReporting/ElectronicReportingSystem/tabid/3356/Default.aspx | | | | |
| Periodicity of data collection | Annual | Geographical coverage | Parties to the Convention. | Temporal coverage | Since 1993 (reports from 2001 and onwards are available online). |
| Outputs | Online reporting with data available at: http://www.basel.int/Countries/NationalReporting/BaselConventionNationalReports/tabid/4250/Default.aspx http://www.basel.int/Countries/NationalReporting/ReportingDatabase/tabid/1494/Default.aspx | | | | |
| Metadata (link) | https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-12-04-01.pdf | | | | |
| Methodological guidance used for data collection | Various guidance available here: http://www.basel.int/Countries/NationalReporting/Guidance/tabid/1498/Default.aspx | | | | |
| Data validation process | The reports are submitted by the focal points to the Secretariat. | | | | |

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| Institution name and focal point | Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat – http://www.caricom.org/ |
| Description of data collection | Indicators and statistics submitted by country under 12 themes which include: Population and Households, Environmental Health, Natural Disasters, Energy and Minerals, Land Use and Agriculture, Coastal and Marine Resources, Biodiversity, Air emissions. |

28 Participating organisations...

Basel Convention

CARICOM Secretariat

CRED

COMESA

CBD

CMS

CITES

ECLAC

EEA

FAO (x4 collections)

IEA

IUCN

OECD

EUROSTAT (x3)

Stockholm Convention on POPs

UNICEF

ESCAP

UNECE

UNCCD

UNEP GEMS/Water

UNEP-Ozone Secretariat

UNEP-WCMC

UNFCCC (x6)

UN-Habitat

UNSD (x2)

WHO

World Heritage Convention

Use of inventory

- Inventory now includes: focal point, institution's data, methodological guidance used for data collection, data validation process, assessment of data quality, and data collection and reporting.
- Countries' respondent burden can be reduced due to knowledge of various reporting processes and better harmonized due to provision of references to methodological guidance.
- Can it serve as a stimulus for stakeholder consultations/meetings to assess data availability and identify responsible institution for reporting?
- Can a similar inventory at national level be produced by countries based on existing inventory and be adapted to the country/region (e.g. including additional columns with appropriate national contacts)?