Manual on the BSES

Component 6: Environnent Protection, Management and Engagement

Sub-component 6.4: Environmental Information and Awareness

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Outline

- Present status of developing methodology sheet on awareness …
- Outline key issues
- Outline feedback

Contents

2. Introduction

1. Novel type of statistics: on environmental education, awareness & engagement, yet with early example – Belize Census question in 2000

2. Linked to new discourses, such as ecosystem services, and new initiatives, such as Ocean Literacy

3. All Multilateral Environment Agreements emphasize the role of awareness raising

4. Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration sets out three fundamental rights as the key pillars of sound environmental governance.
   - They are access to information, access to public participation and access to justice

5. Environmental engagement and participation is desirable in all environmental management and development programmes and projects.

6. This methodology sheet cover formal and informal ways

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7. Traditional/indigenous sources should not be left out
   - Example Hualapai people

SECTION 2.   ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES   For a person 18 years or over

10.1 Which environmental problem are you **most** concerned about in your area?
01 0 Careless waste disposal
02 0 Water contamination
03 0 Drainage
04 0 Air pollution
05 0 Careless use of pesticides
06 0 Deforestation
07 0 Destruction of mangroves
08 0 Soil erosion
09 0 Squatting
10 0 Other
11 0 None/Don't know

10.2 What is your main source of environmental information?
01 0 Relatives/Friends
02 0 Newspaper, TV or Radio
03 0 Internet
04 0 School/Library
05 0 Environmental interest group/NGO
06 0 National /Municipal Government
07 0 Other
08 0 None

10.3 Do you believe the information available on the environment is **sufficient** or not enough?
01 0 Sufficient
02 0 Not enough
03 0 Don't know

10.4 In the last five years do you believe the overall quality of the environment in Belize has improved, worsened or remained much the same?
01 0 Improved
02 0 Worsened
03 0 Remained much the same
04 0 Unsure/Don't know

3 Definitions and description of the statistics

▶ Mostly descriptive information, few definitions applicable in statistics

▶ NGO "A **non-governmental organisation** is a permanent organisation of individuals or groups of individuals qualified in relevant fields and operating independently from government influence"

▶ **Public participation** is 'any process that directly engages the public in decision-making and gives full consideration to public input in making that decision' (US-EPA)

▶ **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).

▶ Any other generic definitions?

3 Definitions and description of the statistics

Environmental information systems (FDES 6.4.1.a)

A Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) is a concept underpinned by a series of principles designed to ensure that environmental information is organized as effectively as possible and investments allocated towards monitoring and information gathering processes lead to the greatest possible benefits in terms of the use that is made of the resulting data

No specific definition found for n

National examples:
- Namibia's Environmental Information Service (http://www.the-eis.com/)
- Suriname Environmental information database (http://dataforall.org/SurinameEnvironmentInfo/libraries/aspx/Home.aspx)

Topic 6.4.1: Environmental informa	
a.	Environmental information systems
	1.Existence of publicly accessible environmental information system
	2.Annual number of visits/users of specific environmental infor 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

Sales or complimentary copies of hardcopy publication should also be included together with number of visitors on the webpage that download softcopy publication.

Not all NSO's have a environment Statistics Unit- Suriname collects and compiles the environment statistics

3 Definitions and description of the statistics

Environmental education (FDES 6.4.2.a)

Environmental education is the process of recognizing values and clarifying concepts in order to develop skills and attitudes necessary to understand and appreciate the inter-relatedness among humans, culture and their biophysical surroundings. It also entails practice in decision-making and self-formulation of a code of behaviour about issues concerning environmental quality (IUCN 1971)

No specific definitions found for next 3 statistics

Topic 6.4.2: Environmental education	
	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)*

3 Definitions and description of the statistics

Public environmental perception and awareness (FDES 6.4.3.a)

Environmental perception is 'commonly been defined as awareness of, or feelings about, the environment, and as the act of apprehending the environment by the senses (Zube, 1999).

Need specific definitions for next two statistics

Topic 6.4.3: Environmental perception and awareness	
	Public environmental perception and awareness
	1.*Knowledge and attitudes about environmental issues or concerns*
	2.*Knowledge and attitudes about environmental policies*

3 Definitions and description of the statistics

Environmental engagement (FDES 6.4.4.a)

Environmental engagement as statistics on the existence of pro-environmental NGOs, the number of people participating in pro-environmental activities and the number of pro-environmental programmes.

Need specific definitions for next three statistics

Topic 6.4.4: Environmental engagement	
	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*

Classifications

SEEA CF / Eurostat definition of Environment Protection activities

1   Protection of ambient air and climate

2   Wastewater management

3   Waste management

4   Protection and remediation of soil, groundwater and surface water

5   Noise and vibration abatement (excluding workplace protection)

6   Protection of biodiversity and landscapes

7   Protection against radiation (excluding external safety)

8   Research and development

9   Other environmental protection activities

Any other classifications?
Should new classifications be developed for these topics?

International sources and recommendations

▶ 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

▶ NGOs: UN Environment List of accredited organisations (Major groups and stakeholders). http://web.unep.org/about/majorgroups/resources/list-accredited-organizations which is a list of all UN accredited organisations. Observers to the UNEA.

▶ UNE filters them by Major groups, region and country.

▶ Need to explore more sources: e.g. National communications under UNFCCC

Global and regional Education programmes

- UNEP and UNESCO collaborated to improve environmental education for example the **Higher Education Sustainability Initiative**

- **The Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability** (GUPES)

- **Green Universities Network**

- **Eye on Environmental Education**

- **Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities (MESA)**

- **Alliance of Iberoamerican University Network for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA)**

- **Development and Strengthening of Official Environmental Statistics through a Regional Framework in Latin America and the Caribbean**

6. Uses and dissemination

EUROBAROMETER: http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/WhatsNew/index

Special Eurobarometer survey: Attitudes of Europeans towards Biodiversity, December 2018

This survey was designed to explore European citizens' awareness of and views on biodiversity and nature. It follows a previous survey on the same issues which was conducted in May-June 2015. This survey was designed to explore:

- Awareness of the term "biodiversity";
- Perceptions of the biggest threats to biodiversity;
- Perceptions of the reasons for stopping the loss of biodiversity;
- What the EU should do to prevent the loss of biodiversity;
- Awareness about the Natura 2000 network, the perceived importance of nature protection areas, and attitudes to developments that may damage these areas.

6. Uses and dissemination

Special Eurobarometer survey: Attitudes of Europeans towards Biodiversity, December 2018

QA1 Have you ever heard of the term "biodiversity"?
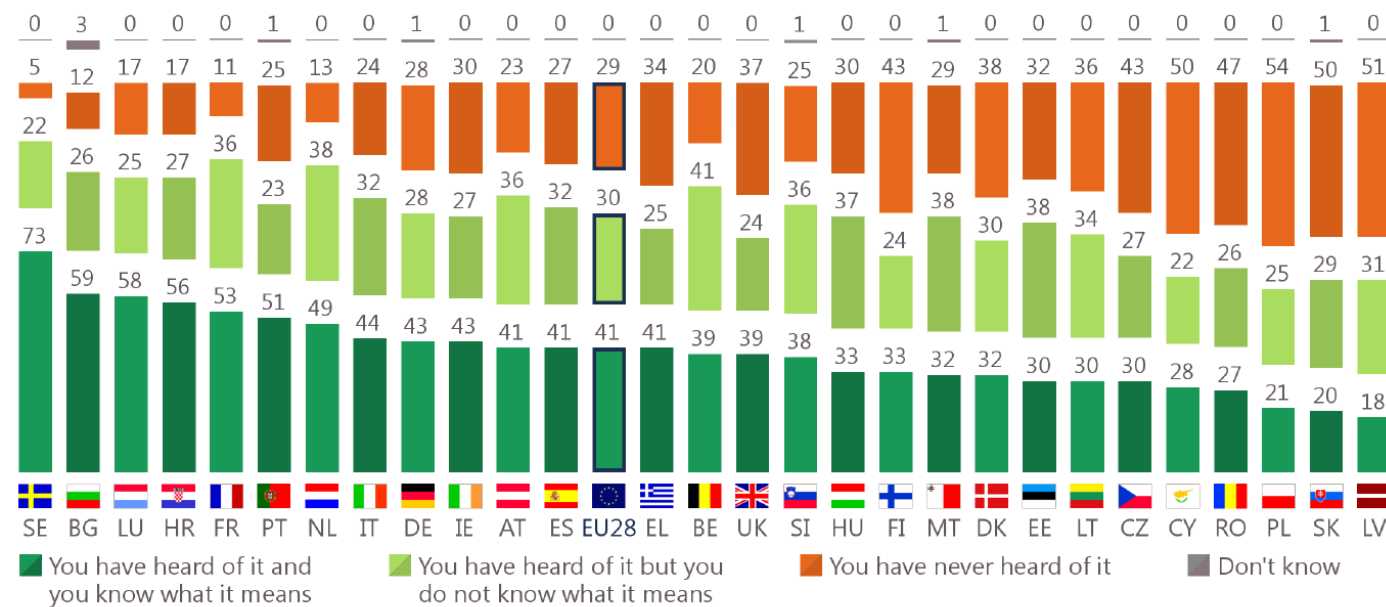(% - EU)

You have never heard of it
29 (-10)

You have heard of it and you know what it means
41 (+11)

You have heard of it but you do not know what it means
30 (=)

(Dec. 2018 – May-June 2015)

Base: all respondents (N= 27,643)

QA1 Have you ever heard of the term "biodiversity"?
(%)

6. Uses and dissemination

- **SDGs**

There are no global statistics for environmental perception and awareness, but the SDG 4 states "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" and its target 4.7 reads that by 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles amongst others. The indicator for this target, 4.7.1 reads, the percentage of 15-year old students enrolled in secondary school demonstrating at least a fixed level of knowledge across a selection of topics in environmental science and geoscience.

Goal 13 aims to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts through its target 13.3, to improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. The indicator 13.3.1 states the number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula.

More issues to consider:

- Should we develop additional items on indigenous/traditional awareness/engagement statistics? Can you provide country examples/references?
- Section 4, specific **classifications** for these topics do not exist: should we set up a working group to develop proposals?
- Ideas and suggestion to develop section 5: on scope, statistical units, measurement units, sources and institutions, aggregations etc.?
- Ideas and suggestions to develop Section 6A with dissemination formats?
- Ideas and suggestions to develop 6C on common indicators using such statistics?

Thank you