

Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT)

Part II: Statistics Level Assessment

in support of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics
(FDES 2013)



Prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division

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Version 1.1

Introduction

Part II of the ESSAT is based on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics of the FDES 2013. It serves as a tool to assess the national relevance, importance, availability and sources of the individual statistics contained in the Basic Set of Environment Statistics. It also helps to identify relevant quantitative and qualitative data gaps and develop a plan for filling in the gaps and strengthening environment statistics according to national priorities, needs and available resources. As indicated in the introduction to the ESSAT, Part II should be completed by the lead institution for environment statistics (National Statistical Office, Ministry of Environment or equivalent), in close collaboration with the relevant stakeholders that play an active role in the production of environment statistics, as part of a multi-stakeholder consultation.

Objectives and Use of Part II

The overarching objective of Part II of the ESSAT is to improve the capacity of countries to assess where they stand with respect to the development of environment statistics. It is a means for countries to assess their current position and set a basis from which they may construct and/or strengthen their environment statistics programmes within the national statistical systems, in collaboration with relevant partner agencies.

Specific objectives of the ESSAT Part II include:

- Identifying and prioritizing those statistics that are of policy relevance in the country;
- Assessing data availability;
- Identifying sources of data and institutional partners;
- Identifying data gaps.

The Basic Set of Environment Statistics

The structure of the Basic Set of Environment Statistics follows the hierarchical structure of the FDES (in descending order: component, sub-component, statistical topic, statistic). The Basic Set of Environment Statistics includes three tiers of statistics. Tier 1 (the Core Set of Environment Statistics, in **bold font**) is the basic minimum set of environment statistics which all countries, at any stage of development, are recommended to consider collecting. Tier 2 (regular font) includes environment statistics that countries are highly encouraged to have if the situations apply. Tier 3 (*italic font*) includes environment statistics which, while still important and widely applicable, require a more significant investment in time, resources or technological development.

The table below displays the number of statistics per component.

Number of Statistics	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Component 5	Component 6	Total
Tier 1	32	30	19	4	12	3	100
Tier 2	58	51	34	11	22	24	200
Tier 3	51	43	5	16	20	23	158
Total	141	124	58	31	54	50	458

Instructions

An index is available with hyperlinks within Excel which can be used to go directly to the FDES 2013 component, sub-component or topic of interest. There are two methods of filling in the tool electronically. The first method is to fill individual cells directly. Drop-down menus can be used as appropriate. For the second method, Macros must be enabled in Microsoft Excel. (To enable Macros in Microsoft Excel 2010, go: File>Options>Trust Center>Trust Center Settings>Macro Settings>Check Enable all macros). Then one only needs to click on the cells containing the names of statistics within the component spreadsheets, and pop-ups will appear to help fill in the questionnaire. Both methods can be used at the same time. For each individual statistic of the Basic Set of Environment Statistics within the ESSAT the following should be addressed according to the specified columns:

Category of Measurement

This shows the type of dimension (e.g., volume, mass, height) corresponding to each statistic. This column has been pre-filled according to the categories contained in the Basic Set in the FDES 2013. If necessary, the category can be modified.

Potential Aggregations and Scales

Possible aggregations/disaggregations should be included here as presented below:

1. By relevant classifications (e.g., ISIC) or groupings
2. Spatial Aggregations (administrative [e.g., national/sub-national] and ecological [ecosystems, biomes, basins])
3. Temporal Aggregations (e.g., annual, biannual, monthly)

This column has been pre-filled according to potential aggregations/scales contained in the Basic Set in the FDES 2013. If necessary, the information can be modified.

Relevance of Statistic at the National Level

In this context, relevance refers to the importance of the statistic for national environmental concerns or policy considerations. This column contains a drop-down menu to be used to indicate the relevance of each environment statistic. The values in this column which should be chosen are:

- Low (L)
- Medium (M)
- High (H)
- Not Relevant (NR)
- Not Applicable (NAp)

If a statistic is Not Applicable, proceed to the next statistic. For definitions of Not Relevant and Not Applicable, see below.

Not relevant: The environmental issue is so insignificant as to not be relevant to the country. For example, a country with an abundance of water resources and a relatively small and stable population, may not regard water scarcity as a relevant issue.

Not applicable: The environmental issue is not applicable to the country. For example, a land-locked country may regard marine water quality or sea level rise as not applicable.

Priority for National Data Collection

This column contains a drop-down menu to be used to indicate the priority of each environment statistic for national data collection. The values in this column which should be chosen are the following priority for national data collection:

- Low (L)
- Medium (M)
- High (H)
- Not a Priority (NP)

Availability of Statistic at the National Level

An indication of whether the statistic is available should be provided using the drop-down menu and inserting an X as appropriate. There are three options:

- Identical (I) - available according to the concepts, definitions, classifications and methodology recommended by the FDES 2013;
- Similar (S) - available but not according to the concepts, definitions, classifications and methodology recommended by the FDES 2013;
- Not Available (NAv) - the statistic is not available nationally. In this case, go to the last question (Main Reasons why Statistic is not Available).

Primary Institution(s) Responsible for Collecting Statistic

The name of the institution responsible for collecting, processing and storing the data from the reporting units should be included in this column (e.g., meteorological institution for weather data).

Type of Data Source

One of the following options should be chosen:

- (SS) Statistical surveys (e.g., censuses or sample surveys of population, housing, agriculture, enterprises, households, employment, and different aspects of environment management);
- (AR) Administrative records of government and non-government agencies in charge of natural resources as well as other ministries and authorities;
- (RS) Remote sensing (e.g., satellite imaging of land use, water bodies or forest cover);
- (MS) Monitoring systems (e.g., field-monitoring stations for water quality, air pollution or climate);
- (SR) Scientific research;
- (SP) Special projects undertaken to fulfil domestic or international demand.

Requirements or User Requests for Collection/Reporting on this Statistic

The level of requirement for collection/reporting on this statistic should be identified using the drop-down menu and inserting an X as appropriate.

- Sub-national
- National
- Regional (pertaining to a large geographic region, e.g., European Union, Caribbean Community, East African Community)
- International

Periodicity

This indicates the frequency of the collection of the statistic. One of the following options should be chosen:

- Annual (A)
- Monthly (M)
- Daily (D)
- Hourly (H)
- Other (specify)

Earliest Year Available

The earliest year for which the statistic is available should be indicated.

Latest Year Available

The latest year for which the statistic is available should be indicated.

Format of Statistic

This indicates the format in which the statistic is available. One of the following options should be chosen:

- Publication or report (P)
- Excel files (E)
- Database (D)
- Website (W)
- Individual records not readily useable (I)

Unit of Measurement

An actual measurement unit of the statistic (e.g., m³, tonne, mm) should be indicated.

Main Reasons why Statistic is not Available

An indication of the main reasons why the statistic is not available should be provided using the drop-down menu and inserting an X as appropriate.

- Resource constraints

Both financial and staff resource constraints within the environment statistics units and/or in partner agencies involved in the production of each statistic.

- Methodological/Technical difficulty in data collection

Difficulty in collecting the data for methodological reasons (i.e., lack of methodologies including concepts, methods or classifications) or technical reasons (i.e., difficulties in the aggregation methods from voluminous primary data to environment statistics series; technical problems interpreting remote sensing, etc.).

- Insufficient quality

Data are of insufficient quality if they do not meet generally accepted statistical standards. Primarily, this may relate to any or all of the following conditions:

- Insufficient or non-existent metadata – does not allow for the assessment of the quality and comparability of the data set(s);
- Accuracy – the statistics do not correctly describe the phenomena they were designed to measure;
- Timeliness – delay between the reference point and the date the information becomes available is too lengthy to allow the data to be useful;
- Coherence – data are not collected using standards or internationally accepted concepts and classifications; or data are not collected using the relevant and same target phenomenon over time and/or space; or the data are not internally consistent.

- Inaccessibility

Data are considered inaccessible if they cannot be obtained with relative ease from the responsible agency or primary source or data cannot be provided in an appropriate format to allow them to be used.

- Lack of institutional set-up/coordination

Institutional or policy barriers could present difficulties in accessing and utilizing relevant primary data sets. This box should be checked if the collaboration among the necessary institutions is not sufficient to grant an adequate sharing of data sets and resulting environment statistics, and/or if there is insufficient institutionalization of environment statistics programmes/units. Both of these conditions would present obstacles to the systematic production of environment statistics.

- Other difficulties in data collection

Difficulties other than those described under the previous headings should be included.

Index of FDES 2013 Components, Sub-components and Topics

Component 1: Environmental Conditions and Quality

Sub-component 1.1: Physical Conditions

Topic 1.1.1: Atmosphere, climate and weather

Topic 1.1.2: Hydrographical characteristics

Topic 1.1.3: Geological and geographical information

Topic 1.1.4: Soil characteristics

Sub-component 1.2: Land Cover, Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Topic 1.2.1: Land cover

Topic 1.2.2: Ecosystems and biodiversity

Topic 1.2.3: Forests

Sub-component 1.3: Environmental Quality

Topic 1.3.1: Air quality

Topic 1.3.2: Fresh water quality

Topic 1.3.3: Marine water quality

Topic 1.3.4: Soil pollution

Topic 1.3.5: Noise

Component 2: Environmental Resources and their Use

Sub-Component 2.1: Mineral Resources

Topic 2.1.1: Stocks and changes of mineral resources

Topic 2.1.2: Production and trade of minerals

Sub-component 2.2: Energy Resources

Topic 2.2.1: Stocks and changes of energy resources

Topic 2.2.2: Production, trade and consumption of energy

Sub-component 2.3: Land

Topic 2.3.1: Land use

Topic 2.3.2: Use of forest land

Sub-component 2.4: Soil Resources

Topic 2.4.1: Soil resources

Sub-component 2.5: Biological Resources

Topic 2.5.1: Timber resources

Topic 2.5.2: Aquatic resources

Topic 2.5.3: Crops

Topic 2.5.4: Livestock

Topic 2.5.5: Other non-cultivated biological resources

Sub-component 2.6: Water Resources

Topic 2.6.1: Water resources

Topic 2.6.2: Abstraction, use and returns of water

Component 3: Residuals

Sub-component 3.1: Emissions to Air

Topic 3.1.1: Emissions of greenhouse gases

Topic 3.1.2: Consumption of ozone depleting substances

Topic 3.1.3: Emissions of other substances

Sub-component 3.2: Generation and Management of Wastewater

Topic 3.2.1: Generation and pollutant content of wastewater

Topic 3.2.2: Collection and treatment of wastewater

Topic 3.2.3: Discharge of wastewater to the environment

Sub-component 3.3: Generation and Management of Waste

Topic 3.3.1: Generation of waste

Topic 3.3.2: Management of waste

Sub-component 3.4: Release of Chemical Substances

Topic 3.4.1: Release of chemical substances

Component 4: Extreme Events and Disasters

Sub-component 4.1: Natural Extreme Events and Disasters

Topic 4.1.1: Occurrence of natural extreme events and disasters

Topic 4.1.2: Impact of natural extreme events and disasters

Sub-component 4.2: Technological Disasters

Topic 4.2.1: Occurrence of technological disasters

Topic 4.2.2: Impact of technological disasters

Component 5: Human Settlements and Environmental Health

Sub-component 5.1: Human Settlements

Topic 5.1.1: Urban and rural population

Topic 5.1.2: Access to selected basic services

Topic 5.1.3: Housing conditions

Topic 5.1.4: Exposure to ambient pollution

Topic 5.1.5: Environmental concerns specific to urban settlements

Sub-component 5.2: Environmental Health

Topic 5.2.1: Airborne diseases and conditions

Topic 5.2.2: Water-related diseases and conditions

Topic 5.2.3: Vector-borne diseases

Topic 5.2.4: Health problems associated with excessive UV radiation exposure

Topic 5.2.5: Toxic substance- and nuclear radiation-related diseases and conditions

Component 6: Environmental Protection, Management and Engagement
Sub-component 6.1: Environmental Protection and Resource Management Expenditure
Topic 6.1.1: Government environmental protection and resource management expenditure
Topic 6.1.2: Corporate, non-profit institution and household environmental protection and resource management expenditure
Sub-component 6.2: Environmental Governance and Regulation
Topic 6.2.1: Institutional strength
Topic 6.2.2: Environmental regulation and instruments
Topic 6.2.3: Participation in MEAs and environmental conventions
Sub-component 6.3: Extreme Event Preparedness and Disaster Management
Topic 6.3.1: Preparedness for natural extreme events and disasters
Topic 6.3.2: Preparedness for technological disasters
Sub-component 6.4: Environmental Information and Awareness
Topic 6.4.1: Environmental information
Topic 6.4.2: Environmental education
Topic 6.4.3: Environmental perception and awareness
Topic 6.4.4: Environmental engagement

Topic 3.1.3: Emissions of other substances																
a. Emissions of other substances:	1. Particulate matter (PM)	Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By ISIC economic activity • By tourists • National • Sub-national • By IPCC source categories 													
	2. Heavy metals	Mass														
	3. Other	Mass														
Sub-component 3.2: Generation and Management of Wastewater																
Topic 3.2.1: Generation and pollutant content of wastewater																
a. Volume of wastewater generated		Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By ISIC economic activity • By tourists • National • Sub-national 													
b. Pollutant content of wastewater		Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By pollutant or pollution parameter (e.g., biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), total suspended solids (TSS)) • By ISIC economic activity • National • Sub-national 													

Topic 3.2.2: Collection and treatment of wastewater																				
a. Volume of wastewater collected		Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Sub-national 																	
b. Volume of wastewater treated		Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By treatment type (e.g., primary, secondary, tertiary) National Sub-national 																	
c. Total urban wastewater treatment capacity	1. Number of plants	Number																		
	2. Capacity of plants	Volume																		
d. Total industrial wastewater treatment capacity	1. Number of plants	Number																		
	2. Capacity of plants	Volume																		
Topic 3.2.3: Discharge of wastewater to the environment																				
a. Wastewater discharge	1. Total volume of wastewater discharged to the environment after treatment		Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By treatment type (e.g., primary, secondary, tertiary) By recipient (e.g., surface water, groundwater, wetland, sea, land) By ISIC economic activity National Sub-national By source (point / non-point source) 																
	2. Total volume of wastewater discharged to the environment without treatment		Volume																	
b. Pollutant content of discharged wastewater		Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By pollutant or pollution parameter (e.g., BOD, COD, N, P) National Sub-national Net emission by ISIC economic activity By source (point / non-point source) 																	

Sub-component 4.2: Technological Disasters																
Topic 4.2.1: Occurrence of technological disasters																
a. Occurrence of technological disasters:	1. Type of technological disaster (industrial, transportation, miscellaneous)	Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By event By ISIC economic activity National Sub-national 													
	2. Location	Location														
	3. Date of occurrence	Date														
	4. Duration	Time Period														
Topic 4.2.2: Impact of technological disasters																
a. People affected by technological disasters	1. Number of people killed	Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By event National Sub-national 													
	2. Number of people injured	Number														
	3. Number of people homeless	Number														
	4. Number of people affected	Number														
b. Economic losses due to technological disasters (e.g., damage to buildings, transportation networks, loss of revenue for businesses, utility disruption)		Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By event By ISIC economic activity National Sub-national By direct and indirect damage 													
c. Physical losses/damages due to technological disasters (e.g., area and amount of crops, livestock, aquaculture, biomass)	Area, Description, Number															
d. Effects of technological disasters on integrity of ecosystems	1. Area affected by technological disasters	Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By event National Sub-national 													
	2. Loss of vegetation cover	Area														
	3. Area of watershed affected	Area														
	4. Other (e.g., for oil spills: volume of oil released into the environment, impact on ecosystem)	Description														
e. External assistance received		Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By event National 													

Topic 5.1.3: Housing conditions													
a. Urban population living in slums	Number												
b. Area of slums	Area												
c. Population living in hazard-prone areas	Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban • Rural • National • Sub-national 											
d. Hazard prone-areas	Area												
e. Population living in informal settlements	Number												
f. Homeless population	Number												
g. Number of dwellings with adequacy of building materials defined by national or local standards	Number												
Topic 5.1.4: Exposure to ambient pollution													
a. Population exposed to air pollution in main cities	Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By pollutant (e.g., SO₂, NO_x, O₃) 											
b. Population exposed to noise pollution in main cities	Number												
Topic 5.1.5: Environmental concerns specific to urban settlements													
a. Extent of urban sprawl	Area												
b. Available green spaces	Area												
c. Number of private and public vehicles	Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By type of engine or type of fuel 											
d. Population using public modes of transportation	Number												
e. Population using hybrid and electric modes of transportation	Number												
f. Extent of roadways	Length												
g. Existence of urban planning and zoning regulations and instruments in main cities	Description												
h. Effectiveness of urban planning and zoning regulations and instruments in main cities	Description												
Sub-component 5.2: Environmental Health													
Topic 5.2.1: Airborne diseases and conditions													
a. Airborne diseases and conditions	1. Incidence	Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By disease or condition • National • Sub-national • Urban • Rural • By gender • By age group • By time period 										
	2. Prevalence	Number											
	3. Mortality	Number											
	4. Loss of work days	Number											
	5. Estimates of economic cost in monetary terms	Currency											
Topic 5.2.2: Water-related diseases and conditions													
a. Water-related diseases and conditions	1. Incidence	Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By disease or condition • National • Sub-national • Urban • Rural • By gender • By age group • By time period 										
	2. Prevalence	Number											
	3. Mortality	Number											
	4. Loss of work days	Number											
	5. Estimates of economic cost in monetary terms	Currency											

Topic 5.2.3: Vector-borne diseases															
a. Vector-borne diseases	1. Incidence	Number	• By disease or condition												
	2. Prevalence	Number	• National												
	3. Mortality	Number	• Sub-national												
	4. Loss of work days	Number	• Urban												
	5. Estimates of economic cost in monetary terms	Currency	• Rural												
			• By gender												
			• By age group												
			• By time period												
Topic 5.2.4: Health problems associated with excessive UV radiation exposure															
a. Problems associated with excessive UV radiation exposure	1. Incidence	Number	• By disease or condition												
	2. Prevalence	Number	• National												
	3. Loss of work days	Number	• Sub-national												
	4. Estimates of economic cost in monetary terms	Currency	• Urban												
			• Rural												
			• By gender												
			• By age group												
			• By time period												
Topic 5.2.5: Toxic substance- and nuclear radiation-related diseases and conditions															
a. Toxic substance- and nuclear radiation-related diseases and conditions	1. Incidence	Number	• By category of toxic substance												
	2. Prevalence	Number	• By disease or condition												
	3. Loss of work days	Number	• National												
	4. Estimates of economic cost in monetary terms	Currency	• Sub-national												
			• Urban												
			• Rural												
			• By gender												
			• By age group												

Topic 6.4.2: Environmental Education																				
a. Environmental education	1. Allocation of resources by central and local authorities for environmental education	Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Sub-national 																	
	2. Number and description of environmental education programmes in schools	Description, Number																		
	3. Number of students pursuing environment-related higher education (e.g., science, management, education, engineering)	Number																		
Topic 6.4.3: Environmental Perception and Awareness																				
a. Public environmental perception and awareness	1. Knowledge and attitudes about environmental issues or concerns	Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Sub-national 																	
	2. Knowledge and attitudes about environmental policies	Description																		
Topic 6.4.4: Environmental engagement																				
a. Environmental engagement	1. Existence of pro-environmental NGOs (number of NGOs and their respective human and financial resources)	Currency, number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Sub-national 																	
	2. Number of pro-environmental activities	Number																		
	3. Number of pro-environmental programmes	Number																		

