



Handbook for setting up/strengthening an environment statistics programme

Workshop on Environment Statistics in support of the implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013) (Calodyne, Mauritius 26-29 January 2015)

Environment Statistics Section, United Nations Statistics Division





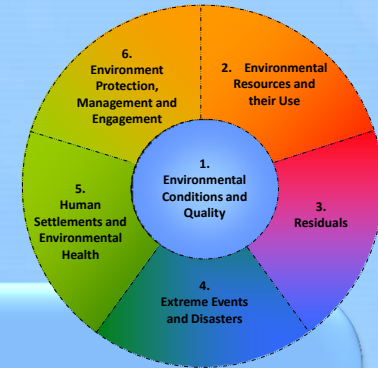
Background of the Handbook



- At its 44th session in February 2013, the UN Statistical Commission emphasized the need for supporting the revised FDES with detailed methodological guidance and training material.
- A draft outline was prepared by UNSD which was presented and discussed at the Expert Group on Environment Statistics (26-28 March 2014), and further comments were subsequently provided from those experts.



Concept of the Handbook



- It will be a step by step, practical and detailed guide for the environment statistics practitioner and for the institutions interested in setting up and strengthening environment statistics programmes and units.
- It will provide methodological guidance (i.e. a route with detailed phases and steps) for countries who are developing with regard to setting-up and strengthening environment statistics programmes.



Concept of the Handbook



- It is not intended to be prescriptive and exhaustive as circumstances vary across and within countries, however the approaches provided will be adaptable over a wide range of scenarios.
- This handbook will cover two equally important aspects for properly producing environment statistics at the national level:
 - a) general statistical methods applicable to the field of environment statistics; and
 - b) the organizational and institutional dimension necessary for successful and sustained production of environment statistics.

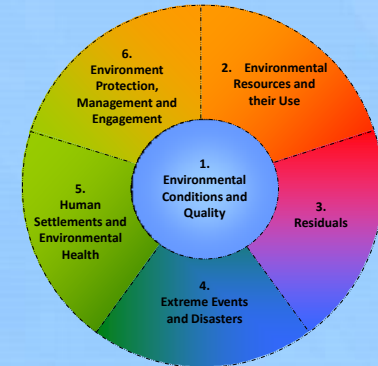
Concept of the Handbook



- This handbook will function as part of the FDES toolkit and will complement the Manual on the Basic and Core Set of Environment Statistics (tool 2 of the FDES), where detailed methodological guidance is provided for individual environment statistics.

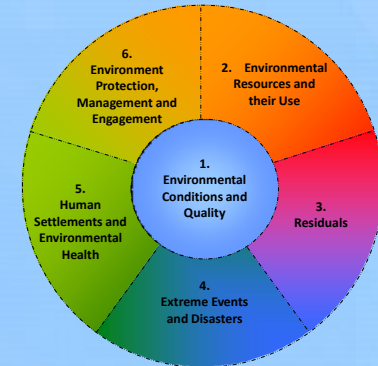


Audience of the Handbook



- The primary audience is composed of practitioners working to set up and successfully implement an environment statistics programme that can respond to national, sub-national or regional needs for environment statistics as a whole, or within specific areas of environment statistics.
- Such a practitioner may be in an NSO, an Environment Ministry or another line ministry or agency at the national level.

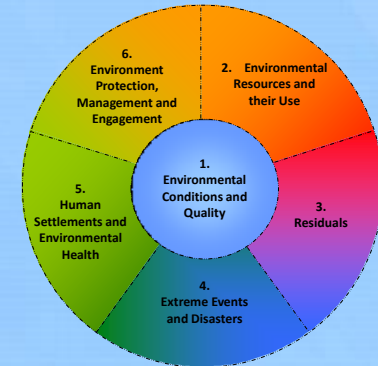
Audience of the Handbook



- This handbook caters to practitioners of environment statistics who may come from backgrounds as varied as: statisticians, geographers, accountants, economists, and natural, environmental or biological scientists, etc.
- The handbook will cater to the need to integrate a variety of technical knowledge and practical guidance with organizational skills and institutional collaboration skills, enabling production of environment statistics designed to respond to growing national and international demands.



Draft outline of the Handbook



1. Statistical methods for environment statistics collection, compilation, production and dissemination. (20 pages)
2. Setting up/ strengthening of environment statistics programme(s). (25 pages)
3. Inter-institutional collaboration to produce national environment statistics. (25 pages)



1. Statistical methods for environment statistics collection, compilation, production and dissemination



- This part will describe the main aspects of the process of collecting and compiling environment statistics in general terms, and the methods to transform data into environment statistics series. It will illustrate selected source types and environment statistics themes.
- It will provide a brief synthesis of the cross cutting nature of the domain, the different types of sources and the statistical methods used in the domain of environment statistics.
- It will describe production methodology – the statistical process from data, to environment statistics and indicators, emphasizing steps of collection/compilation, validation, description, structuring, storage and dissemination of products.



2. Setting up/ strengthening of environment statistics programme(s)



- This part will describe key considerations and will present a typical route with steps needed for setting up and/or strengthening environment statistics programmes, within the leader institution (i.e. NSO, Environmental Ministry or other line ministry) at the national level.
- Demand and supply of environment statistics. The needs and increasing demands.
- Adding value to primary environmental data, interaction with experts, academia and others.
- Institutional set up and strengthening within NSO, Environmental Ministry and other key partners.
- Required financial and human resources in the field of environment statistics.



3. Inter-institutional collaboration to produce national environment statistics



- Because of its cross cutting nature, environment statistics need to be produced by an organized sustained effort among different national partners. This part of the document will describe the most important consideration of the institutional set up and the succession of steps for organizing collaborative working relationships among national institutions and international agencies.
- Cooperating with institutional partners and inter-institutional platforms for environment statistics production.
- Defining institutional set-ups, mandates and existing capacities. Identifying opportunities and challenges.



3. Inter-institutional collaboration to produce national environment statistics (cont.)



- Elements to consider: legal framework (statistical, environmental), identification of and collaboration among national players that produce and use environmental data and statistics; national-international collaboration.
- Constructing national roundtables or platforms for inter-agency collaboration and contribution to environment statistics production.

