NATIONAL NEEDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS AND INDICATORS- THE CASE OF MAURITIUS

BY

NISHA DEVI MANIC

ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER AND BEACH MANAGEMENT

FOCUS OF PRESENTATION

- The major environment data producers

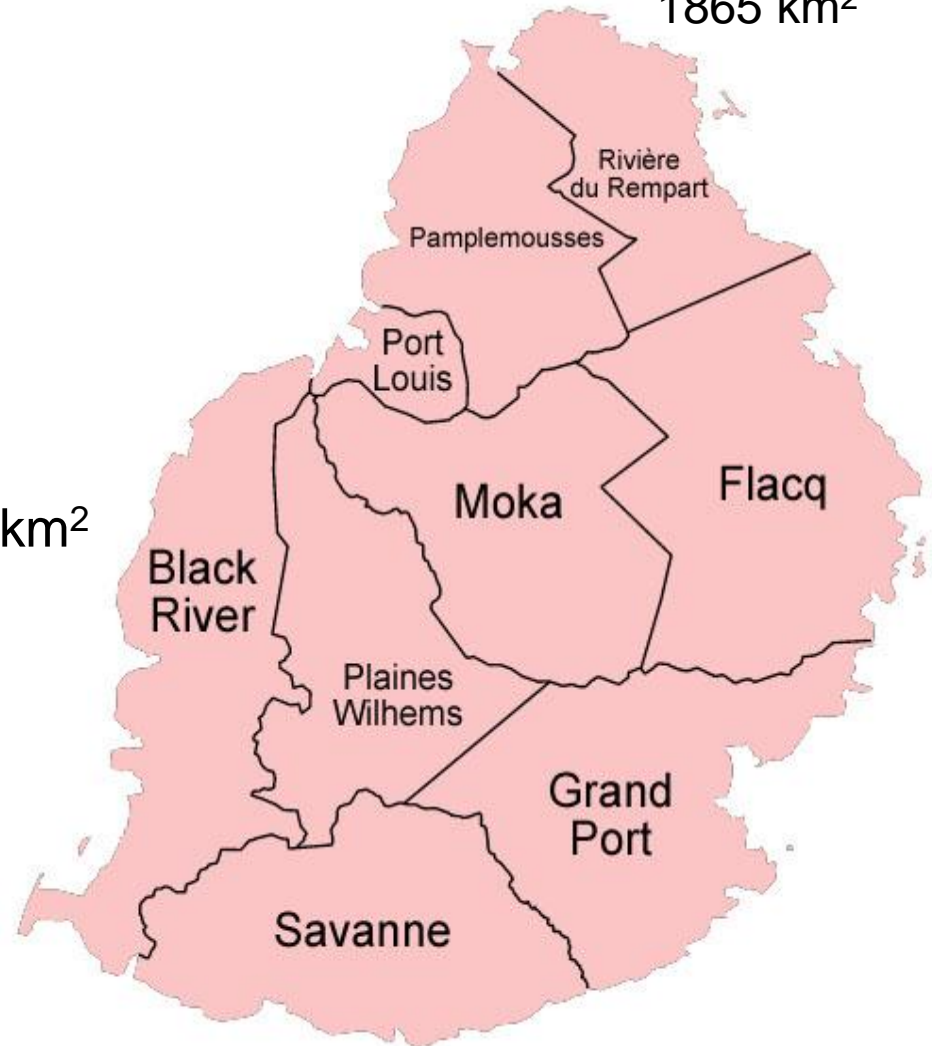- The need for environment statistics and indicators in Mauritius

- Gaps and challenges

Mauritius

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

Mauritius
1865 km²

- 2040 km² in area

- Mild tropical climate
  - 2 seasons : summer and winter

- Population: 1.3 million

- Population density : 618 persons/km²

- Life expectancy at birth (years)
  - Male 70.8
  - Female 77.8

- Economy in 2014 grew by 3.3%

STATISTICS MAURITIUS

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS UNIT

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

DIGEST OF ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

- FLORA
- FAUNA
- ATMOSPHERE
- WATER
- LAND
- HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
- STATISTICS FROM SURVEYS

- ❖ **Ministry of Environment, SD, Disaster and Beach Management**

- ❖ **Forestry Services ; National Parks and Conservation Service ; Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) - Ministry of Agro-Industry & FS**

- ❖ **Albion Fisheries Research Centre – Ministry of Fisheries**

- ❖ **The Meteorological Services**

- ❖ **Water Resources Unit ; Central Water Authority ; Central Electricity Board– Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities**

- ❖ **Statistics Unit – Ministry of Health and QL**

- ❖ **Wastewater Management Authority**

THE NEED FOR ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS AND INDICATORS IN MAURITIUS

1. **Environment statistics and indicators are essential tools for providing environmental information to policy-makers, decision makers, scientists, researchers and the public**

   - *Maurice Ile Durable Policy , Strategy and Action Plan*
   - *Mauritius Strategy for Implementation National Assessment Report 2010*
   - *National Environment Policy, 2007*
   - *National Environmental Strategies,2008*
   - *National Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2008-2015*
   - *Mauritius Staking Out The Future 2005*
   - *Meeting the challenges of Sustainable Development 2002*
   - *Sectoral Policies*

THE NEED FOR ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS AND INDICATORS IN MAURITIUS

2. **Environment statistics and indicators are essential tools for tracking environmental progress and reporting at national level as well as international level.**

➤ Reporting as obligations under conventions e.g. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan under CBD; Third National Communication under UNFCCC; Phasing out of Ozone depleting substances under Montreal Protocol

➤ Reporting under international obligations- SADC , SIDS, MDGs , United Nations , Mauritius Environment Outlook, Global Environment Outlook

3. Environment statistics and indicators are essential tools for monitoring national development processes.

➢ To monitor progress on and evaluate government programmes

➢ To evaluate the success of implementation of cabinet decisions

➢ To evaluate the success of implementation of national projects and policies e.g. the introduction of diesel with sulphur content 50 ppm in March 2012

4.   Environment statistics and indicators are fundamental for setting baselines and mobilising funds for projects and research.

➢ Projects can best be developed and managed if proper indicators are set

➢ for supporting and promoting research and innovation in environmental matters.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Major factors include institutional, financial and technical resources limitations.

- Some data not updated regularly. e.g. land use by category dates back to 2005.

- Lack of adequate time series for comparability, including inadequate consistency in parameters and sites monitored. e.g. ambient air quality

- Collection of data is not a priority in many institutions. There is lack of human and financial resources. No clear-cut legal obligations for institutions to share data for production of environment statistics.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- No centralised Environment Information System (EIS) for data collection, dissemination and analysis regarding environmental issues.

- Given the multi-disciplinary and cross-cutting nature of environment statistics, the production of environment data and statistics involve numerous stakeholders. The overlapping mandates and inadequate interagency coordination impede production of reliable environmental statistics.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- Inadequate dialogue among stakeholders to translate regional and international targets and commitments as well as new emerging topics in the existing template for data collection.

- Environment statistics and indicators generally remain project oriented and there is no continuity in scaling them up to the national existing template for data collection.

LACK OF DATA IN SOME PERTINENT AREAS INCLUDE :-

Amount of recyclable wastes (No database is available on amount of the different solid wastes being recycled (e.g. PET , glass , paper , etc)

Shoreline changes (Extent of beaches affected by coastal erosion)

Coastal Land Use

Extent of land affected by soil erosion

Extent of hazard prone areas

Population living in hazard prone areas

Hydro-dynamics (wave characteristics, currents)

LACK OF DATA IN SOME PERTINENT AREAS INCLUDE :-

GHG Inventories

E.g.

- Lack of data on private forests and trees outside forests (along river reserves, roads and backyard)

- Lack and unavailability of data pertaining to sewered/unsewered population and exactness of wastewater produced

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen institutional arrangement for better availability and access to data , esp. with regard to new emerging issues like sustainable consumption and production , green economy , disasters, etc and also in harmonization with international reporting.

- Financial support for the development of a centralized Environment Information System.

- Capacity building of technicians for proper collection and analysis of data.

- Capacity building of statisticians for better understanding of the environment statistics and indicators and also to develop projections from present data.

Thank you for your attention!

Management Principle

You Can Only Manage
What You Can Measure!