



Putting the FDES to work: a Blueprint for Action



**Workshop on Environment Statistics in support of the implementation of
the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013)
(Lomé, Togo, 19-23 October 2015)**

Environment Statistics Section, United Nations Statistics Division

The Blueprint

- It was endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its 44th session in 2013.
- It aims at:
 - facilitating the appropriate conditions and technical resources for countries to engage in and strengthen their environment statistics programmes
 - so that they incrementally and regularly produce environment statistics of high quality, (thus enabling them to better respond to the increasing demands of their users).



Focus of the Blueprint

- Technically assisting countries that are most in need of developing and strengthening their environment statistics production and dissemination.
- Support should cover both technical capacities (environment statistics methodologies) and institutional capacities (institutional strengthening and interagency collaboration) inherent to the specific domain of environment statistics.



The Strategy

- Relies on the dissemination and use of the knowledge and tools provided by the FDES and the Core Set of Environment Statistics (and complementary methodological guidance).
- Embedded in a globally coordinated programme consisting of: capacity building, technical assistance and networking.
- Global, regional and national institutions and the different key players, that have inter-dependent but differentiated roles, synergize their individual contributions to benefit countries.
- Current resources are not sufficient to finance the incremental effort and activities described, considerable effort is needed for the mobilization of resources.



Fundamental pillars of the Strategy

- I. Methodological development and dissemination of know-how
- II. Capacity building and technical assistance
- III. Inter-institutional collaboration
- IV. Networking
- V. Resource mobilization
- VI. Advocacy

Pillars are strongly interrelated and support one another



The Plan of Work

- Based on the strategy and its pillars.
- Benefits from the articulation of global, regional and national levels.
- Is organized into prioritized lines of work at each level.



Global level

Main roles are:

- a) Develop methodologies and guidance, translation of FDES and further handbooks.
- b) Provide and facilitate capacity building (onsite and remote training, technical assistance, distance learning, etc.).
- c) Resource mobilization and advocacy.

Main players include:

- UNSD and partner agencies such as FAO, UNEP, and UNDP among others.
- Other collaborating partner agencies: UN regional commissions and regional inter-governmental organizations are important in mobilizing resources, articulating global-regional-national coordination, and deploying their technical capacities at the regional and national levels in support of strengthening environment statistics in the countries.



Global level - main lines of work and additional resources needed

Strategic pillar	Main lines of work	Additional resources needed	Main players
Methodological development and dissemination of know-how	Dissemination of FDES and Core Set of Environment Statistics	Increasing the speed of editing and translation of manuals and website material	UNSD with the support of the Expert Group on environment statistics can lead the finalization of methodological guidance manuals and oversee their translation to United Nations official languages.
	Development of a handbook or implementation manual for the Core Set of Environment Statistics	Expert consultants to supplement available technical resources	IWG-ENV and regional commissions can edit and finalize translation.
	Metadata for common environmental indicators		IWG-ENV and regional collaborating agencies can organize the electronic and physical dissemination of the methodological resources as they become available.
	Guidelines for building institutional capacities for environment statistics		
	Digital resources for the dissemination of methodological resources		
Capacity building and technical assist. to countries	Provide technical assistance and capacity building to regions and countries	Donor resources in a substantial proportion to finance the provision of supplementary technical resources in countries and regions.	UNSD, IWG-ENV members and regional partner agencies, together with more advanced countries, will be the main technical assistance and capacity building providers. Less advanced countries will be benefited by these actions (in an inter-agency manner).
Net-working	Construct a global network of experts and institutions working in environment statistics	Investment to develop an online forum for networking	Through the Statistical Commission and other forums by UNSD, UN agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, United Nations Regional Commissions as well as countries.
Resource mobilization	Mobilize incremental resources for capacity building and technical assistance projects	Current resources should be enough to formulate project proposals and develop new ones to secure new resources	Global partner agencies and working groups can work together to mobilize resources
Advocacy	Develop communication strategy	Production of materials to support advocacy	UNSD, global partner agencies, global working groups and interagency collaborative committees can organize and strengthen this network
	Provide materials to advocate the importance of developing improving quality of environment statistics		

Regional Level

Main roles:

- Regional partnerships can contribute greatly to the process of putting the FDES into practice (mobilizing financial resources and providing technical capacities). RCs closer relationships with member States and are familiar with the needs of the institutions and practitioners at the national level. Can collaborate and provide assistance in diff. languages.

Main regional partners:

- UN Regional Commissions (their statistical and sustainable development divisions); regional UNEP offices and regional FAO offices; regional development banks, regional inter-governmental institutions, and also sub-regional bodies; and other key regional and sub-regional partners as appropriate



Regional level of the Blueprint - main lines of work and additional resources needed

Strategic pillar	Main lines of work	Additional resources needed	Main players
Capacity building and technical assistance to the countries in need	Implement regional projects for development of environment statistics in their regions	Donor resources mobilized by international or regional sources	UNSD and regional partner agencies, together with more advanced countries, will be the main technical assistance and capacity building providers. Less advanced countries will benefit from these actions
Networking	Organize / strengthen regional working groups of environment statistics including NSOs, environmental ministries and other relevant agencies		Regional partner agencies, regional working groups and interagency collaborative committees at the national level can organize and strengthen these networks
Resource mobilization	Mobilize incremental resources for capacity building and technical assistance regional projects	Current resources should be enough to formulate project proposals and develop new ones to secure new resources	Regional partner agencies, regional working groups and NSOs and Environmental Ministries can work together to mobilize resources

National Level

Main role:

Organize and work inter-institutionally to develop environment statistics, strengthen technical and institutional capacities, mobilize resources, and advocate at the national level.

Main partners:

- a) National Statistical Offices or Institutes; b) Environment and other environmentally relevant line Ministries or authorities; and c) National experts and researchers with extensive and in depth knowledge of specific environmental phenomena.

Interagency articulation:

- Coordinating mechanisms/platforms at the technical level to bring the relevant partners and stakeholders together in the early planning stages of putting the FDES into practice.
- High level decision making intergovernmental body, members with authority for making decisions and overseeing development of environment statistics at a national level. Capable of assisting substantially with the mobilization of resources and lead advocacy.



National Level, cont.

Organization of work for each country:

- Detailed national action plans to be developed of environment statistics using the FDES. These will be shaped by national circumstances/resources/needs. (Typical national road maps are described in the document for illustrative purposes).
- Strategic planning objectives include the identification of current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for environment statistics in the country's statistical system.
- Development of a national environment statistics system requires work involving both methodological or technical capacity building and developing institutional capacities in order to strengthen the inter-institutional cooperation mechanisms, and the institutionalization of environment statistics programmes.
- Each country can produce an *ex ante* and *ex post* assessment of environment statistics availability/production, using the self assessment tool based on the Basic and Core Set of Environment Statistics (Questionnaire). By comparing the *ex ante* and *ex post* assessment, the impact of engaging in its national action plan can be documented.



National Level, cont.

A model for the detailed programme of work may include the following stages:

- Preparatory stage (e.g. creating a national team, establishing modes of collaboration, reviewing legal framework, establishing policy and user needs)
- Foundational stage (assessing data availability, applying the ESSAT, formalizing inter-institutional collaboration, defining environment statistics products)
- Operational stage (adapting the FDES to country's needs, defining a core set of environment statistics for the national level, developing metadata, preparing publications, etc.)
- Consolidation stage (institutionalizing and strengthening environment statistics units, allocating budget and staff resources to environment statistics, ensuring statistical quality, etc.)



National level of the Blueprint - main lines of work and additional resources needed

Strategic pillars	Main lines of work	Additional resources needed
Partnerships among global, regional and national agencies	Start/strengthen national committees for inter-institutional collaboration in the development of environment statistics	National resources have to be mobilized in order to build and/or strengthen national inter-agency organizations
Methodological development and dissemination of know-how	Start/strengthen national development of environment statistics	National resources have to be mobilized to properly fund environment statistics programmes
Capacity building and technical assistance to the countries in need	Delivering capacity building, technical assistance and networking to countries. Global and regional bodies, as well as more advanced countries will be the providers.	International/regional projects should mobilize donor resources to finance the investment of technical capacity building into the national statistical systems
Networking	Develop national capacities to integrate into or create regional and global networking	No significant additional resources are needed for networking, existing national resources should suffice
Resource mobilization	Organize and strengthen the contribution of statistical, policy/management and expert communities to contribute to the production of environment statistics	National resources have to be mobilized in order to secure the participation of the three key communities of stakeholders
Advocacy	Ensure the legal mandate and management organs that are put in place are appropriate for accomplishing the tasks at hand	National resources have to be mobilized in order to give environment statistics its prominence

Collaboration with other global initiatives relevant to environment statistics

There are several ongoing and planned global initiatives relevant to the development of environment statistics. The coordination of the implementation of the FDES with these other initiatives is essential for developing synergies, avoid duplication of efforts and making the best use of resources.

- PARIS21 is a global partnership of national, regional and international statisticians, analysts, policy-makers, development professionals and other users of statistics. PARIS21 focuses on encouraging and assisting all low-income and lower middle income countries to design, implement, and monitor National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and to have nationally owned and produced data for all MDG indicators. Embedding the FDES Blueprint for action in the NSDS may ensure the establishment and sustainability of environment statistics as part of official statistics.



Collaboration with other global initiatives relevant to environment statistics, cont.

- Implementation of SEEA-CF will include capacity building and technical assistance to countries, and through those activities, environment statistics that support the compilation of the accounts will also be strengthened. As the FDES and the SEEA-CF are complementary frameworks that build on one another, coordination of technical assistance and capacity building for the implementation of the FDES and that of the SEEA-CF is necessary to achieve synergies of these programmes.
- Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development is the roadmap to implement a global strategy for the development of several statistical fields relevant to environment statistics.
- MDG 7 capacity building activities by UNSD and the regional commissions, UNDP, and other international agencies are expected to continue with regions, sub-regions and countries.
- In the future, coordination with efforts to produce indicators to monitor the planned Sustainable Development Goals will also become important for harvesting synergies with the development of environment statistics.





http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc13/BG-FDES-Environment_Blueprint.pdf

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