ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS IN ZIMBABWE

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Country Background

- Zimbabwe is situated between latitudes 15° 30” and 22° 30” south of the Equator and between longitudes 25° and 33° 10” east of the Greenwich Meridian.

- The country is bordered by Mozambique to the East, South Africa to the South, Botswana to the West and Zambia to the North and North-west.

- The main feature is the plateau/High veld, that lies mostly at an altitude between 1 200 and 1 500 metres above sea level.

- Middle veld has an altitude between 600 to 1200 metres while the low veld has an altitude below 600 metres.
Country Background (*Contd*)

- The total land area is approximately 390,757 km$^2$.
- Estimated population of 11.6 million; 5.6 million males & 6.0 million females.
- 35% of the population lives in urban areas.
- There are 12 national parks, one transfrontier park (Trans Zambezi National Park), and other protected areas.
- Flora is dry miombo woodland, with mopane woodland and other woodlands types dominating, serpentine grasslands are found in the Great Dyke.
- Montane forest interspersed amongst high-altitude grasslands & heath is found in the Eastern Highlands.
Situation of Environment Statistics in Zimbabwe

- Formulation of DEAP programme and introduction urban component in cities by the International Council for Local Environmental initiatives after Agenda 21.

- MET, is leading the process of developing a national environmental policy that will compliment the Environmental Management Act.

- MET identified about 100 indicators that need to be prioritized.

- MET coordinated Zimbabwe Sustainable Indicators Database.
Components of the NSS

Data Users
- Govts, researchers, private sector, NGOs, donors, intern.org, press, public

Data Collectors
- CSO, line Ministries, public sector, NGOs, others

Data suppliers
- Households, farmers, establishments, institutions, etc.

Research/Training Institutions
- University
Efforts within CSO

- Collaborates with other organizations – meetings, data provision, user producer workshops etc.

- 1991 User/Producer workshop intensified efforts to collect environment statistics


- Conducts Environment Statistics User Inquiries before production of Environment publication.

- Stakeholder Workshop dedicated to Environment Statistics in April 2005.
Objectives of User Inquiries

- Identify national environmental concerns;
- Identify data gaps relevant to activities and programmes on environmental management;
- Assess awareness of international environmental regulations and conventions;
- Determine sources and availability of existing data; and
- Update the contents of the Environment Statistics Publication
Environment Statistics Users

- Major users are policy makers, planners, scientists, students, international organizations, research institutions, private sector, schools, media, individuals, including farmers.

Government ministries & line departments need the data to
- facilitate effective and efficient planning;
- promote debates on environmental issues such as Convention in Trade of Endangered Species;
- formulate, monitor and implement environmental policy and legislation;
- identify and quantify specific environmental categories; and
- define the linkage between development and the environment.
Environment Statistics Users (Contd)

- Research institutions/scientist/international organizations - for assessment of environmental impacts and monitor status and progress of environment indicators over time,

- Individuals, farmers and investors - for market analysis,

- Schools need data in writing up their academic projects, and

- media need it for awareness and publicity.
The time needed to complete the questionnaire is too short.
Need for an appraisal workshop before the return.
Stakeholders requested for an honorarium.
Need for a wider stakeholder involvement.
Provision of previous data supplied to reduce response burden.
Need for templates updated by institutions continuously to enable quick supply of data as and when requested.
CSO was advised to mobilize funds to facilitate completion of the questionnaire.
The questionnaire should be customized to suit sub regions, for example Sub Saharan Africa, to reduce irrelevant questions.
Data Sources

- Socio-economic statistics surveys e.g. ICDS, LFS, ICES & ZDHS including national population censuses.

- CSO sister sections - Data on tourism, trade, production, environmental crimes, agriculture, environmental diseases.

- Most data come from specialist organizations e.g. Met office and ZINWA.

- Other sources are administrative records, monitoring data and remote sensing.

- Hence, most statistics exist scattered in various primary and secondary data producers.
Dissemination of Statistics

- CSO produces Environment Statistics publication
- Zimbabwe Statistical Database (ZIMDAT) - disseminated through presentations and CDs annually.
- National publications e.g. SoER.
- Global Reports e.g the Global Outlook reports.
- Pamphlets, e.g. at Agricultural Shows and Zimbabwe International Trade Fares (ZITF).
- Completion of questionnaires e.g UNSD/UNEP questionnaire.
Challenges of Statistics Production

- Lack of institutional set-up/coordination.
- Little information sharing between stakeholders for because of inadequate information and communication technologies (ICT).
- Inadequate capacity to use information.
- Most data usually lack continuity and incomplete data sets.
- Use of obsolete recording/measuring equipment or unavailability.
Challenges of Statistics Production (Contd)

- High staff turnover resulting in skill gaps.
- Lack of funding - transport, manpower and ICT.
- Further calculations using data from different institutions are usually not done.
- Conflicting data mainly due to differences in methodologies used.
- Insufficient hardware - data exist unprocessed.
Future Plans

- Improved institutional set-up and coordination.
- Creation of a National Statistical System (NSS). Capacity is expected to be build.
- Increase in human personnel, hardware and software
- Adoption DPSIR framework
- Collection of urban environmental indicators data.
- continue conducting user inquiries.
THE END

THANK YOU