



The Use of the Internet as a Tool for Statistics Dissemination

Workshop on Environment Statistics

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Plan of the Presentation



- Introduction
- Definition and Principles of Statistics
Dissemination
- Media for statistics dissemination
- Contents of the Websites
- Environment statistics on the NSOs' Websites
- Conclusion and Recommendations



Introduction



- ➡ The ongoing changes in ICT have provided NSOs with new opportunities in providing statistical data and information to users.
- ➡ Internet is a powerful medium for national statistics dissemination. It has opened a window on the world that could alleviate information scarcity widely experienced by African countries.
- ➡ A great number of African NSOs have developed websites through which they are disseminating basic statistics. (See www.uneca.org/statistics/nsos.htm).



Definition & Principles of Statistics Dissemination



Definition

- Dissemination of statistics is the release to users of information obtained through statistical processes.



Definition & Principles of Statistics Dissemination



👉 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics:

- Universally agreed that these principles are overarching framework for the mission of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and indeed also for official statistics in any country.
- They give a set of fundamental values and principles, which NSOs and other data producers should have in order for the public to have trust in official statistics they produce.
- They cover issues of independence, relevance, credibility and respondent relations.



Definition & Principles of Statistics Dissemination



- 👉 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics:
- “Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation.
 - To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens' entitlement to public information”.



Definition & Principles of Statistics Dissemination



👉 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics:
High quality international statistics, accessible for all, are a fundamental element of global information systems

Good practices include:

- Compiling and disseminating international statistics based on impartiality
- Providing equal access to statistics for all users
- Ensuring free public accessibility of key statistics



Definition & Principles of Statistics Dissemination



- ☞ Characteristics of quality statistics
 - Relevance
 - Accuracy
 - Timeliness
 - Comparability
 - Accessibility
 - Coherence.



Media for statistics dissemination



- ➡ Various release media are possible:
- Paper publication
 - Microfiche
 - Fax response to special requests
 - Public speeches
 - Electronic format: CD-ROM, Flash/USB



Contents of the Websites



- ☞ The websites contents are broadly organized into the following items:
- Countries profiles;
 - NSOs work programmes;
 - Publications;
 - Data and indicators.

☞ Metadata



Env. statistics disseminated on the NSOs' websites



- ☞ The accessibility of environment data through the NSOs websites is quite weak.
- ☞ Across countries, no clear agreement of what should be considered as environment indicators. Two main classifications:
 - **Climate:** which gives rainfall and temperature recorded at meteorological stations;
 - **Tourism and environment:** which gives some data on water resources and consumption, and land utilization.



Env. statistics disseminated on the NSOs' websites



☞ Environment indicators usually posted:

- Land use including erosion/denudation
- Forestry
- Biodiversity
- Waste

☞ Pollution non posted:

- Water
- Air
- Noise



Status of Env. Statistics in NSOs Websites

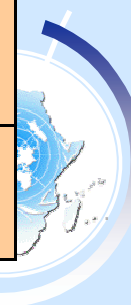


Direct link with full indicators

Country	Office	Website
Botswana	Central Statistics Office	www.cso.gov.bw

In NSOs Website but Published in Figures Report

Country	Office	Website
Malawi	National Statistics Office	www.nso.malawi.net
Mauritius	Central Statistical Office	www.gov.mu/portal/sites/ncb/cso/index



Status of Env. Statistics in NSOs Websites

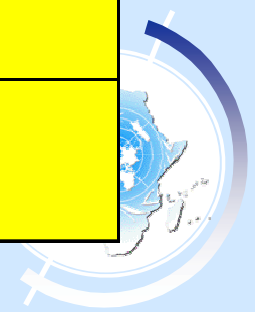


Information in NSOs Website but only on temperature and rainfall

Country	Office	Website
Seychelles	National Statistics Bureau (NSB)	www.nsb.gov.sc

From NSOs Website link to Swa Env Authority

Country	Office	Website
Swaziland	Central Statistical Office	www.gov.sz



Status of Env. Statistics in NSOs Websites



Nothing under the visible link

Country	Office	Website
Lesotho	Bureau of Statistics	www.bos.gov.ls
Zambia	Central Statistical Office	www.zamstats.gov.zm



Status of Env. Statistics in NSOs Websites



No available information

Country	Office	Website
Egypt	Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and	www.capmas.gov.eg
Ethiopia	Central Statistical Agency	www.csa.gov.et
Kenya	Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)	www.cbs.go.ke
Mozambique	Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE)	www.ine.gov.mz
Namibia	Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)	www.npc.gov.na
South Africa	Statistics South Africa	www.statssa.gov.za
Sudan	Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)	www.cbs.gov.sd
Tanzania	National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)	www.nbs.go.tz
Uganda	Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)	www.ubos.org

Status of Env. Statistics in NSOs Websites



Website not working

Country	Office	Website
Angola	Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE)	www.ine.gv.ao
Zimbabwe	Central Statistics Office	www.cso.zarnet.ac.zw



Env. Statistics in NSOs Websites



👉 **BOTSWANA**

–Forest denudation, area of woodlands, woodlot area utilized, endangered plants (2003), energy (2004)

• **SWAZILAND**

–Swaziland Environment Authority

▪Waste, Biodiversity, Desertification, Ozone, Land use/degradation, analytical document of changes, energy



Recommendations



- ➔ Encourage efforts made by NSOs to disseminate data through the Internet;
- ➔ Agree on a framework of environment indicators;



Recommendations



- ➡ To build confidence of the users community in official statistics in working on the six dimensions of data quality (relevance, accuracy, timeliness, comparability, accessibility and coherence);
- ➡ To assess users needs (sub-national, national, sub-regional, regional and international);
- ➡ To consider the importance of Metadata.



Recommendations



- ➡ Add a calendar of publications;
- ➡ At the regional level, there is a need to encourage common Internet dissemination solution.





THANKS

