

Environmental Statistics in ECOWAS Region

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Overview

1. EACH MINUTE

- ▶ At least 51 acres of tropical forest are destroyed.
- ▶ We consume almost 35,000 barrels of oil.
- ▶ 50 tons of fertile soil are washed or blown off cropland.
- ▶ We add 12,000 tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.

Overview Contd

2. EACH HOUR

- ▶ 1,692 acres of productive dry land become desert.
- ▶ 1,800 children die of malnutrition and hunger
- ▶ 120 million dollars are spent for military expenditures
- ▶ 55 people are poisoned by the pesticides they use; 5 die.
- ▶ 60 new cases of cancer are diagnosed in the U.S.A alone.

Overview Contd

3. EACH DAY

- ▶ Over 230,000 babies are born.
- ▶ 25,000 people die of water shortage or contamination.
- ▶ 10 tons of nuclear waste are being generated by the 350 existing nuclear plants.
- ▶ 250,000 tons of sulfuric acid fall as acid rain in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ▶ 60 tons of plastic packaging and 372 tons of fishing net are dumped into the sea by commercial fishermen.
- ▶ Almost 5 species of life become extinct.

Introduction

- ▶ Environmental concerns have increasingly become the subject of mainstream socio-economic policies both at international and national levels.
- ▶ In ECOWAS region, water scarcity, water quality and land degradation are of primary concern, in addition air quality, waste management and biodiversity are also important issues.

Introduction

- ▶ These environmental challenges cannot be met without the availability of scientifically reliable information obtained on the basis of knowledge of what is happening at the quantitative and qualitative level.
- ▶ A major difficulty in supporting informed decision-making and assessing the outcomes of such decisions has been the lack of basic environmental statistics and indicators.

I. Contemporary problems in West Africa

1. Climate
2. Air pollutions
3. Deforestation
4. Conservation of Biological Diversity
5. Desertification
6. Coastal erosion
7. Waste

II: International treaties relevant to ECOWAS Region

- The system of the United Nations initiated and animated international treaties which marked the sector of the environment at the international level since 1972, and more actively since 1992.
- The Declaration of Rio on the Environment and the Development and the International Conventions which rose from it (climatic Change, biological Diversity and Fight against Desertification) established the execution framework in which the Sub-region was largely involved.

II: International treaties relevant to ECOWAS Region (Contd)

- Conventions of conservation of the natural resources are among the most important conventions:
 - ✓ Convention on the International Trade of the species of fauna and flora threatened of extinction (CITES, or Convention of Washington),
 - ✓ Convention on the Wetlands of Ramsar,
 - ✓ Convention on the species migrating called of Bonn,
 - ✓ Convention of Abidjan as regards protection of marine and coastal environments

III: Cases of legal environment regulations in ECOWAS Region

- ▶ Many sub-regional initiatives contributed to the effective implementation of the international conventions:
- ✓ The Sub-Regional Action Programme to combat Desertification in West Africa and Chad (SRAP) an initiative conceived jointly by CILSS, UEMOA and ECOWAS: Goal: to develop sub-regional cooperation in the rational management of shared natural resources and contribute to sustainable development in West Africa and Chad

III: Examples of legal environment regulations in ECOWAS Region

- ✓ The Water Resources Coordination Unit of ECOWAS Commission has developed action plan for Integrated Water Resources Management in West Africa.
- ✓ Etc.

IV: ECOWAS Environmental Policy

- ▶ Document on ECOWAS Environmental Policy is under preparation. envisaged to address the following concerns:
 - ✓ Stabilize the environment,
 - ✓ Reverse the heavy tendencies of degradation
 - ✓ Reduction of dependence on natural resources,
 - ✓ Rehabilitate and maintain healthy environment.

ECOWAS Environmental Policy

- ▶ The Strategic Axes of ECOWAS Environmental Policy are to:
 - ✓ (1) Promote knowledge and capacities
 - ✓ (2) Contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources for the fight against poverty and food insecurity
 - ✓ (3) Ensure the maintenance or sustainable restore of an healthy environment
 - ✓ (4) Promote Ecocitoyenneté (Communicate, Educate, Sensitize and Demonstrate) for more responsibility on environment
 - ✓ (5) Promote Partnerships for the Improvement of the Environment

V: Situation of Environmental Statistics in ECOWAS region

- ▶ **The National Statistical Authority and environment statistics related acts**
- ✓ In most countries the National Statistical Institute has the responsibility to collect, compile and disseminate official statistics, including environment statistics. This mandate also includes the dissemination of environment statistics, even if the data collection is carried out by other governmental bodies. In all countries the activities of the statistical body is based on statistical act. A specific statistical law with regard to environment statistics does not exist in any of the countries. In seven countries, however, environment statistics is considered to be an integral part of the general statistical programme.

Situation of Environmental Statistics in ECOWAS region

- ▶ **Other important institutions collecting environmental data**
- ✓ Usually more than one governmental body collects environmental data. The Ministry of Environment or Environment Protection Agency as well as other line ministries, such as the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Water, and the Ministry of Rural Development Municipalities, play an important role in collecting data on environmental issues. Established cooperation links between those governmental bodies serve foremost the elaboration of the National Action Plan for Environment Protection or the State of the Environment Report. Some of the National Statistical Institutes benefit from these sources in developing environment statistics at the national level.

Situation of Environmental Statistics in ECOWAS region

▶ Coordination of environment statistics

- ✓ In most countries the Ministry of Environment or the Environment Protection Agency has been attributed a coordinating role to improve the management of the information system on environment in the country. In only few countries, however, has this coordination been established and is operational (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Senegal). In none of the countries has a steering committee or formal coordination and cooperation agreements been established. The National Statistical Institutes have not yet taken an active part in coordinating the collection of environmental data.

Situation of Environmental Statistics in ECOWAS region

► Main obstacles for improvement in environment statistics

1. Absence of a designated unit responsible for environment statistics;
2. Scattered information in different institutions and limited accessibility of the information, lack of cooperation between the governmental institutions concerned;
3. Absence of an integrated system, where available information is properly stored;
4. Lack of conceptual framework and lack of priorities;
5. Insufficient monitoring and other data collection activities in the environmental field;

Situation of Environmental Statistics in ECOWAS region

- ▶ **Main obstacles for improvement in environment statistics**
- 6. Insufficient financial means to conduct environmental surveys and to produce environment statistics;
- 7. Insufficiently developed methodology used for data collection in different institutions;
- 8. Insufficient quality of existing data, insufficient documentation of available data and applied methodology;
- 9. Insufficient monitoring and other data collection activities in the environmental field;
- 10. Lack of necessary monitoring and computer equipment.

Situation of Environmental Statistics in ECOWAS region

- ▶ The preparation of National Action Plans for Environment Protection could lay the foundation for the development of environment statistics in those countries which establish this plan at regular intervals. Agreed programmes including priorities and close collaboration between all stakeholders in the data collection activities would be a requirement for progress in environment statistics.

Main issues to be covered by environment statistics in ECOWAS region

► Water statistics

1. Water resources (rainfall, evapo-transpiration, river inflow/outflow, import of water) and its water quality,
2. Groundwater and surface water abstraction, desalinization,
3. Water supply by source, cost of water production, water quality of the supplied water,
4. Water use by sector (agriculture, industry, households, power stations) and its water quality,
5. Waste water treatment, waste water treatment plants, balance between water abstraction and available freshwater (ratio of used to total available water), non-traditional sources.

Main issues to be covered by environment statistics in ECOWAS region

► Solid waste statistics, including hazardous waste, municipal waste

1. Waste generation (quantity of waste generated by source),
2. Waste collection,
3. Waste treatment and disposal (e.g. landfill, incineration, recycling and composting),
4. Cost of disposing of waste and related waste indicators.

Main issues to be covered by environment statistics in ECOWAS region

► Main Air statistics

1. Emission of greenhouse gases,
2. Air quality (NO_x, SO₂, windblown sand, and dust), air quality in 'hot spots',
3. Emissions of air pollutants (quantities of pollutants emitted by source).
4. issues to be covered by environment statistics in ECOWAS region

Main issues to be covered by environment statistics in ECOWAS region

► Land statistics

1. Land use (e.g. agriculture, forestry, built-up land, and classification of land by agro-climatic zone),
2. Changes in land use,
3. Land degradation (desertification, soil erosion).

Main issues to be covered by environment statistics in ECOWAS region

- ▶ Biodiversity (threatened species, protected areas),
- ▶ Environmental and sustainable development indicators,
- ▶ Natural resource statistics.

VII: Framework of Environment Statistics in ECOWAS Region

- ▶ **ECOWAS Commission with technical support of UNSD and regional experts has developed a Framework to strengthen capacity and institutionalize environment statistics in the region. The primary objective is to build a sound base of environment statistics.**

VII: Framework of Environment Statistics in ECOWAS Region

- ▶ Specific **Objectives** (12)
- ▶ Actions at **Regional** level
 - 1. Resource mobilization***
 - 2. Institutionalization***
 - 3. Coordination***
 - 4. Training and technical assistance***
 - 5. Data collection and dissemination***

VII: Framework of Environment Statistics in ECOWAS Region

► Actions at National level

1. Legislation

2. Resource mobilization

3. Institutionalization

4. Coordination

5. Training and technical assistance

6. Data collection and dissemination

VIII: Way Forward

- ▶ The Framework for Strengthening Capacity in the Institutionalization of Environment Statistics in ECOWAS was adopted by ECOWAS Authorities in January 2007

VIII: Way Forward

► Roadmap

- ✓ Establishment of a regional technical committee on energy and environment statistics (by 2007)
- ✓ Preparation of regional guidelines and training material on environment statistics (by 2008)
- ✓ Training workshop on environmental statistics and indicators (by 2008)

VIII: Way Forward

- ✓ Programme on Regional Environmental Statistics and Indicators – 2007
- ✓ Compilation of meta-data (by 2007/2008)
- ✓ Compilation and harmonization of data (by 2007/2008)
- ✓ Publication of a (pilot) Compendium on Environment Statistics for the ECOWAS countries (by 2008/2009)

The End

► Thank you for your Attention

References

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- 2. Framework for Strengthening Capacity in the Institutionalization of Environment Statistics in ECOWAS Region
- 3. An Assessment of the Situation of Environment Statistics in ECOWAS Region
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- 5. Black Dawn/Bright Day Global Awareness in Action by the Native American.