

Session 2: The ECA List of Environmental Indicators

United Nations Statistics Division

Workshop on Environment Statistics
(Abuja, 19-23 May 2008)

Reference framework: The NEPAD Themes-Issues-Indicators-Data Matrix

- Thematic issues/NEPAD Programme Areas
- NEPAD priorities
- Priority issues
- Lead indicators

Selection of a core set of indicators

- ECA Workshop on Environment Statistics, Addis Ababa, 16-20 July 2008
- 17 countries and several African regional organizations
- Objective: based on a set of criteria recommend a core list of environmental indicators for Africa

Example: Working group session on the selection of indicators, data availability and data collection (Land use and agriculture, Forests and Biodiversity)

- What are the priority environmental issues and/or the statistical topics in your country?
- Do the UNEP/AEO/ NEPAD **Lead** Indicators fully reflect these priority issues/topics?
- Are there additional priority statistical variables/indicators that are not included in the list? If yes, please include them here.
- Are the data available for the variables/indicators included in the list?
- How are the data collected (statistical surveys, monitoring etc.)?
- What are the main sources of data at national level (national statistical offices, administrative sources, research institutes, etc.)?
- Are the data easily accessible?
- To what extent does the Land Section of the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics reflect the UNEP/AEO/ NEPAD **Lead** Indicators?
- Are there other variables that should have been covered in this Section of the Questionnaire?
- Are there any problems encountered in the completion of this Section of the Questionnaire? If so, please explain.
 - (i) Are the units of measurement clear?
 - (ii) Are the definitions clear and sufficient? Do countries' national definitions fit the international definitions?
 - (iii) Are the classifications appropriate? Do countries' classifications fit into the international classification, and if not do you think the classification in the questionnaire should be expanded?
- Would the extension of the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire to the areas currently not covered (**Land use and agriculture, Forests and Biodiversity**) help the countries in the production of the necessary statistics?

Recommendations of the Addis Workshop

- Countries with the assistance of ECA, UNEP, UNSD and other partners to conclude the development of a core set of African environment indicators to reflect the environmental national priorities and the needs of national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations;
- Countries with the assistance of ECA, UNEP, UNSD, UNDP and other partners to agree on detailed concepts, methods and definitions for the calculation of the indicators that are consistent with existing international standards;
- To identify data gaps at national, sub-regional and regional levels based on the agreed core set of environmental indicators and find mechanisms to fill in those gaps;
- To put in place a task force (AEO-Data Working Group, ECA, UNSD and other partners) that will undertake the following: to streamline indicators and develop methodology sheets; circulate to the group and other regions; finalize the list of indicators; test them on selected countries and organize seminars for the launching.

From Addis to Abuja

- UNSD reviewed the core set of indicators recommended by the Addis workshop and made suggestions for further harmonization with existing indicators (CSD, MDG etc)
- These suggestions were circulated to the participants, collected the comments and final draft list of indicators was prepared
- UNSD **classified the indicators** according to the availability of methodology for their calculation
- UNSD researched and compiled together the **available methodologies** using a common format following that of the CSD methodology sheet.

Preparation for the Abuja workshop

Countries received the draft ECA list of indicators and were asked to review the indicators from the point of view of their availability and compatibility at the national level (based on standard criteria).

Countries were also asked to review the indicators whether they properly reflect the priorities of the ECOWAS member states.

Expectations from the Abuja Workshop

- Substantive discussion of the indicators and their methodologies in working groups
- Agree on a subset of indicators that have well developed methodology and satisfactory data availability
- Identify gaps and recommend solutions to fill in the gaps
- Recommend additional indicators or alternative indicators if necessary