Development Account Project:
Supporting Member States in developing and strengthening environment statistics and integrated environmental-economic accounting for improved monitoring of sustainable development

Workshop on Environment Statistics in support of the implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013)
(Arusha, Tanzania, 6-10 July 2015)

Main problems

- insufficient quantity and quality of environment statistics and environmental-economic accounts and supporting statistics
- insufficient integration between environment statistics and economic statistics
- lack of awareness of the importance of environment statistics and environmental-economic accounts
- lack of resources and technical capacity
- weak institutional set-up and insufficient inter-institutional collaboration at national level
- lack of regional/sub-regional/national strategies and/or work plans

Project background

In light of the importance of high quality statistics and their effective use in supporting evidence-based policy making and monitoring the achievement of internationally agreed goals, it is necessary to improve the availability and quality of environment statistics and environmental-economic accounts.

Project objective

The overall objective is to strengthen national capacities of developing countries for the sustained, regular production of a priority set of environment statistics, and environmental-economic accounts and supporting statistics, and the resulting indicators in order to measure progress towards sustainable development.

Project strategy

Two complementary modules:

Module A (environment statistics) - Countries at early stages of development of environment statistics

> Advancing the statistical and institutional capacity for the collection, compilation and dissemination of environment statistics needed for environmental reporting, indicator-based assessment and environmental-economic accounting, based on national policies and priorities, using the FDES and the Basic/Core Set of Environment Statistics.

Module B (environmental-economic accs.) - Countries at more advanced stages of development of statistics

> Advancing the statistical and institutional capacity and infrastructure for the compilation and dissemination of environmental-economic accounts and supporting statistics for the purpose of integrating environment and economic statistics based on national policies and priorities.

Module A:
Expected Accomplishment

Enhanced technical capacities of selected countries to regularly produce a comprehensive set of environment statistics, based on FDES, according to their own policy demands and commitments.

Indicators of Achievement

(1)   National work plans in environment statistics that outline the programmes and activities to develop environment statistics/indicators series elaborated by the five participating countries.

(2)   Increased production of priority environment statistics within the national statistical systems of participating countries, through the use of the FDES and the Basic Set of Environment Statistics.

Module A: Project activities

(1) Organize a sub-regional capacity building workshop to initiate the project, using the FDES and the Basic Set of Environment Statistics to train the practitioners (i.e., NSO, Ministry of the Environment, etc.) to develop or strengthen statistical and institutional capacities in environment statistics at the national level (July 2015);

(2) Apply the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool based on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics in the five participating countries (ex ante and ex post assessment) (2015 and 2017);

(3) Develop national work plans in environment statistics in the five participating countries in order to construct a roadmap for each country, guiding the implementation of the activities (2015);

Module A: Project activities (contd.)

(4) Provide technical assistance to the five participating countries to strengthen their production of selected environment statistics series and/or indicators by organizing technical assistance missions, organizing five national workshops and providing remote technical support to review the progress to date and provide guidance as necessary (2015-2016);

(5) Foster, launch and document national inter-institutional platforms and data-sharing protocols in the five participating countries in order to strengthen environment statistics at the national level (2016);

(6) Organize a closing sub-regional workshop to share progress and lessons learned and discuss the way forward with participating countries (2017).

Beneficiaries and partners

Beneficiaries

-National statistical offices, environment ministries or equivalent institutions, other sectoral ministries, finance ministries, central banks etc.
-Users of the information such as international, regional and sub-regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and universities, the private sector and the public at large.
-Statistical training institutes (School of Statistics and Planning, Makerere University, Eastern African Statistical Training Centre)

Partners

-   Regional commission (UN-ECA), UNEP and sub-regional institutions (EAC and COMESA)