

Regional activities in environment statistics

The East African Community (EAC)

By R. Maate and
Gambamala L.M.

Main Points

- Regional context
- Program for Environmental protection and sustainable utilization of natural Resources in the EAC
- Need for Environmental Statistics in the EAC Region
- Conclusions

Regional context

- The East African Community is the regional inter-governmental organization of the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- It has its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania
- The Treaty for the establishment of the EAC was signed in November 1999 and entered into force in July 2000

- The EAC region
 - covers a surface area of 1.82 million Sq. Km,
 - population of more than 143.5 million people,
 - population Density of 83.6,
 - GDP per capita income that has increased from US\$ 405.5 in 2005 to US\$ 768.9 in 2013 and
 - an average annual Population growth rate of 3.1 percent

- Pillars of the EAC integration
 - Customs Union (CU) - concluded in 2004 and implementation commenced in January 2005
 - Common Market (CM) - concluded in in November 2009 and became effective in July 2010
 - Monetary Union (MU)- concluded in in November 2013 and the process of establishment institutions to support the MU is underway and will **be effected in 2025**
 - and ultimately a political federation.

Program for Environmental protection and sustainable utilization of natural Resources in the EAC

- Provided in the EAC 4th Development Strategy
- Article 5, 3(c) and Article 111 of the EAC Treaty provided for collaboration among partner states towards efficient Management and sustainable utilization of natural resources and protection of the environment, which is consistent with MDG 7.
- It has been noted through research that
 - A great decline of forest cover among some EAC Partner States below the United Nations benchmark of at least 10%.
 - Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda are the countries in East Africa with over 10 per cent of forest cover.
 - Kenya and Burundi have the lowest forest cover which remained at 5-6% between 2006 and 2008.

- The region therefore should collaborate in the restoration of forest cover
- Kenya has embarked on an ambitious program to plant trees in Kenya's major water catchment areas including Mau, Aberdares and Mt. Kenya forests.
- Tanzania has also embarked on a big multi - sectoral tree planting program

- **Existing EAC Instruments for Strengthening and Supporting environmental protection**
 - Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC
 - Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy (2012 – 2016)
 - Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources
 - Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Master Plan
 - EAC Food Security Action Plan
 - Strategy on Peace and Security
 - The 4TH EAC Development Strategy (2011-2016)

Need for Environmental Statistics in the EAC Region

- The objective of environment statistics is to provide information about the environment
 - most important changes over time and across locations, and the main factors that influence
 - providing high quality statistical information
 - support evidence-based policy and decision
 - information for the general public, as well as for specific user groups

Environmental Statistics available at the EAC HQ

- The EAC compiles Statistical information that are already published by Partner States.
- Information is Published in the
 - EAC facts and figures
 - Databases such as the EAC RegionSTAT
 - EAC Data Portal
- Currently the Data published include
 - Geographical Location of the EAC Partner States
 - Agricultural Land Use
 - Average Maximum and Minimum Rainfall and Temperatures
 - Population Trends
 - Livestock Population

- **Basic Environmental Statistics Required at regional level**
 - Drinking water supply
 - Waste (Water/Solid) management
 - Housing quality
 - Use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture
 - Drinking water
 - Basic sanitation
 - Housing quality
 - Establishments with environmental management systems
 - Production and handling of solid waste
 - Opinion barometers on environmental policies and management

- Number of motor vehicles
- Environmental licensing
- Environmental education actions
- Public spending on environment protection
- Satellite imaging to inventory forests
- Remote imaging of urban sprawl (city surface)
- Land cover and land use (types)
- Quality of drinking water
- Urban air quality
- Coastal - marine pollution
- Temperature, precipitation, water flows of rivers
- Characteristics of solid waste
- etc

Conclusion

- It is our expectations that the workshop will be able impart knowledge and build capacity for the participants to collect and compile environmental Statistics specifically on;
 - knowledge of the statistical process in collection, compilation and dissemination of environment statistics
 - Institutions required for collection and compilation of environmental Statistics, their linkages, collaboration and how to effectively coordinate them and data-sharing
 - Linkages between environment statistics and economic statistics