

Capacity development for environment and climate change statistics



Tenth Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics

Virtual Meeting, via UN headquarters, New York, 3, 4, 6 and 10 October 2023



Recent capacity development activities

1. With UNSD's lead:

- National mission and workshop on Environment and Climate Change Statistics in Peru, Lima, 12 - 16 December 2022), with a main objective to initiate the development of a national programme and mobilize resources

2. UNSD taking part in:

- COMESA project on Environment and Climate Change Statistics for the African Development Fund Countries (more details from COMESA)
- ECLAC DA12 project 'Climate Change and Disaster Statistics in the Caribbean'
- DA14 Workstream 2.1 – Climate Change and Disaster-related statistics (led by UNEP and ESCAP)

3. Just starting:

- Fostering Caribbean SIDS-SIDS Peer-Learning And Cooperation
- UNEP & DRR missions in Lesotho and Cameroon with a 'National Workshop on Climate Change and Disaster-related Statistics'



Continuous online implementation support

- Country demands and needs for capacity development are continuously being compiled in a spreadsheet by our section, including from the Global Consultation in 2021, country statement for the 53rd session of the Statistical Commission, individual request.
- Implementation support materials (CISAT and Implementation guidelines) are completed:
 - CISAT already translated into French and Spanish, which needs to be reviewed
 - **We need help with other languages**
- Training materials and capacity development strategy to be developed



Capacity development planning

1. Activities under DA14 (to be presented by UNEP and ESCAP)
2. DA17 overall theme “Supporting Member States in accelerating actions to adapt to and mitigate climate change with a focus on social and economic resilience in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda”.
 - We proposed ‘Support for the development of climate change statistics based on the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators, with a gender perspective’
3. National missions with support from RPTC (need an official request from the country)



SIDS-SIDS Peer-Learning And Cooperation

- To contribute to the UN-SIDS conference scheduled for May 2024
- In collaboration between UNSD and SDG division of DESA



DEPARTMENT OF
**ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS**



**THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
COALITION FOR NATURE**

-PROJECT SUMMARY-

FOSTERING CARIBBEAN SIDS-SIDS PEER-LEARNING AND COOPERATION ON DATA SOLUTIONS FOR NATURE TO ACCELERATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA & ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

• PROJECT RATIONALE & OBJECTIVE

Fostering Caribbean SIDS-SIDS Peer-Learning And Cooperation On Data Solutions For Nature To Accelerate The Implementation Of The 2030 Agenda & Achievement Of The Global Biodiversity Framework



Towards a strategy on Capacity development for environment and climate change statistics



Outline

1. Key issues
2. Aim: **provide recommendations for the international and regional organizations to strengthen capacity development activities on environment and climate change statistics in the countries**
3. Relevant background and materials:
 - Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems, Chapter 16 - The International Statistical System (ISS): <https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/handbook/html/topic.htm#t=Handbook%2FC16%2FC16.htm>
 - UN Statistics Quality Assurance Framework (UN SQAF): <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/unsystem/documents/UNSQAF-2018.pdf>
 - FDES Blueprint for Action: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc13/BG-FDES-Environment_Blueprint.pdf
 - SEEA Ecosystem Accounting implementation strategy: https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_53/documents/BG-3I-implementation-strategy-for-the-SEEA-ecosystem-accounting-E.pdf
4. Based on specific inputs from:
 - IWG-ES Inventory of capacity development activities (last one from 2019, [BG-item-4e-EnvironmentStats-E.pdf \(un.org\)](#))
 - Global Consultation outcomes, mostly from the 25 international responses, [BG-3m-GlobalConsultationontheGlobalSet-E.pdf \(un.org\)](#)
5. Engaging key partners



Key issues

- Challenges to clarify and strengthen the role of official statistics, especially in specialized policy areas, including **health**, adaptation to climate change and disasters preparedness, etc.
- Limited resources, insufficient and non-systematic delivery of capacity development by international and regional organizations
- Various efforts from multiple organizations, possibly duplicating also leaving gaps in capacity development
- Regional gaps / difficulty to communicate and assess the situation



Key instruments for UNSD to improve coordination

1. On national level, the survey discussed in Session 1 and 3.
2. On international: Inventory of Capacity Development Events and Activities in the Area of Environment and Climate Change Statistics, in collaboration with the members of the IWG-ENV and other partner organizations. These inventories have been presented in Part 3 of the [Background Document](#) to the [Report of the Secretary-General on Environment Statistics](#) for the 51st Session of the Commission.
3. Dedicated session at the EGES meetings
4. Exploring different channel of capacity transfer: 'north-south'; 'south-south'; SIDS-SIDS
5. Exploring Knowledge hubs/training centres, new materials (e.g. from the ECE taskforce on role of NSO in climate action), e-learning, collecting and disseminating good practices



Statistics Quality Assurance Framework (SQAF)

Quality and utility of environment and climate change statistics

Many statistical organizations around the world have an SQAF (based on the UN NQAF) which embraces the principles of official statistics in the production of internationally comparable data.

Components of the SQAF:

1. Contextual aspects of the statistical processes of the agency
2. Ten Underlying statistical principles
3. Quality components and dimensions:
 - i. **Institution** (Statistical coordination, objectivity, Impartiality, Transparency, credibility),
 - ii. **Process** (Sound methods and system), and
 - iii. **Output** (Relevance and coherence, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and interpretability)
4. Quality guidelines
5. Quality governance procedures and a quality assessment and improvement programme

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/unsystem/documents/UNSQAF-2018.pdf>

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/references/1902216-UNNQAFManual-WEB.pdf>



Statistics Quality Assurance Framework (SQAF)

Ten Underlying statistical principles for international statistics

1. High quality **international statistics**, accessible for all, are a fundamental element of global information systems.
2. To maintain the trust in international statistics, their production is to be impartial and strictly based on the highest professional standards.
3. The public has a right to be informed about the mandates for the statistical work of the organization.
4. Concepts, definitions, classifications, sources, methods and procedures employed in the production of international statistics are chosen to meet professional scientific standards and are made transparent for users.
5. Sources and methods for data collection are appropriately chosen to ensure timeliness and other aspects of quality, to be cost-efficient and to minimise the reporting burden for data providers.



Statistics Quality Assurance Framework (SQAF)

Ten Underlying statistical principles

6. Individual data collected about natural persons and legal entities, or about small aggregates that are subject to national confidentiality rules, are to be kept strictly confidential and are to be used exclusively for statistical purposes or for purposes mandated by legislation.
7. Erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics are to be immediately appropriately addressed.
8. Standards for national and international statistics are to be developed on the basis of sound professional criteria, while also meeting the test of practical utility and feasibility.
9. Coordination of international statistical programmes is essential to strengthen the quality, coherence and governance of international statistics, and avoiding duplication of work.
10. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contribute to the professional growth of the statisticians involved and to the improvement of statistics in the organizations and in countries.



Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems, Chapter 16 - The International Statistical System (ISS)

Environment and climate change statistics in the international statistical system (ISS)

The International or global statistical system (ISS) comprises international organizations, or structural entities thereof, involved primarily or exclusively in developing, producing, and disseminating official statistics at global, regional and subregional levels. In principle organizations or structural entities within the ISS conform to the **Principles Governing International Statistical Activities**.

UNFPOS principle 9 and 10 relate directly to the ISS.

- **Principle 9:** In each country the use by statistical agencies of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.
- **Principle 10:** Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.



Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems, Chapter 16 - The International Statistical System (ISS):

The ISS consists of:

- International Organizations including the UN System (family of UN entities – Secretariat units, Funds and other entities, Specialized agencies and Related organizations)
- Inter-governmental organizations
- Supranational organizations
- Non-governmental organizations
- International non-governmental organizations
- International partnerships
- International financial institutions and
- Multilateral development banks

<https://unstats.un.org/capacity-development/handbook/html/topic.htm#t=Handbook%2FC16%2FC16.htm>



Blueprint for action: Work at the regional level (1)

The main regional partnerships can be constituted from the:

- United Nations **Regional Commissions** (their statistical and sustainable development divisions);
- **Regional UNFCCC bodies**
- **Regional DRR bodies**
- regional United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) offices,
- regional United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) offices
- regional Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) offices;
- regional development banks, regional inter-governmental institutions; and other key regional partners.



Blueprint for action: Work at the regional level (2)

- I. Capacity building and technical assistance
 - Implement regional projects for development of climate change and environment statistics in the relevant region.
 - Participate in the programme of technical assistance and capacity building using the Global Set and the FDES led by UNSD.
 - Participate in capacity building activities organized by regional institutions
- II. Interinstitutional collaboration
 - Participate in vertical collaboration with global and national partners and horizontally with other regional bodies.



Blueprint for action: Work at the regional level (3)

III. Networking

- Organize / strengthen regional working groups of climate change and environment statistics including NSOs, environmental ministries and other relevant institutions.

IV. Resource Mobilization

- Mobilize incremental resources for regional capacity building and technical assistance projects.
- Support and participate in a mechanism and activities for resource mobilization.

V. Advocacy

- Support and participate in a mechanism and activities for advocacy.



Blueprint for action: Work at the global level (1)

1. The international institutions that are the main players in the implementation phase include **UNFCCC**, UNSD, UNDRR and partner institutions such as FAO, UNEP and UNDP.
2. Other collaborating partner institutions, such as the United Nations Regional Commissions, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Eurostat, as well as other regional inter-governmental organizations
3. Very instrumental in mobilizing resources and in deploying their technical capacities at the regional and national levels in support of strengthening climate change and environment statistics in the countries.



Blueprint for action: Work at the global level (2)

- I. Methodological development and dissemination of know-how
- II. Capacity building and technical assistance
 - Develop the programme of technical assistance and capacity building using the Global Set and the FDES led by UNSD in collaboration with global and regional partners.
- III. Interinstitutional collaboration
 - Participate in vertical collaboration with regional and national partners and horizontally with other global bodies.
- IV. Networking
 - **Construct a global network of experts and institutions working in climate change and environment statistics.**



Blueprint for action: Work at the global level (3)

V. Resource mobilization

- Establish a mechanism for resource mobilization.
- **Develop a strategy for resource mobilization.**
- Mobilize incremental resources for capacity building and technical assistance projects.

VI. Advocacy

- Establish a mechanism for advocacy.
- **Develop a strategy for communication and advocacy.**
- Provide materials to advocate the importance of developing and/or improving the quality of climate change and environment statistics.



Questions

- On capacity development strategy:
 1. Is it needed, will it help your organization?
 2. When, short or mid-term?
 3. Will you support and contribute?
- On Inventory of capacity development activities:
 1. Should we merge environment and climate change statistical activities?
 2. Should an online service for collecting and disseminating this information continuously be set up to be made **publicly available**?

