

Observations on methodology development



11th Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics

Virtual Meeting, via UN headquarters, New York, 14, 15, 16 and 17 October 2024



Outline

1. Background and related process
2. Survey to international agencies and responses
3. Key observations from survey
4. Metadata updates to align with CBD GBF, Health indicators from UK-ONS, Gender indicators from UN-Women
5. Key questions



Background

- The mandate, decision 53/116, Climate Change Statistics from the 53rd Session of the Statistical Commission requires UNSD and EGES to continuously improve the methodology of the Global Set:
- *‘D) Expressed its support for comprehensively reviewing the global set in five years from its adoption as was done in the Sustainable Development Goal indicators process, and encouraged more regular reviews by the Expert Group on Environment Statistics in view of continuous harmonization with the ongoing development of related statistical areas, such as biodiversity, disasters, environmental-economic accounting and ecosystem accounting, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and related regional sets such as the Conference of European Statisticians set or thematic sets of climate change indicators. At the same time, it can also be considered to prioritize and explain the relationships between different indicators and develop a short list with recommended indicators out of the large number of 158 indicators;’*



Survey to international agencies and responses

International Agencies' Activities on environment & climate change statistics, covers data collection, methodology development and capacity development in the areas and topics defined by the Global Set and the FDES

16 responses from:

- GCCSTAT,
- Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data,
- Eurostat,
- ESCAP,
- European Environment Agency (EEA),
- Pacific Community (SPC),
- PARIS21,
- ESCWA,
- CARICOM,
- ECLAC,
- FAO
- UNEP
- World Health Organization
- UNDRR
- UNECE
- UNITAR-SCYCLE

- Land and agriculture
- Water
- Air
- Waste
- Biodiversity
- Forest
- Energy
- Climate
- Oceans and fisheries
- Disasters
- Ecosystem
- Environmental impacts
- Pollution
- Other



Key messages on methodology and indicators related work (1)

11 reported methodology development on key topics including:

- GHG emissions from agrifood systems; Methods for estimating pesticides use (FAO)
- [LAC methodology guidance for development of environment indicators](#) (ECLAC)
- [Natural Disasters and Climate Change Survey Module Sourcebook](#) (SPC)
- [European LULUCF Handbook](#), [European Air Quality Portal](#) (EEA)
- [Disaster-Related Statistics Framework Manual](#) (ESCAP)
- [Eurostat](#) guidelines on climate change mitigation investments are in preparation
- e-waste, plastics have been developed; planned project on end of life vehicles and Batteries (UNITAR)
- Environment, climate, disasters, waste and circular economy (ECE)
- Technical guidance for the Sendai Framework (UNDRR)
- [Climate change and health indicators](#) (WHO)
- SDG indicator methodologies (UNEP)



Key messages on methodology and indicators related work (2)

13 reported work on indicator sets:

- [Gender-environment indicators for the Asia-Pacific region](#) (ESCAP)
- [European environment and climate indicators](#) (EEA)
- [Dashboards for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific](#) and the [SDGs](#); A dashboard on Climate Change data is also in the Climate Change Statistics forward work plan (SPC)
- Climate indicators selected from the Global Set by ESCWA
- Environment and climate indicators developed by CARICOM
- FAOSTAT
- Water quality and water body extent, Ocean, Food waste (UNEP)
- Ambient air quality (WHO)
- Sendai Framework (UNDRR)
- [Climate and disaster indicators](#) (UNECE)



Related processes of methodology development

1. Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA, [Home \(unfccc.int\)](https://unfccc.int)) UAE-Belem Work programme on Indicators UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience which asks for information on **existing indicators for measuring progress towards the GGA targets** and a **compilation and mapping of existing indicators**. UNSD with contributions from UN-Women and UK-ONS submitted a contribution based on the work of defining questions for surveys and censuses.
2. [Indicators for the Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework | Indicator Repository \(gbf-indicators.org\)](https://gbf-indicators.org)
3. Health and gender in separate presentations



Indicators for the Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Goal/target	Indicator name	Status	Group	Metadata	In Global Set
Goal A	A.1 Red List of Ecosystems	4	Headline	See metadata	88. Vulnerable or fragile ecosystems
Goal A	A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems	4	Headline	See metadata	66. Reduction in the extent of natural and semi-natural ecosystems
Goal A	A.3 Red List Index	5	Headline	See metadata	63. Equivalent
Goal A	A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500	4	Headline	See metadata	62. Proportion of populations maintained within species
Goal B	B.1 Services provided by ecosystems	3	Headline	See metadata	Corresponds to several indicators

Source: <https://www.gbf-indicators.org/>
<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-26>

Required ecosystem services of global relevance to be included by all Parties (e.g., global climate regulation services (GCRS))

Concluding remarks

1. Multiple methodology and indicators sets development were reported, links to details provided. Globally applicable ones were already reflected into the Global Set, also the Global Set fed into further methodologies (GGA, health, gender)
2. Methodologies on Biodiversity, Health and Gender have been developed and can be applied to update the respective metadata and indicators in the Global Set in future revision.
3. There are also challenges and some of them will be addressed in groupwork on gender and health.
4. Further areas should be prioritized taking into account the ongoing processes and opportunities for streamlining such processes under the umbrella of the Global Set.



Questions and next steps:

1. Do you agree to apply the new, relevant and readily applicable methodology updates in the Global Set and its metadata?

- Not without additional reviews by the EG-ECCS (consider next year)
- Yes, on biodiversity (applying the metadata developed by the CBD expert group and adopted by SBSTTA)
- Yes, on health (heat & cold; air quality and mental health as developed by UK-ONS and health expert advisory group)
- Yes, on gender (as developed by UN-Women)

2. What other topics should be prioritized based on your experience?



Thank you for your attention!

For more information please contact the Environment Statistics Section
at the United Nations Statistics Division:

E-mail: envstats@un.org

Website: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/>

Climate Change Statistics Website

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/climatechange.cshtml>

and

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/ClimateChange_StatAndInd_global.cshtml



Questions and next steps:

1. Do you agree to apply the new, relevant and readily applicable methodology updates in the Global Set and its metadata?

- Not without additional reviews by the EG-ECCS (consider next year)
- Yes, on biodiversity (applying the metadata developed by the CBD expert group and adopted by SBSTTA)
- Yes, on health (heat & cold; air quality and mental health as developed by UK-ONS and health expert advisory group)
- Yes, on gender (as developed by UN-Women)

2. What other topics should be prioritized based on your experience?



Group work process

09:10 – 10:20 Group work on gender, health, questions for surveys and big data

- Introduction to key issues and options in each group (10 min)
- Review and discussion (40 min, highlight of your work, experience in the subject)
- Preparation of reporting to plenary (20 min)

10:30 – 11:20 Group work conclusions and priorities for future work

- Group work conclusions (5 min each)
- Discussion (plenary, 30 min)



Groupwork structure

<u>Groupwork</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Rapporteur</u>	<u>Moderator</u>
A. Health	UK-ONS, Vijendra	?	Robin
B. Gender	UN-Women, Sara Duero	?	Marcus
C. Questions	Monica Madrid	?	Indira
D. Big data	Anand Sookun	?	Emil

