

Uses of Surveys and Censuses for Climate Change Data Collection



Eleventh Meeting of the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics Session 2

Virtual Meeting, via UN headquarters, New York, 14-17 October 2024



Outline

SPC

- Development of methodology and implementation support for the Global Set
- Preliminary mapping of censuses and surveys that include climate change-related questions (2022)

UNSD

- Call for a set of core of climate change questions on Censuses and Surveys
- Decision of the 10th Meeting of the EGES- formation of the sub-group on censuses and surveys
- Inputs, compilation and Initial draft set of questions
- Future work



Development of methodology and implementation support for the Global Set:

Use of surveys and censuses for climate change data collection.

Main findings of the Literature Review of The Pacific Community, 2022.



What climate-change-related aspects could be monitored through traditional censuses and surveys?



1. Population characteristics,
2. Economic sectors: agriculture,
3. Income, food security and health,
4. Freshwater supply,
5. Health of communities,
6. Migration,
7. Gender-related challenges,
8. Prevalence and levels of poverty,
9. Climate adaptation strategies.



Mapping of censuses and surveys that include climate change-related questions (SPC, 2022)



Population and Housing Censuses

- It should help identify vulnerable population groups.
- Allow the construction of frames from which samples can be drawn for specific surveys to study topics directly related to and affecting households, such as environmental questions and climate change.
- Certain countries, particularly those most impacted by natural disasters and climate change, are taking a **proactive approach** by **expanding the scope of population censuses** to cover environmental and climate change aspects.



Census of Agriculture

- In the 2016-2025 round of the agriculture census, few countries included questions on damages to land or crop losses caused by natural disasters.
- Only one country severely affected by coastal erosion, drought and flooding, included a set of question on climate change, covering a full spectrum of aspects: from climate change perceptions, impacts, adaptation measures, as you can see in the image of the slide.



LSMS programme

Considers that climate change module fit into special-focus household surveys.

These questions do not cover the full spectrum of possible impacts of climate change on households.

LSMS-type surveys include some climate change questions and alternatives of response related to natural disasters.



LSMS-ISA

Create knowledge on climate change
as it relates to household-level
adaptation choices and mitigation
strategies.



The Forestry Modules

The National Socio-economic Surveys in Forestry have dedicated climate change modules that cover community and household perceptions and adaptation to climate change.



The 50x2030 Initiative

- 50x2030 initiative propose a solid set of questions on the environment and climate change for the agricultural sector.
- Section 13: Climate/Environmental Shocks & Adaptation Strategies.



UNSD



Background

- UNSD has a very long history of working with countries to set-up environment and climate change statistics programmes.
- Population and Housing Censuses (PHCs) were the main or in many cases the only source of information available at that time for many developing countries.
 - PHCs have traditionally included questions, and in some cases a separate section, on environmentally-related issues.



Call for a set of core of climate change questions on Censuses and Surveys



Call for a Core Set of Questions

- With the growing need for data on climate change to satisfy national needs, policy demands and international reporting and in the absence of reliable data sources many NSOs have turned to their largest data collection operation nationally. Their need is to have suitable questions on the environment and climate change included in their PHCs to collect relevant data and in particular, on the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators.
- In this quest many countries have knocked on the doors of UNSD with a request for a core set of climate change questions that can be included into censuses and surveys.



Decision of the 10th Meeting of the EGES- Formation of the sub-group on censuses and surveys



Decision of the 10th Meeting of the EGES- Formation of the sub-group on censuses and surveys

The 10th Meeting of the EGES recommended the establishment of a small group to address the call for a collection of questions on climate change which can be integrated in censuses and surveys to collect data on the Global Set.



Sub-group for climate change questions in censuses and surveys

Participation

Countries volunteered to participate - Cabo Verde, Italy, Uganda, Mexico, Nepal, Suriname, Tanzania as well as agencies: SPC, UNFCCC, UN Women, ECLAC and UNSD. There is also representation from Burundi, Jamaica and Mauritius.

Scope:

The Sub-group held 5 virtual meetings; a concept note was prepared to determine the scope, activities and deliverables. The note also include traditional topics from the P & R rev3 which are covered in PHCs.



Sub-group for climate change questions in censuses and surveys

Role and Function

The Sub-group selected a chair and invited participating countries to share proposed questions from censuses and surveys that could be used to collect data on the Global Set of Indicators and Statistics.

Compilation of questions and draft core set

- UNSD welcomed inputs and compiled the collection of questions mapped to specific Indicators and Statistics of the Global Set. This was shared with the group for feedback.
- After an in-house screening process of the compilation a selection of proposed questions based on their suitability were compiled and shared with the small group for feedback and approval.
- The above exercise was completed for the entire Global Set including suggestions for some new questions. This draft has been shared with the Expert Group to be discussed at this Eleventh Meeting.



Next and Future Steps

UNSD has hired a consultant to advance this work. Outputs of the group includes:

- Developing a repository of climate change statistics information comprising
 - A core set of questions for countries to query and select for inclusion in their PHCs and surveys
 - A list of surveys that can accommodate a module on climate change and has been successfully tested in countries.
- Supporting Thematic reports and Special Topic Monographs in the future.



Thank you for your attention!

For more information please contact the Environment Statistics Section
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Climate Change Statistics Website

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

and

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

