



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

**CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL
STATISTICS, INDICATORS, AND ACCOUNTING
(UNECA)**

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at

Final Workshop on Environment Statistics for the East
African Community Region Arusha, Tanzania

23-27 October 2017

Outline of the Presentation

- A. The current state of environment statistics and accounting in Africa
- B. The on-going capacity building programme on FDES
- C. Mainstreaming the SEEA in Africa: Strategy and Plans



A. THE CURRENT STATE OF ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS AND ACCOUNTING IN AFRICA

Current State of Envstat and Accounting in Africa

- Many countries are still in an early stage of development in terms of environment statistics:
 - Low capacity in data collection, compilation, and dissemination
 - Lack of environment statistics and inadequate monitoring and measurement of progress towards environmental sustainability and sustainable development
- The DA project 9th tranche (UNSD):
 - FDES--Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda (5)
 - SEEA--Kenya and Uganda (2)
- Advanced countries:
 - Botswana, Madagascar, Mauritius, South Africa, and Zimbabwe (5)
- Capacity Building Programme on EnvStat (DA 10th tranche, UNECA, UNSD, UNEP):
 - Burkina Faso, Cameroon, *Equatorial Guinea*, Gambia, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, Senegal (8)
- ESCWA pilot countries:
 - Egypt and Tunisia (2)



B. THE ON-GOING CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME ON FDES IN AFRICA

Capacity Building Programme on FDES in Africa: Overview

- Partially funded by the UN Development Account Project 10th tranche and jointly conducted by UNECA, UNSD, and UNEP.
- The purpose is to support African countries to develop technical knowledge and skills for producing environment statistics and accounts in their national statistical systems.
- There are three phases in the programme:
 - e-Training module
 - Face-to-face seminar
 - National workshops and technical assistance missions to pilot countries



Objectives of Phase 1 e-Training

- To increase the awareness of the important role of environment statistics *and*
- To learn the needed knowledge and skills of the FDES for a broader range of environmental stakeholders within the national statistical system.



E-Training for All Countries in Africa

- To organize an e-training module to introduce the related technical materials and to build up technical capacities for all participating countries.
- All the African countries are invited to participate in the e-training.
- At the end of the e-training, an assessment session was held to evaluate if the participants have acquired the technical skills; and to identify the pilot countries based on the technical readiness of the country task teams and data availability.



Organization of the e-Training [1 of 2]

- Total sessions: 7 sessions of e-training
- Total period of time: 4 weeks (from 6-29 June)
- Two sessions per week: Tuesday and Thursday) each of which will be for 2 hours (the first 1 hour in English and another hour in French)
- Reading list and assignment: At the end of each session, one or two papers or chapters were recommended as a reading assignment; and two to three review questions were proposed to the participants for review. Participants were welcome to submit their answers to the review questions by the due date.



Organization of the e-Training [2 of 2]

- WebEx session recording: The recording of WebEx live session is posted on the e-training website (<http://ecastats.uneca.org/acswweb/FocusAreas/eLearning.aspx>).
- Question & Answer: Q&A was done during live sessions. Minutes of the questions and answers for both English and French session are compiled and posted on the e-training website.
- Presentation files: All relevant files including presentation files can be found at the e-training website.
- Final assessment: At the completion of all the seven sessions, a final assessment was be conducted in about two to three hours to evaluate the level of technical knowledge and skills that participants had acquired from the e-training.



Registered Participants of the e-Training by Organization and Language

Organization	Number of Participants
NSOs	71
Line ministries	95
Training and research institutes	7
International/regional organizations	11
Unidentified	12
Total number of participants	196
Language	Number of Participants
English	129
French	67
Total number of participants	196



Registered Participants of e-Training on FDES

- The above figure on the previous page was based on the list of participants updated on Friday, 9 June 2017. After that we were still receiving, registering, and updating new requests and participants.
- By the end, more than 200 participants from 37 African countries.
- The line ministries include Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Meteorological Agency, Water Authority among others.



Participants Signed up for the Final Assessment Test of e-Training on FDES

- 69 participants signed up for the final assessment test and thus completed the e-training course;
- They were from (24) countries, including: Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Zimbabwe;
- Among the 69 participants: 37 have been awarded a “Certificate of Completion;” 17 awarded a “Certificate of Completion with Distinction;” and 15 awarded a “Certificate of Completion at First Place.”



Selection of Pilot Countries

- Pilot countries were selected by considering:
 - First the high scores of their participants achieved in the final test
 - Then the large number of participants from the countries, and
 - Finally a balance between English and French speaking countries
- The following countries were invited through the Directors General of the National Statistical Offices to participate in the follow-up phase II – the face-to-face seminar - of the capacity building programme on environment statistics:
 - Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, and Senegal (8)



Objectives of Phase 2 Face-to-face Seminar

- A better understanding of the concepts, definitions, and classifications of statistics and indicators in the FDES.
- A good discussion of the data sources, collection, processing, and compilation of statistics and indicators in the FDES.
- Review and exchange of the best practice on how to develop and implement a national action plan on the compilation of a compendium of environment statistics.



Organization of the Regional Seminar (1 of 2)

- The Regional Seminar was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 4-8 September 2017
- Attended by two participants from each of the eight pilot countries and experts from Kenya NBC and related line ministries, UNSD, UNEP, AfDB, FAO, and UNECA.
- The seminar has
 - Deepened the technical knowledge and skills of the participants in producing, processing, compiling, and disseminating of environment statistics based on the FDES;
 - Given a clear vision of the process for mainstreaming of environment statistics in a national context;
 - Equipped participants with the capability of design and implementation of a national action plan on environment statistics; and
 - Enabled countries to establish a foundation for environment statistics through producing a compendium of environment statistics.



Organization of the Regional Seminar (2 of 2)

- The seminar laid ground for further activities, namely technical assistance and national workshops;
- The pilot countries will establish teams dedicated to the production of environment statistics, produce work plans, coordinate and collaborate between key agencies, and aid in compiling a compendium on environment statistics in one year's time;
- All the meeting documents can be found in the website: <http://ecastats.uneca.org/acswweb/FocusAreas/ES2017.aspx>



Objectives of Phase 3 Technical Assistance

- To identify environment statistics and indicators that are most relevant to the country;
- To link them to the environmentally-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators;
- To finalize the national action plan in discussion with national stakeholders to compile a compendium of environment statistics and indicators in a year.
- With needed support in the form of national workshops and on-site technical assistance from the Programme.



Capacity Building Programme on FDES in Africa: Activities and Timeline [1 of 2]

Date/Time	June				July				August				Sept				2017-18			
Activities	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4				
1. E-training	x	x	x	x																
- Assessments					x	x	x	x												
- Preparation for face-to-face seminar (Identify key statistics and related data sources)									x	x	x	x								
2. Face-to-face seminar													x							
3. Technical assistances																	x	x	x	x

Capacity Building on FDES in Africa: Activities and Timeline [2 of 2]

Activities		2018											
		M 1	M 2	M 3	M 4	M 5	M 6	M 7	M 8	M 9	M 10	M 11	M 12
Compilation of Compendium of EnvStat in pilot countries	A2.1: Technical assistance missions I (assist data collection in pilot countries)	x	x	x	x								
	A2.2: Technical assistance missions II (assist data processing in pilot countries)					x	x	x	x				
	A2.3: Technical assistance missions III (assist data compilation in pilot countries)									x	x	x	x

C. MAINSTREAMING THE SEEA IN AFRICA: STRATEGY AND PLANS

Capacity Building Programme on SEEA in Africa

- Based on the good experience with the FDES, a similar approach will be taken for SEEA.
- We will take the three phases:
 - e-Training module
 - Face-to-face seminar
 - National workshops and technical assistance missions to pilot countries
- The objective of the Programme is to strengthen the capacity of selected African countries for the production and compilation of natural capital accounts through compiling one account that is most relevant to the country by the end of one year and followed up with application, analysis, publication, and dissemination.



Accounting for the Natural Capital

- To tackle the challenge that the world is approaching to the aggregate natural capital thresholds--It is reducing the ability of natural capital to renew itself, thus, unsustain future economic growth as biodiversity, climate, and many of our natural support systems such as fresh water and soils continue to depreciate.
- There are three different approaches:
 - SEEA-CF: to complete the 2008 SNA with data on natural assets and the supply and use of natural resources;
 - WAVES and SEEA-Ecosystem: Assess the monetary value of ecosystem services and wealth;
 - Ecosystem natural capital account (ENCA): Evaluate the ecological value and degradation of the ecosystem itself (in physical term) in order to establish ecological balance sheets and record ecological debts (or credits) resulting from the use of nature.



Capacity Building on SEEA in Africa: Activities and Timeline [2 of 4]

Activities		2018/19											
		M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12	M1	M2	M3	M4
EA2: Compilation of Compendium of EnvStat and/or national capital accounts in pilot countries	A2.1: Technical assistance missions I (assist data collection in pilot countries)	X	X	X	X								
	A2.2: Technical assistance missions II (assist data processing in pilot countries)					X	X	X	X				
	A2.3: Technical assistance missions III (assist data compilation in pilot countries)									X	X	X	X

Capacity Building on SEEA in Africa: Activities and Timeline [3 of 4]

Activities		2019							
		M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12
EA2	A2.4: Regional workshop to share and exchange good experience and best practice on data collection, processing, and compilation for environmental statistics and accounting.		X						
EA3: Strengthened capacity of Member States to disseminate and apply the compiled natural capital accounts for policy formulation, analysis, and research	A3.1: Regional workshop on application and analysis of FDES and SEEA				X				
	A3.2: Technical assistance missions IV (assist data analysis, application, and report writing in pilot countries)					X	X	X	X

Capacity Building on SEEA in Africa: Activities and Timeline [4 of 4]

Activities		2019							
		M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12
EA4: Increased awareness on EnvSat and the environmental-economic accounting in the region	A4.1 Support countries in developing and strengthening data dissemination system	X	X	X	X				
	A4.2 National meeting to review and release the final results of the project					X	X	X	
	A4.4: Regional workshop (exchanging experiences and best practices and finalizing the technical report)					X			
	A4.5 Dissemination of the project documents and other relevant resources					X	X		

THANKS / MERCI