



**The FDES revision process:
progress so far, state of the art, the
way forward**

United Nations Statistics Division



Outline

1. Progress so far and the state of the art
 - 1.1 Review of developments since the 1984 FDES relevant to the revision process
 - 1.2 Review of the 1984 FDES
 - 1.3 Towards the revised FDES
 - 1.4 The core set of environment statistics
2. Conclusions from the Expert Group Meeting
3. The way forward



1. Progress so far and state of the art



1.1 Review of developments since the 1984 FDES relevant to the revision process

- Global policy initiatives, their frameworks and derived statistical approaches and indicators
- Global and regional environmental assessments and their frameworks
- Relevant global and regional statistical initiatives related to environment statistics
- Review of existing and emerging environment statistics classifications
- Review of geospatial developments relevant to environment statistics



1.2. Review of the 1984 FDES

- Elements, topics and dimensions missing or in need of improvement



1.3. Towards the revised FDES

- Proposed objective, scope and coverage of the revised FDES
- Categories of reviewed frameworks and their relevance to the revised FDES
- Review of options for the structure and dimensions of the revised FDES
- Proposed outline of the revised FDES



1.4 The core set of environment statistics

- Review of existing global and regional environmental indicators, publications, databases based on a preliminary theme/sub-theme structure
- Identification of common indicators



2. Conclusions from the Expert Group Meeting



2. Conclusions from the Expert Group Meeting

- Agreement on the objective, scope and coverage of the revised FDES
- Agreement on the process to establish the structure and dimensions of the revised FDES
- Agreement on the outline of the revised FDES
- Agreement on the process and criteria for the selection of the core set of environment statistics
- Agreement on work programme, timetable, responsibilities and contributions



Objective, scope and coverage of the revised FDES

- The objective of environment statistics is to provide quality statistical information for policy and decision making about the state, and changes of the state, of the environment, and its links with human wellbeing, economic and social development.



Objective, scope and coverage of the revised FDES

- Environment statistics describe the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the state of the environment and its interactions with human activities.
- The state, and the changes of the state, of the environment is in the centre of environment statistics. Measuring the interactions with humans create the links with economic and social statistics.



Objective, scope and coverage of the revised FDES

- The revised FDES is a logical structure to organize information – a structure to organize the supply of statistics to respond to various information needs and to fill in multiple analytical and reporting frameworks.



Objective, scope and coverage of the revised FDES

- The revised FDES aims at basic environment statistics that can serve multiple purposes and facilitate data integration within the environment statistics domain and with other (economic and social) statistical domains.



Objective, scope and coverage of the revised FDES

- The focus of the revised FDES is the ENVIRONMENT but it includes clear links to economic and social spheres, to other frameworks and analytical models.
- The revised FDES is comprehensive, permits access to the whole spectrum of current and potential environmental concerns, whether the objective is to deal with all of them or with only a selection of them. It is comprehensive and integrative, an overarching framework that encompasses all aspects of the environment.



Agreed criteria for the revised FDES relevant to objective, scope and coverage

- Be adaptable, flexible, easy to follow;
- Be clearly aligned with the objective of environment statistics;
- Make the scope of environment statistics clear;
- Make the dimension of environment statistics clear;
- Help organize environment statistics;
- Facilitate the development and use of standard classifications and definitions;
- Provide coherence with other frameworks;
- Help identifying data gaps;
- Help identifying a core set of environment statistics;
- Facilitate the identification of roles and responsibilities;
- Represent the state of the art.



Agreement on the process to establish the structure and dimensions of the revised FDES

- Significant progress was attained during the Working Groups in the elaboration of the structure and contents for the revised FDES. It was agreed that the Working Groups would further elaborate and fully describe their proposals for the structure, components and building blocks of the revised FDES and send them to UNSD by 3 June 2011. The proposals would include the following elements:
 - Conceptual thinking and rationale behind the proposed structure
 - Table and description of matrix or structural components
 - Description of Rows and Columns (alternative description of rows and sub-rows, and/or columns) or components
 - Illustration of the table(s) with real environmental themes, topics and/or dimension (contents)
 - Matching the proposed structure with the agreed objective, scope and coverage of environment statistics
 - Matching the proposed structure with the agreed criteria for the FDES
- The final proposal for the structure of the revised FDES would be elaborated by UNSD based on the contributions from the Working Groups.



Core set of environment statistics

- The EG (i) agreed with the process that had been followed; (ii) agreed that the leading criteria for the selection of the core set should be policy relevance, measurability, methodological soundness and frequency of use; and (iii) recommended that UNSD continue the work following the evolving structure of the revised FDES.
- There was general agreement that the core set of environment statistics should be part of the FDES document. It was agreed that the relevant chapter will include why a core set is needed; how the statistics were chosen; and what the relationship is between the core set and the FDES.



3. The way forward



3. The way forward

- Finalize framework structure (UNSD)
- Drafting of chapters of the revised FDES (UNSD with contributions from experts)
- Electronic consultation with the EG on drafts
- First revision of drafts according to the results of the consultation (UNSD with contributions from experts)
- Circulation of revised drafts to EG
- Global consultation
- Third meeting of the EG
- Finalization of drafts (UNSD with contributions from experts)
- Submission to the 43rd session of the Statistical Commission



Thank you
for your attention