ESCAP and Environment Statistics

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United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

One of 5 UN regional commissions.
ESCAP Vision

…to be the most comprehensive multilateral platform for promoting cooperation among member States to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
ESCAP: Statistics Division

• Coordinates the ESCAP Committee on Statistics
  • Key trends
    • ESCAP Statistical Database
    • Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific
    • Did You Know?
  • Data requirements and international standards for analysis
  • Capacity building / Advisory services on
    • Economic
    • Environment, Agriculture and Disaster
    • Population, Social and Gender
    • Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
    • Modernization of statistical production and services
    • Statistical governance
• Co-manage Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)
Advisory services

- Assessment
- Strategic planning
- Analysis
- Implementation
- Training
- Work planning
- Statistical processes
- Quality assurance
- Data collection
- Surveys
- Integration
Integrating our work through SDGs

• Statistics are **required** to monitor and report on national policy priorities and SDGs
• An **opportunity** for NSOs to strengthen capacity
• ESCAP:
  • Sub-regional workshops support **linking** SDG indicators to national development priorities (economic, social, environment)
  • In-depth sub-regional workshops on **environment statistics**: strategic planning, training, work planning
    • Diagnostic Tool, Inventory template, SEEA, FDES
## Initiatives on environment statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requested</td>
<td>Myanmar, Kiribati, Vietnam, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned</td>
<td>Sub-regional assessment/training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>FSM, Malaysia, Maldives, Palau, Samoa, Vanuatu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Malaysia (with UNSD); Pacific Sub-region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>Fiji, Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSD Pilot</td>
<td>Bhutan, Indonesia, Vietnam</td>
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</tbody>
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Basic tools

Diagnostic Tool
- Guide conversation about priorities

A. Understand
1. Policy priorities
2. Institutions
3. Knowledge
4. Progress
5. Context

B. Do
6. Priorities for ecosystem accounting

C. Evaluate
7. Constraints & Opportunities
= Work plan
Basic tools

Inventory template for environment statistics
- To document external statistical “supply chain”

Statistical activity 1 (Primary)
- Needs ➔ Design ➔ Build
- Collect
- Validate
- Process ➔ Analyse
- Output
- Evaluate

Statistical activity 2 (Primary)
- Needs ➔ Design ➔ Build
- Collect
- Validate
- Process ➔ Analyse
- Output
- Evaluate

Statistical activity 3 (Secondary)
- Needs ➔ Design ➔ Build
- Collect
- Validate
- Process ➔ Analyse
- Output
- Evaluate
Basic tools

Statistical and institutional mechanisms

- Leadership
- Funding
- Monitoring
- Implementation plan

**High Level Steering Committee**
- **Members:** Planning, Finance, Environment, NSO
- **Terms of Reference:** Direct work of Technical Committee
  - Link to policy priorities
  - Integrate and advocate work plan with national and international work
  - Coordinate proposals for funding; Allocate resources

**Technical Committee**
- **Members:** Planning, Finance, Environment, NSO, Geospatial, Parks, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Research
- **Terms of Reference:** Coordinate technical aspects of work
  - Internalize activities into planning documents

**Subject-matter working groups**
- **Land, Water, Carbon, Biodiversity & Ecosystems, SEEA-CF**
  - **Terms of reference:** Inventory, acquire and develop data
    - Design specific accounts, tables and indicators
    - Coordinate with functional working groups to design and manage information system

**Functional working groups**
- **Policy:** Prioritize indicators and link to policy
- **Spatial:** Integrate spatial data, maintain standards
- **Data standards and dissemination:** Lead design of information system, maintain standards and classifications, lead development of dissemination outputs
Advanced tools

- Indicators, reporting, communications
- Surveys, administrative data
- SEEA Accounts
- Statistical processes (GSBPM)
- Data exchange (SDMX)
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Modelling
- “Big data” & alternative data sources
Advisory approach for environment statistics

1. **Letter of introduction →** all NSOs and ACPR (Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives)
   - Informal request for services
   - Teleconference to focus on requirements
   - Formal request for services

2. **Scoping/Assessment**
   - **Diagnostic Tool**: Vision, stakeholders, policy priorities, available data/knowledge, technical capacity, constraints, opportunities → priority statistics
   - **Inventory Template**: Metadata for environmental databases

3. **Training/Work Planning**
   - High-level stakeholder meeting → Work Plan
   - Focussed training (country & sub-regional)
Regional* SEEA implementation

- Globally, 54/85 countries have **ongoing** SEEA accounts
  - 15/85 are **planning** SEEA accounts
- Asia/Pacific region (23 responses)
  - 14 with ongoing SEEA accounts (+5 planning)
- Regional initiatives to advance SEEA implementation
  - ESCAP
    - Committee on Statistics encouraged implementation
    - Member country requests
  - UN DA programme on statistics and data
  - UNEP/SCBD/UNSD project (2014-15) in 3 regional pilots
  - World Bank WAVES

*UNSD 2015 Global Assessment; 85 countries responding (44% response rate).
Conclusions

• ESCAP is here to help in improving environment statistics
  • Start with self-assessment (Diagnostic Tool)
  • Request services
  • Work on basic tools & capacity building

• We can
  • assist with assessment, inventory, work planning, training & implementation
  • work with you and partners to develop proposals for funding
References

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- IMF-DQAF: http://dsbb.imf.org/Pages/DQRS/DQAF.aspx
- World Bank WAVES: https://www.wavespartnership.org/