

ESCAP Strategy for Supporting Environment Statistics and SEEA Implementation in Asia & the Pacific

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ESCAP Committee on Statistics

Environment Statistics Strategy

Context:

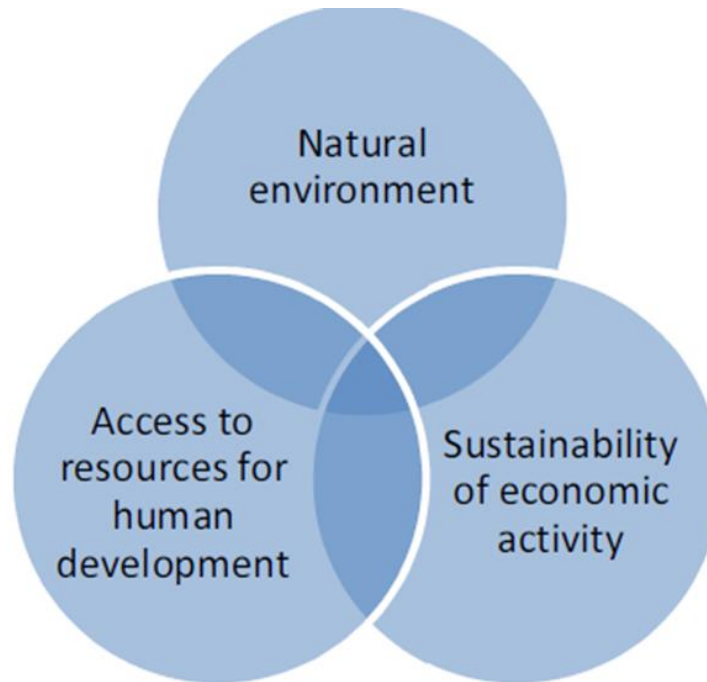
- Large amounts of important data are being collected by national and local governments. However, many NSOs or NSSs are still at a preliminary stage of strategic planning for the integration of environmental data into national systems
- Need for institutional strengthening for greater coordination/integration.

4th session of Committee (2015):

- *Emphasis on integration*
- *modular approach*
- *partnership approach*

Emphasis on Integration

Demand for timely and integrated statistics on the environment to assess interdependencies among the three pillars of sustainable development



Modular Approach

- Targeted, flexible, modular implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, as recommended by UNCEEA in Report to 45th UNSC
- Prioritization criteria:
 - Most pertinent information demands as identified and agreed by national stakeholders institutions (users and producers)
 - Current data availability or data collection/publication opportunities

Partnership

- Engage with existing initiatives, e.g.
- Ulaanbaatar City Group
- UNCEEA, London Group
- The Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics
- Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)
- Active Initiatives at national level (e.g. LECRED-Maldives)

Technical Assistance for Environment Statistics (2015-16)

- Broad Objective: Strengthen capacities of national institutions of the production and use of environmental statistics; implementation of the SEEA is a key tool for improving integration of statistics and for improving quality and use of outputs of data collections
- Link to context of emerging demands, such as sustainable development monitoring, resilience to climate change, and developing broader measures of progress to complement GDP
- Focus on Small Islands States and Least Developed Countries where we've received formal requests for capacity development support for environment statistics or SEEA implementation

Core TA Strategic Approaches

1. Scoping studies to assist with elaboration/enhancement of national plans for implementation for each pilot country:
 - Includes building capacity to improve data collection, methodology, processing, and analysis; not exclusively accounts compilations
2. Mixed use of training (online and training of trainers), advisory services from specialized experts, and sharing of experiences (“horizontal cooperation”)
3. Increased awareness by policy makers of importance of investing in capacity for environment statistics as a crucial part of the path towards achieving sustainable development.
 - Need to show concrete applications of statistics and analyses within the scope of project

Tentative Work Plan



Implementation by:

- ESCAP Statistics Division:
coordinating TA
implementation
- ESCAP Pacific Office
(EPO): coordinating TA
implementation for Pacific
Islands States
- Statistics Institute for Asia
and the Pacific (SIAP):
coordinating training
activities
- In collaboration with:
 - UN Statistics Division
 - UN ECLAC
 - Active initiatives within
project countries, e.g.
NSDS, UN Country Teams

Sample of special topical priorities identified thus far by project counties:

- Energy Accounts and related statistics
- Water Supply & Use
- Natural Disasters
- Tourism
- Geospatial integration
- Marine ecosystem accounting



THANK YOU