

The Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics 2013, the Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT), and the Manual for the Basic Set of Environment Statistics



Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators and Statistics
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Environment Statistics Section, United Nations Statistics Division



What is the FDES 2013?



- The FDES 2013 is a **flexible, multi-purpose conceptual and statistical framework** that enables and facilitates the **compilation, collection and production of environment statistics**.
- It marks out the **scope of environment statistics** providing guidance on what statistics to collect and compile.
- It provides an **organizing structure** to guide the collection and compilation of environment statistics at the national level, **bringing together data** from the various relevant **subject areas and sources**.
- It is **broad, comprehensive and integrative**. It covers the issues and aspects of the environment that are relevant for policy analysis and decision making.

Countries have used the FDES in different ways



- The FDES has been used independently by countries, and as a basis for capacity building and technical assistance by UNSD and partner agencies, and has also been used by consultants assisting countries/regions/sub-regions to develop and strengthen environment statistics.
- Countries that have recently developed their environment statistics programmes are using the FDES structure and guidance to organize their own statistical databases and compendia of environment statistics (following the same components, sub-components, etc.)
- The FDES has been very helpful in providing guidance for countries on how to organize and develop environment statistics that are multi-purpose. This statistical series can be further utilized for compiling indicators, substantiating reports, and together with economic statistics, producing integrated accounts.

FDES: guidance for environment statistics development

At its forty-fourth session in 2013, the UN Statistical Commission:

- endorsed the revised FDES 2013 as the **framework for strengthening environment statistics programmes** in countries. The Statistical Commission also recognized the FDES 2013 as a **useful tool** in the context of sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda;
- emphasized the need for supporting the revised Framework with **detailed methodological guidance and training material** that build upon existing methodological resources, where available, and that are coordinated with ongoing methodological work in related fields of statistics.



<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/fdes.htm>



<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/FDES/BasicSet.htm>



http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/FDES/Manual_BSES.htm



<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/FDES/essat.htm>

Background of the ESSAT

Following the 44th session (2013) of the United Nations Statistical Commission...

UNSD, in collaboration with the Expert Group on Environment Statistics, has since developed the ESSAT in support of the FDES 2013.



Purpose of the ESSAT

The purpose of the ESSAT is to assist countries in:

- developing their environment statistics programmes;
- collecting their own data on the environment; and
- assessing the state of environment statistics and the needs for their development at the national level while being consistent with the scope of the FDES 2013.



Use of the ESSAT

The ESSAT should be used as a guide to a multi-stakeholder consultation and discussion process. The completion of the ESSAT, while usually led by the National Statistical Office or the Ministry of Environment, should be carried out as a joint effort by all main relevant stakeholders that play an active role in the production, dissemination and use of environment statistics.

It is therefore recommended that a country establishes or convenes a committee, inter-institutional working group or task force to bring together all the stakeholders to discuss and agree on a common set of responses representing the situation in the country, and that this process is carried out collaboratively in a clear and transparent manner.



Use of the ESSAT (cont.)

Information systematized by using the ESSAT can be used to elaborate a plan for the development of environment statistics based on the needs, capacities and resources of each country.

A plan which utilises the FDES 2013 can be constructed in a sequential, modular and incremental fashion and implemented over time with the participation of different agencies and partners for the statistics as identified by this tool.

This collaboration is key not only to the well-informed assessment of the current state of environment statistics but also to the realistic identification of national priorities and the main elements of a common national environment statistics development strategy.



Structure of the ESSAT

Introduction – defines background, use and structure of the ESSAT as well as key concepts. It summarizes the two parts.

Part I: Institutional Dimension of Environment Statistics – focuses on the overall institutional and organizational structure of national statistics, and on specific information regarding environment statistics in terms of policy frameworks, mandates, institutional setup, organization, collaboration, resources, international cooperation and uses.

Part II: Statistics Level Assessment – is based on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics. It follows the hierarchical structure of the FDES (in descending order: component, sub-component, statistical topic, statistic) and serves as a tool to assess the national relevance, importance, availability and sources of the individual statistics contained in the Basic Set. It also helps to identify relevant quantitative and qualitative data gaps, and to develop a plan for filling them in with a view to strengthen environment statistics according to national priorities, needs and available resources.



Structure of ESSAT Part I: Institutional Dimension of Environment Statistics

Part I contains much information which may be of interest from a managerial or policy perspective. It is divided into the following sections:

- A. Identification of institutions
- B. Existing national policies relevant to the environment
- C. Mandate and organization of national statistics
- D. Mandate and organization of environment statistics
- E. Production of environment statistics
- F. Uses of environment statistics
- G. Inter-institutional collaboration for the production of environment statistics
- H. Existing and required resources for environment statistics
- I. International and regional network
- J. Technical assistance and training
- K. The way forward in environment statistics



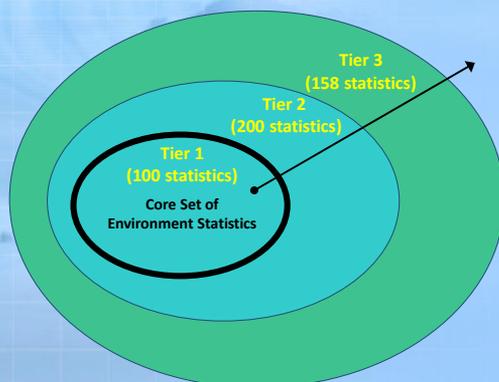
Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT) Part II

The Self-Assessment Tool Part II consists of a set of questions comparing the statistics in the Basic Set of Environment Statistics in terms of, inter alia, their national relevance, importance, availability and sources.



Links among FDES, Basic Set and ESSAT

FDES consists of:
6 components
21 sub-components
60 topics
458 Basic Set statistics



Objectives and Use of ESSAT Part II

- To improve the capacity of countries to assess where they stand with respect to the development of environment statistics.
- A means for countries to assess their current position and set a basis from which they may construct and/or strengthen their environment statistics programmes within the national statistical systems.



Objectives and Use of ESSAT Part II (cont.)

Specific objectives of ESSAT Part II include:

- Identifying and prioritizing those statistics that are of policy relevance to the country;
- Assessing data availability;
- Identifying sources of data and institutional partners; and
- Identifying data gaps.



Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics

- The objective of the Manual is to produce and disseminate a set of **methodology sheets** or metadata for the collection or compilation of all environment statistics of the Basic and Core Set of Environment Statistics embedded in the FDES 2013.
- These methodology sheets will offer detailed and in-depth methodological guidance including definitions, classifications, statistical methods for collection and/or compilation, dissemination and main uses of the sets of the respective environment statistics.



Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics

- The work on the Manual is being coordinated by UNSD and is being carried out in a collaborative way with the Expert Group on Environment Statistics and other thematic experts from specialized agencies as needed.
- As there are 458 environment statistics identified in the Basic Set of Environment Statistics, their methodology sheets are being developed in a modular and progressive manner.
- Expert Group on Environment Statistics:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/FDES/fdes_eges3.html



Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics

Agreed template of a methodology sheet includes:

- Component, sub-component and topic within the BSES
- Introduction/ Relevance
- Definitions and description of the statistics
- International sources and recommendations
- Data collection and compilation
- Uses and dissemination

EGES in collaboration with UNSD is currently finalising methodological sheets on, *inter alia*, GHG emissions, human settlements, crops and livestock, energy resources, mineral resources, natural extreme events and disasters, water resources, generation and management of waste, and ecosystems and biodiversity.



Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics

3. International sources and recommendations

[In general, whenever possible, link should be made to specific chapters/sections of the referenced documents. When the international environmental agreements and convention provide methods/ classifications to produce the statistics, please make reference to them.]

3A. Classifications and groupings

[Please refer to all relevant statistical classifications and commonly used groupings for the statistics of this methodology sheet, include relevant groupings and taxonomies originated in scientific or policy arenas. Please include non- environmental but relevant classifications such as ISIC (see chapter 1.6 and Annex D of the FDES), explain the value of each and which one is recommended and for what purpose.]

3B. Reference to international statistical recommendations, frameworks and standards

[Please refer to all relevant statistical recommendations, frameworks and standards for the statistics of this methodology sheet, explain the value of each and its applicability to the statistics contained in this sheet.]

3C. Sources of global and regional environment statistics and indicators series

[Please refer to all relevant sources of data, statistics and indicators series containing the statistics of this methodology sheet, explain the value of each and when possible what regions/countries are included and for what period of time]



UNSD Environment Statistics Section's endeavour to make environment-related surveys and censuses available online

	A	D	E	F	G
	Country	Census or surveys	Years of the census or	Description	Links
1					
3	Albania	Living Standards Measurement Survey LSMS 2005	2005	The Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) is a household survey program focused on generating high-quality data, improving survey methods, and building capacity. The goal of the LSMS is to facilitate the use of household survey data for evidence-based policymaking. It is led by The World Bank. Section 2: module 13 Dwelling, utilities and durable goods; module 17 Identification of agriculture households	http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INT/LSMS/Resources/3358386-118174305519813877319-1190203366854/ak052hweng.pdf
11	Australia	Environmental Health and Wellbeing Survey	2002	It is conducted by South Australian Department of Human Services. Chapters related to environment statistics include: Health symptoms (section E), which relate to respiratory problems and exposure to traffic pollution. Environmental issues (section F), which asks questions relating to noise or odour problems in the area.	http://www.health.sa.gov.au/pubs/PDF/files/local-enw-survey-02.pdf
24	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Living in Bosnia and Herzegovina Survey	2004	Household questionnaire: Module 2: Housing; Module 11: Agricultural activities	http://econ.worldbank.org/WS/FILES/EXTERNAL/LEV/DECEV/TFC5EAPCH/EXTLSMS/0...content/MOK/21674237.pagePK:64168445.pkPK:64168303/theSitePK:33583977.00.html Showcards_w4.pdf">http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INT/LSMS/Resources/3358386-118174305519813877319-1190203652731114/4#Questionnaire>Showcards_w4.pdf

Source: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/FDES/fdes_eges3.html