Environment-related activities of the UNECE Statistics Division

Short overview on selected recent activities:

- SDG Statistics
- SEEA
- Measuring Circular Economy
- Climate change-related Statistics
- Disaster-related statistics
- ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators







Michael Nagy

UNECE Statistics Division SDG statistics

2023 UNECE SDG Progress Report

NEC

- Based on subset of global indicator framework
- Forecasts anticipated 2030 value for each data series and each country and compares to target value
- Median value of countries' Anticipated Progress Index
- Indices are then aggregated to the level of SDG targets
- Requested by the UN Economic Commission for Europe

On track to achieve Accelerate progress **Reverse trend**







Can the UNECE Region Turn the Tide in 2023?



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GA





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Growing Challenges

for Sustainable Development:

UNECE Statistics Division SDG statistics

Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs

- Guides and coordinates the CES work on statistics for SDGs
- Provides guidance to countries on statistical follow-up to 2030 Agenda

Recent core outputs

- <u>Roadmap on Statistics for SDGs (second edition)</u> & <u>Communication Kit</u> & <u>Country Examples</u>
- Annual Expert Meetings
- <u>Table of Progress in implementing key road map</u> recommendations







System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

- Since 2015 annual "Joint OECD/UNECE Seminars on the Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting are organized:
 - Exchange of knowledge and experience
 - Contribution to the coordination of activities of International Organisations (including EEA, Eurostat, FAO, UNEP and others)
- Considering SEEA in all relevant work streams:
 - Capacity development on SDG indicators and environmental statistics
 - Guidelines for measuring Climate Change, Disaster-related Statistics and Circular Economy



8th Seminar, 13-15 March 2023

- Setting the Scene
- Towards Circular Economy measurement
- Implementing Ecosystem Accounting
- Forest Accounts
- Organisational and institutional arrangements
- Environmental Taxes and Subsidies
- Integration of Accounts for Analytical Purposes
- Water Accounts and Indicators



Joint UNECE/OECD Guidelines for measuring Circular Economy



Status of work and acknowledgements

- CES Bureau approved draft of Part A for wide electronic consultation (will start end of March)
- Jointly by OECD EG on information for a Resource Efficient and Circular Economy and UNECE TF on Measuring CE
- Experts from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Eurostat, Finland, India, Italy, Netherlands; EEA, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, PACE, UNECE, UNEP, UNITAR, UNSD, WRI

Structure

Part A: Conceptual Framework, Statistical Framework and Indicators (for e-consultation)

- Headline definition
- Measurement scope, terms and definitions
- Relationships with existing statistical standards (e.g. SEEA, classifications)
- National and regional examples

Part B: Guide on measuring progress towards a circular economy (to be drafted this year)

- Data sources
- Institutional collaboration
- Guidance on using indicators

Joint UNECE/OECD Guidelines for Measuring Circular Economy

Developed by UNECE and OECD Expert Groups + partners (EEA, Eurostat, UNECE/FAO, IMF, UNEP, UNSD, PACE)



Conceptual Framework

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Discusses also biological materials and cascading use of wood

Indicators



Monitoring Framework



Based on SEEA

Climate change-related Statistics



Scope of the Guidance (to be finalized in 2024)

Outline

Introduction

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- Institutional landscape
- Role of NSOs in:
 - Reporting under the Paris Agreement

Each section will examine policy context and identify how NSOs can contribute

- Informing national policymaking in the areas of mitigation, adaptation and just transition
- Informing the broad public
- Cross-cutting issues, e.g., coordination with other producers, user-producer dialogue
- Conclusions/recommendations and future work

Organization of work

- Parallel groups established to expedite the work on thematic chapters
- Most of the work carried out by e-mails and videoconferences

First findings of group D from interviews with climate journalists were presented at the Expert Forum

Disaster-related Statistics

4 main tasks:

- Support the statistical operationalisation of terms, definitions and classifications used in disaster risk management (including Sendai Framework, SDGs, etc.)
- Development of a set of core statistics and indicators for "CES Region"
- 3. Draft implementation guidelines
- 4. Organisation of Expert Fora in collaboration with IAEG-DRS and other partners



Recommendations on the Role

https://unece.org/statistics/publication s/recommendations-role-officialstatistics-measuring-hazardous-eventsand-disasters

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Disaster-related Statistics – Core disaster-risk-related indicators

Frequency and dimension of hazardous events (3)

Proportion of hazardous events with deaths per year (per type of hazard).

Exposure (6)

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- % of population living in hazard-prone areas in relation to total population
- % of farmland in hazard-prone areas in relation to total farmland

Vulnerability (6)

- % of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age (SDG 1.1.1)
- % of world heritage sites without an emergency preparedness plan

Coping capacity (12)

- % of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (SDG 2.4.1)
- □ Health worker density (SDG 3.c.1)

Disaster-risk-reduction activities (6)

Proportion of government expenditure on DRR in relation to GDP

Direct impacts (20)

- Number of disasters (per hazard type) declared by government per year
- Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to GDP (SDG 1.5.2, SF C-1))

Indirect impacts Research item

UNECE Statistics & Environment Divisions

ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators

Guidelines were adopted by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy in 2007 to help countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in:

- a) Improving the systems of environmental monitoring and reporting for the purpose of environmental decision-making and public awareness raising
- **b)** Making national environment assessments comparable with those of other UN Member States
- c) Facilitating data gathering for future environmental assessment reports.

Several assessments carried out since then showed:

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- Many countries used the guidelines as a starting point for developing environment statistics
- Guidelines contributed to strengthening collaboration between NSOs and MoEs

ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators

Revision process has been multi-dimensional

- 1. Distinction between "indicators" and "data and statistics", using the definitions used in the UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES)
- 2. Presentation of the indicators according to FDES structure
- 3. Review of the list of indicators
- 4. Update of indicator metadata, including filling of some "placeholders"
- 5. All information stored in a bilingual database (English and Russian)



ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators

Where to find "forest-related indicators"? Some examples.



Thank you!

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