

GHANA'S DATA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – ROADMAP FORUM

PARALLEL SESSION B:
**UTILIZING NEW DATA FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
INDICATOR PRODUCTION**

**CURRENT STATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS,
DATA GAPS, & AREAS OF INTEREST TO EXPLORE**

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Outline (2/14)

- Introduction
- State of Environmental Indicators
- Data Gaps
- Way forward
- Conclusion





Introduction (3/14)

- The environment provides the base upon which all anthropogenic activities thrive e.g. agriculture, manufacturing, industry, services, etc. In fact, the “Future we want” depends on our ability to protect, conserve and manage the environment
- Thus, the importance of Environmental Data and Statistics in Ghana’s Sustainable Development cannot be overemphasized.
- The Environmental Protection Agency draws its mandate from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Act 1994 (Act 490) and Legal Instrument (LI 1652). It mandates the Agency to ensure the protection and sustainable management of Ghana’s environment



Introduction (4/14)

- Unlike the **Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 7** which was dedicated to “Ensuring environmental sustainability, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has integrated environmental issues into most of the Goals
- Thus, the importance and utilization of Environmental Data and Statistics in the measurement and achievement of the SDGs, Africa Agenda 2063 targets and ultimately Ghana’s Sustainable Development must be the concern of all persons
- Environmental indicators may include information on Air, climate, emissions, biodiversity, water, waste, forests, land and agriculture, natural disasters, among others



State of Environmental Indicators (5/14)

- Currently, the production of environmental data and information is done at various levels by respective Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)
- Most of the data collected at these levels are usually administrative in nature, and are disseminated through annual reports, progress reports, bulletins, etc.
- Environmental data is not widely captured in the National Statistics System (NSS) although the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), in collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, is preparing to conduct a Census of Agriculture (CA) in Ghana from 2013-2017



State of Environmental Indicators (6/14)

- The Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with some key stakeholders in the environment and natural resource sectors have institutionalized a system that allows for the estimation of the cost of environmental degradation (CoED) and depletion of some natural capital assets in the country on an annual basis.
- The estimation focuses on agricultural soil degradation, fisheries and forest depletion, and environmental health damage



State of Environmental Indicators (7/14)

- The Agency has also initiated processes aimed at institutionalizing a **Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) System** in Ghana under the Natural Resource and Environmental Governance (NREG) Technical Assistance Programme in partnership with the World Bank
- The system is based on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework developed by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD)
- Four (4) outcome documents which include; a **discussion paper** on Natural Capital Accounting, a **feasibility study report** on the implementation of NCA, a **critical analysis on compiling NCA**, and an **implementation strategy** have been prepared

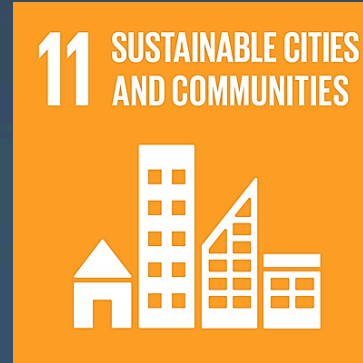


State of Environmental Indicators (8/14)

- The **Discussion Paper** was put together to facilitate discussions and the engagement of various stakeholders in the development of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in Ghana
- The **Feasibility Study Report** documents national priorities for environment and natural resource management and development with respect to policy, identifies stakeholders (both users and producers), provides information on key national data sources for compiling NCA, and assesses constraints to the implementation of NCA



Measuring SDG Progress with NCA (9/14)





State of Environmental Indicators (10/14)

- The Agency has also began implementing the **Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics (FDES) 2013** to assist in the collection and organization of environmental data
- The FDES 2013 has synergies with Economic Community of West African (ECOWAS) Agreed set of Environment Statistics



Data Gaps (10/14)

- Although the implementation these frameworks could facilitate the production of environmental indicators for monitoring progress on the implementation of the SDGs, a major constraint (data gaps) persists
- For instance, work on the estimation of the Cost of environmental degradation (CoED) has brought to light some data gaps that exist particularly in the mining sector
- The compilation of monetary flow accounts for mineral resources on pilot basis also revealed some data gaps



Data Gaps (11/14)

- Current policy frameworks and statistics are characterized by ‘**silos**’ structures (i.e. links are not made between different areas). There is the need for harmonization
- Environmental data are collected by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) based on their specific policy needs. The form in which they are collected and sometime their relevance is mostly in doubt
- **Diverse methodologies** makes data comparison difficult. Often data are not made available to other agencies and a systematic understanding of how natural resource use and environmental degradation have an impact on different parts of society is lacking



Way forward & Conclusion (12/14)

- It is important that we continue to engage each other through multi-faceted dialogue which is aimed at creating an enabling policy environment for the development of environmental data and statistics
- There is the need to modify the form in which environmental data and information is collected to ensure quality and relevance
- Undertake further studies and research into other gray areas where there are data gaps to complete the loop
- There should be a **commitment to the provision and allocation of resources (both financial and logistical)** to the development of Environmental statistics



Thank You for your attention!



Environmental Protection Agency