



Regional Agenda and Recommendations

Dr. Ali Chalak

**EGM on Environmental Economic
Accounting for the ESCWA Region**

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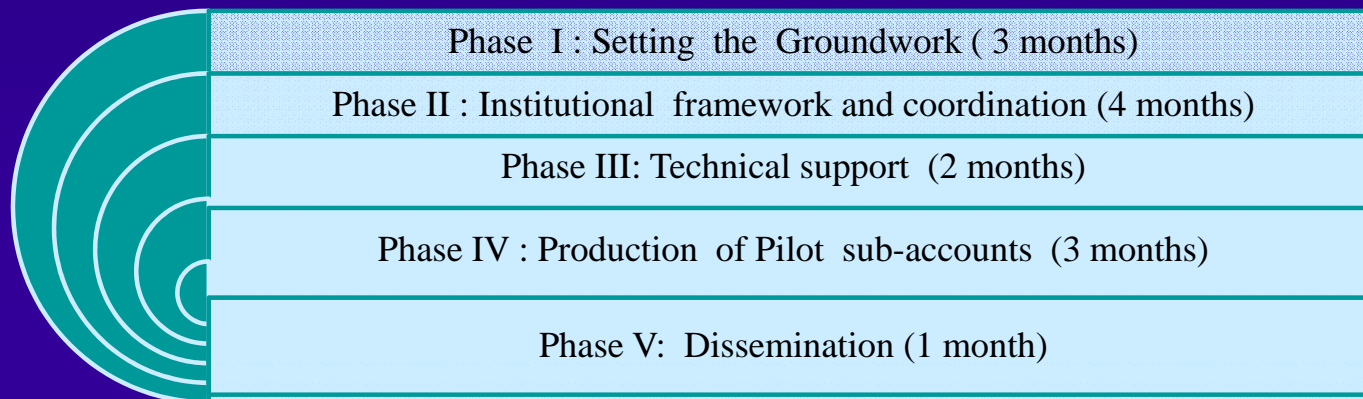
Outline

- Regional Agenda for environmental Account systems
- Recommendations for improving environment statistics



Regional Agenda For Environmental Account systems

- This agenda aims at developing environmental account systems particularly for water.
- Time frame : January 2009 – December 2009
- consists of 5 phases varying according to the status of environmental statistics in a given country:





- Divides the member countries into 3 groups:

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	Group 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪environment statistics are available	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪establishment of environment statistics is a need	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ need to establish environment accounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪capable of producing water accounts in 1 year according to the plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ financial and human resources are available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ lack financial and human resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪Jordan, Egypt, Bahrain, Lebanon, Oman and Palestine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪capable of producing water accounts in 2 years▪Kuwait, Qatar , Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪expected to be able to compile water accounts in 3 years▪Iraq, Yemen, Syria, the Sudan



Recommendations for improving environment statistics

- ESCWA reports on meetings on environment statistics held in 2004, 2006 and 2007, assessment report by DESA in 2005 and several technical missions contributed towards preparing a list of recommendations to improve environment statistics in the region



Promote the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)

- Promote the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) At high level policy-makers
- Present the system in the next meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of Water and the Council of Arab Ministers of Environment in cooperation with the League of Arab States, in 2010.



Promote the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) (cont'd)

- Encourage countries that produced pilot water accounts like Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, to complete the tables with monetary and emissions accounts
- Provide national training on the SEEA



Institutionalizing official water statistics and accounts

- Countries need to :
 - Update their legal provisions on statistics and reinforce environmental statistics and accounts.
 - Determine appropriate organizational structures with clear description of responsibilities and cooperation links between concerned governmental bodies



Coordinating with the other leading institutions producing water data

- In some countries , Cooperation links between governmental bodies and National statistical offices (NSO) have been established to develop environment statistics at the national levels
 - ex: Jordan, Lebanon, Bahrain...
- In other countries , internal regulations do not allow all data to be made available to the statistical office



Coordinating with the other leading institutions producing water data (cont'd)

- Cooperation saves time, reduces the cost of duplication in data production and allows agreements on applied methods, standards ...
- Thus, there is a need for the creation of a statistical coordination committee to support mutual coordination and agreement in statistical programming, organizing data collection and disseminating data by all environment bodies involved in the process



Strengthening human, technical and financial resources for water statistics

- In 6 countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Yemen) a separate unit dealing with environment statistics has been created within the respective NSO.
- However, the number of employees is insufficient and the capacity of equipment and logistic means in terms of carrying out data collection is limited
- NSO need professional staff and appropriate training



Installing monitoring stations and conducting environment and water surveys

- It is important to install sufficient monitoring stations and technical infrastructure, and to collect regular data at a representative geographic scale
- 6 member countries regularly undertake environmental/ water data collection through special statistical surveys
- (Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Yemen)



Adopting new classifications, methodologies, standards and coding systems

- Statistical methodologies (sampling design, methods of data collection....) have not yet been applied to their full extent in the ESCWA region
- Relevant statistical methodologies and classifications need to be applied across the region , particularly ISIC Rev.4 on economic activities and FAO land cover classifications



Filling data gaps

- Significant data gaps exist in member countries in specific areas such as:
 - Water quantity statistics in terms of supply, demand and distribution
 - Water quality statistics (freshwater quality, treated water quality)
 - Air quality and emissions
 - Municipal, industrial and hazardous waste (ways of disposal, quantities..)
 - Land use and degradation
 - Biodiversity.



Disseminating statistics

- Most ESCWA member countries, except Jordan and Palestine, do not produce regular specific reports on environment/ water statistics
- Procedures and output of basic water statistics need to be made freely available in an organized and computerized system allowing the efficient data processing , promoting and exchange among concerned institutions.



Tailoring the assistance of ESCWA and other United Nations and regional organizations in the field

- ESCWA can further assist its member countries by:
 - Raising awareness on importance of environment statistics
 - Offering training on related data collections
 - Increasing coordination between countries
 - Cooperate with each other organizations (UNEP, MEDSTAT)
 - Organizing expert missions to provide on-job-training



Tailoring the assistance of ESCWA and other United Nations and regional organizations in the field (cont'd)

- Organizing consultancy missions to provide training on production of statistical tables and methods of estimating and filling data gaps.
- Developing appropriate manuals, classifications and guidelines for standardization and methodologies
- Presenting case studies from ESCWA region to support other countries
- The Compendium of Environmental Statistics -a pilot publication by ESCWA- could serve as an example for countries to follow .