

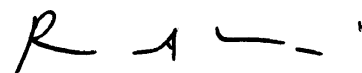
# FOREWORD

**W**hile the Philippines continues to experience accelerated economic growth, the environmental quality is fast deteriorating as dramatized by the increased incidence of environmental disasters associated with mine tailings, deforestation, pollution, drought, salt water intrusion and other destructive activities. This has prompted the Philippines to adopt the strategy of sustainable development and growth with equity, bringing to fore the need for environment statistics.

However, the lack of an organized and integrated framework in the collection and utilization of environment statistics has become a major deterrent in man's struggle to effectively manage and conserve the natural environment. To address this concern, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) initiated efforts to help the Philippines as well as other developing member countries (DMCs) to develop and collect environment statistics on a continuing basis. Thus, the Philippine Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (PFDES) was developed. The PFDES is a systematic organization of the interdisciplinary nature of environment statistics and focuses on the identification, description and presentation of data variables which are useful for tracing and verifying interrelationships among human activities and natural events.

This compendium is an initial attempt to compile priority environment statistics/indicators based on the PFDES. It covers data for the period 1990 to 1998, whenever possible. Latest figures presented vary depending on the availability of data. Updating of the compendium will subsequently be done every two years.

Although the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) is the implementing agency, this compilation is a result of the collaborative work of all government agencies generating environment-related statistics. We are very much grateful to our colleagues for providing the data and other relevant information. We hope that the fruits of our efforts will be useful in the formulation and evaluation of socio-economic and environmental programs and policies. We wish to emphasize, however, that the immense task of saving our environment and our future for that matter demands the contribution and support of each one of us. Through this publication, we hope that we were able to impart to the public a sense of inspiration to personally share in the conservation efforts.



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Secretary General