

## The Philippine Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (PFDES)

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 of human activities and natural events with the environment. As agreed upon during the Inception Workshop on the Institutional Strengthening and Collection of Environment Statistics in selected developing member countries (RETA 5555) held in Manila on September 18-21, 1995, the United Nations FDES (UNFDES) will serve as a guide in formulating the PFDES. The UNFDES was then realigned to the Philippine setting to meet the country's specific concerns.

The PFDES relates each component of the environment (*Flora, Fauna, Atmosphere, Water, Land and Soil, Mineral and Energy Resources, Flora and Human Settlements*) to four information categories, namely: (1) Social and economic activities and natural events; (2) Environmental impacts of activities and events; (3) Responses to environmental impacts; and (4) Stocks and inventories.

*Social and economic activities and natural events* include human activities and natural events which directly affect the different components of the environment, thus, producing environmental impacts. Human activities like the production and consumption of goods and services affect the different components of the environment through the direct use or misuse of natural resources or through the generation of waste and the emissions in production and consumption processes. Likewise, natural events such as typhoons, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions also have impacts on the different environmental media. Natural disasters, largely caused by human activities, also stress the balance of the environment.

*Environmental impacts of activities and events*, as the name suggests, attempts to quantify the negative effects on the environment of man's activities and natural events. Negative impacts are manifested in the depletion of natural resources (measured in terms of changes in the quantity), environmental degradation (measured in terms of the changes in the quality) and the consequential health and welfare effects.

Man's various attempts to curb and mitigate these negative impacts gives rise to the third information category, namely, *responses to environmental impacts*. These responses can either be defensive/curative such as cleaning up or preventive such as regulating human behaviour. Further, responses may be in the form of policies, programs and projects designed to monitor and control pollutants, develop and apply environmentally sound techniques, change the production and consumption patterns, manage and use properly the natural resources, prevent and mitigate the effects of natural disasters and improve the living conditions in human settlements. Such efforts are, in turn, carried out either through individual actions in the case of households and

entrepreneurs, or through collective actions in the case of government organizations such as UNESCO.

The fourth category, *stocks and inventories*, is intended to provide “benchmark” data for possible linkage with other subject areas.

Within each information category are statistical topics which formed the basis in identifying relevant statistical variables to be included in the framework.