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SUMMARY

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INFORMATION NOTE ON A NEW HANDBOOK ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN KYRGYZSTAN

Submitted by the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic

The crisis in the interface between nature and society is determined by the increasing pollution of the environment and depletion of natural resources, which is becoming an obstacle to the development of society's productive forces. This has recently been manifested especially clearly in damage to the ozone layer, acid rain, radioactive contamination, erosion and degradation of the soil, etc. Mankind cannot, therefore, interact with nature without taking account of the possible adverse consequences of economic activities.

Environmental statistics is a relatively new field in many countries, which calls for improvements in methodology and information flows and the establishment of organizational links between the various structures involved in data collection and dissemination. Kyrgyzstan also did not have a specific structure for the development of environmental statistics that would reflect the links between the environment and socio-economic and demographic statistics.

In April 2000 the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) began implementation of a technical assistance project (RETA) for capacity building and the collection of environmental statistics, the main aims of which are to:

1. Establish organizational links between the various structures engaged in the collection of environmental statistics;
2. Adopt a specific structure for the development of environmental statistics in conjunction with socio-economic and demographic statistics;
3. Issue a handbook of environmental statistics, which will be based on available data and compiled in accordance with the structure adopted.

Work on the project involved the establishment of an inter-agency working group including representatives of the National Statistical Committee, the Ministry for Ecology and Emergency Situations, the State Forestry Agency, and others.

Activities for the implementation of the project were subdivided to cover the following main areas:

1. Definition and prioritization of the main issues related to the state of the environment;
2. Consideration of a list of indicators on the basis of AsDB definitions for inclusion in a statistical database;
3. Drawing up of a list of indicators for which data are available (at national and regional level);

4. Choice of the structure (UN-FDES) as the most comprehensive and flexible option that can be adopted as a basis for the development of the country's own structure for the collection and processing of data and that conforms to national priorities for the formulation of policy on environmental protection;
5. Use of international classifications, definitions and methods.

After adopting the United Nations structure (UN-FDES) as a basis and defining the main statistical fields, the members of the technical working group designed the handbook as follows:

Section I provides a short description of physico-geographical data, the status of the natural components (atmosphere, water, soil, flora, fauna). The text will be accompanied by consolidated tables and graphs, identifying the root causes (sources) of environmental degradation - including both natural phenomena (floods, earthquakes, mudslides, landslides or avalanches, etc.), and the anthropogenic impacts of industrial and agricultural activities, urbanization, etc. This section will also review the status of environmental statistics.

Section II will set out data in the form of detailed tables, graphs and diagrams.

Section III contains appendices with definitions, methodological explanations, the statutory instruments adopted in the country concerning environment protection, and information sources.

Table of contents of the handbook on environmental protection

Appendices:

Concepts and definitions

References

Methods of measuring emissions and discharges of pollutants

Methodological explanations

Legislation on environmental protection

List of graphs