

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS, 2008

Excerpt from the Database of International Statistical Activities

3.1.	Title	Environment (edition 2008)
3.1:	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EEA : Regular NFP/Eionet meeting (Copenhagen, 27 - 28 February 2008) • Eurostat WG on waste statistics (Luxembourg, 28-29 February 2008) • EEA : Regular NFP/Eionet meeting (Copenhagen, 21 - 22 May 2008) • EEA : Regular NFP/Eionet meeting (Copenhagen, 1 - 2 October 2008)
3.1:	Eurostat	<p><u>Theme 5.03 Environment statistics and accounts</u></p> <p>1. Description</p> <p>The main objective of the work on environment statistics and accounts is to establish comprehensive, reliable and relevant statistics, accounts and indicators needed for developing, implementing and monitoring the Community's environmental policy, in particular the sixth Environment Action Programme (6th EAP), its thematic strategies and the environmental dimensions of the EU sustainable development strategy (SDS) and the Lisbon strategy. The four main policy areas identified by the 6th EAP are climate change; nature and biodiversity; environment and health and quality of life; natural resources and waste. The Treaties and subsequently the 6th EAP also emphasise the need to continue the process of integrating environmental concerns into all relevant policy areas and ensure better and more accessible information on the environment for policy-makers, businesses, the citizen and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Work on the collection, validation and dissemination of environmental data and the development of indicators will be organised in the framework of the Environmental Data Centres (EDCs) for "Natural Resources", "Products" and "Waste" as agreed by the Group of 4 (Go4) in 2005. At international level, Eurostat actively contributes to the harmonisation of methodologies and statistics on the environment through the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (IWG-ENV) and in Environmental Accounts through the "London Group" and the UN Committee of Experts on Economic-Environmental Accounting (UNCEEA).</p> <p>2. Work Programme for 2008</p> <p>2.1 KEY PRIORITIES 2008</p> <p>The further development and smooth operation of the Eurostat EDCs is a key objective for 2008. Within this framework Eurostat will continue its contribution to the European Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and efforts to improve statistics on the management of waste and natural resources, setting up an "information hub" on natural resources in the framework of the thematic strategy for resources, and to build up its capacities for monitoring the integrated product policy (IPP) and for developing indicators to measure the environmental impact of resource use. The IT infrastructures of the ten data centres will become increasingly interoperable in 2008, taking into account the relevant parts of the INSPIRE Directive, which is of particular relevance for environmental policy.</p> <p>Beyond the data centre work, efforts will continue to provide core environmental statistics as a basis for environmental policy-making and to support the thematic strategies of the 6th environment action programme (EAP). Statistics and indicators on water, air, biodiversity, land use, forest and other important areas will be made available to support the European Environment Agency (EEA) and Joint Research Centre (JRC) as the responsible data centres in these areas. The focus of statistical work will be tailored to the concerns of partner DGs.</p> <p>Other major issues to be further developed include environmental accounts,</p>

environmental expenditure, environmental taxes and subsidies, eco-industries, eco-innovation, and production of and trade in environmental goods and services and hazardous substances, in particular chemicals and plant protection products. Support for major indicator initiatives and for horizontal work areas with a link to the environment will continue. Further development and streamlining of environmental indicators in close cooperation with the other data centre partners and DG Environment has high priority. The discussion on legal cover in core areas of environmental data collection currently based on "gentlemen's agreements" will also be continued.

2.2 OBJECTIVES 2008

2.2.1. Ongoing work

- Further implementation of the Waste Statistics Regulation, development of the Waste Data Centre and relevant environmental impact indicators
- Further implementation of the Natural Resources and Products Data Centre within Environmental Accounts (data collection, methodological development and new indicators)
- Publication of data for environmental taxes by industry based on data collection in autumn 2007, data for environmental expenditure, sub-soil and forests accounts depending on availability
- Management of chemicals risk indicators set in the framework of the REACH baseline study
- After adoption, implementation of the Regulation concerning statistics on plant protection products, management and further development of relevant risk indicators
- Improvement of Eurostat's statistics and indicators on water resources, water use and waste water treatment through refinement of the OECD/Eurostat Joint Questionnaire on Inland Waters and in close cooperation with the European Data Centre for Water (EEA); ensuring increased visibility by linking water statistics to the Water Information System for Europe (WISE)
- Adaptation of informatics infrastructure of Eurostat environmental data centres; connection of informatics infrastructure of data centres to those of the other partners (EEA, JRC) in a SEIS/INSPIRE-compatible version
- Publication of results from data collections (until 2005, 2006 depending on availability) including the OECD/Eurostat Joint Questionnaire; development of a dedicated website for core environment statistics, methodologies and best practice; support for the data centres set up and managed by partner institutions (EEA, JRC) with particular attention to land use and biodiversity
- Ensuring data availability for regional environmental statistics in order to meet the requirements of the environmental dimension of the EU regional policy
- In close cooperation with OECD, revision of the joint OECD/Eurostat questionnaire

2.2.2. New work

- In the framework of the Data Centre on Natural Resources within environmental accounts, development of estimation methods and publication of results for the main material flow accounts (MFA) EU-27 aggregates on resource use. Development of decoupling indicators on the environmental impact of resource use
- Establishment of a Data Centre on Products (IPP) within environmental accounts built up on input-output and life-cycle analysis tools in order to examine the environmental impact at each stage
- Compilation of water accounts and environment industry accounts on the basis of new standard tables or pilot applications, joint EEA-Eurostat pilot project on water accounts
- Establishment of the final list of risk indicators for plant protection products and development of collection of statistics on biological plant protection methods by the end of 2008

3.1:	OECD	<p>Agri-Environmental Indicators</p> <p>Purpose To provide information to policy makers on the current state and changes of the environment in agriculture to better understand the linkages between agricultural policies and environmental impacts. This will assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of policies to promote sustainable agriculture and enhance agricultural policy reform.</p> <p>Objectives and outputs "Environmental Indicators for Agriculture" includes the complete list of agricultural indicators, which covers a range of issues, such as agricultural impacts on soil, water, air, biodiversity and landscape. OECD is in the process of updating this publication, with dissemination of volume 4 scheduled in March 2008.</p> <p>Databases Nitrogen Balance Database</p>
3.1:	OECD	<p>Environmental Data</p> <p>Purpose Produce objective, reliable and comparable environmental statistics at international level as a factual basis for the OECD's policy and analytical work on environment and sustainable development (environmental indicators, environmental country peer reviews, environmental outlooks and environmentally sustainable development). Collect the best available environmental data in OECD member and partner countries, promote international harmonisation of these data (core set of environmental data) and strengthen the capacity of member and selected non-member countries in the field of information production and management concerning the environment and sustainable development.</p> <p>Objectives and outputs Contribute to the biennial publication of the OECD Compendium of environmental data and to the update of the OECD System of Information on Resources and the Environment (SIREN) database. Data collection from member countries via the OECD questionnaire on the state of the environment (joint work with Eurostat for European Union, EFTA and EU candidate countries; co-operation with UNSD and UNEP for non-member economies). Contribute to the international harmonisation of environmental data, definitions and concepts, and the cost-effectiveness of related international work.</p> <p>Databases SIREN (System of Information on Resources and the Environment)</p> <p>Main Developments for 2008</p> <p>General aspects: Implementation of the Collaborative Plan of Action on Environmental Data Quality, linked to the "OECD Quality Framework" and improved data quality in selected areas (continued work) with a focus on key reference series and on "data efficiency", "coherence among countries" and "interpretation", through simplified annual updates and improved country documentation. Improved international co-operation on land use and land cover statistics (as part of the work of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics). Publication of a series of guidance documents on the measurement of material flows and resource productivity with a focus on accounts and indicators (as part of the implementation of the OECD Council recommendation on material flows and resource productivity adopted in April 2004). The work is carried out jointly with Eurostat and in co-operation with the UN Committee of Experts on integrated Environmental Economic Accounting and the London Group on Environmental Accounting.</p> <p>Data collection: Ongoing revision and simplification of the questionnaire sections (joint work with Eurostat and in co-operation with UNSD).</p>

		<p>Data management: Facilitate the transfer of selected environmental reference series to the corporate data warehouse OECD.Stat.</p>
3.1:	OECD	<p>Environmental Indicators</p> <p>Purpose Provide sound, measurable and policy-relevant indicators for the OECD's policy and analytical work on environment and sustainable development (e.g. environmental outlook, environmental country reviews, sustainable development, economic analysis) and support related member and selected non-member countries' efforts. Develop core sets of reliable, measurable and policy-relevant environmental indicators to contribute to: measuring environmental performance with respect to environmental quality, environmental goals and international agreements; integrating environmental concerns in economic and sectoral policies; monitoring progress towards environmentally sustainable development, including decoupling of environmental pressure from economic growth; measuring material flows and resource productivity (link to the OECD Council recommendation on material flows and resource productivity adopted in April 2004); informing the public about major environmental trends and conditions.</p> <p>Objectives and outputs Support the work of the OECD Environmental Policy Committee and its subsidiary bodies, in particular country peer reviews. Further develop sets of sectoral indicators, i.e. agri-environmental indicators (see related activity description) and develop a balanced set of material flow and resource productivity indicators for international use at various levels of detail/aggregation. Prepare guidance on the interpretation and use of material flow and resource productivity indicators (link to sustainable development and to work on sustainable materials management).</p> <p>Databases Environmental indicators</p> <p>Main Developments for 2008</p> <p>General aspects: Updated OECD key environmental indicators (KEI) and major environmental indicators for use in country peer reviews. Proposed set of material flow and resource productivity indicators for OECD use.</p>
3.1:	OECD	<p>Instruments Used for Environmental Policy</p> <p>Purpose To provide harmonised information on environmentally related taxes and on a number of other instruments used for environmental policy, in support of the OECD work on the use of economic instruments, draw policy conclusions and develop practical guidelines for their implementation.</p> <p>Objectives and outputs The OECD/EEA database on environmentally related taxes provides many details concerning environmentally related taxes, fees and charges levied in OECD member countries. The original focus of the database was on pollution-oriented levies and tax-bases, but levies related to resource management have also been included. The tax-bases covered include energy products, transport equipment and transport services, as well as measured or estimated emissions to air and water, ozone depleting substances, certain non-point sources of water pollution, waste management and noise, in addition to the management of water, land, soil, forests, biodiversity, wildlife and fish stocks. Through co-operation with the European Environment Agency, the country coverage of the database has been broadened to include a number of OECD non-member countries affiliated to EEA. In addition, Israel and South Africa have provided information on their environmentally related taxes in 2007 -- and China is expected to provide information in the coming</p>

		<p>years.</p> <p>The instrument coverage has also been broadened, and now includes tradable permit systems, environmentally motivated subsidies, deposit-refund systems and voluntary approaches used for environmental policy.</p> <p>Non-member countries involved in the activity: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, South Africa</p> <p>Databases ENV\NP\EcoInst under Projects on WebDev2</p> <p>Main Developments for 2008</p> <p>General aspects: A further broadening of both country and instrument coverage is expected.</p>
3.1:	World Bank	<p><u>Environmental Indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2008 edition of the World Development Indicators, the annual World Bank statistical flagship publication, includes an updated and expanded set of 16 tables on environmental indicators covering some 150 countries. A table on trends of greenhouse gas emissions indicators has been added to the 2008 edition. Its accompanying CD-ROM includes time series data for more than 200 countries. • The Little Green Data Book presents a number of environmental indicators based on the World Development Indicators and its accompanying CD-ROM. Under the headings of agriculture, forests, biodiversity, energy, emissions and pollution, water and sanitation, and 'greener' national accounts (adjusted for natural resource depletion and pollution damage), the Little Green Data Book presents key indicators of the environment and its relationship to people for more than 200 countries. • The World Bank contributes to the development of core and supplementary environmental indicators for monitoring progress toward the Millennium Development Goals through the Environment subgroup of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the MDGs. • A section of the environmental database is now available electronically on the World Bank's Environment Department website. The database includes, among others, the ECE countries and it is annually updated from various sources inside and outside the World Bank. • The World Bank works closely with the UN Statistics Division in this area and continues to support initiatives in the field of environmental accounting primarily through the London Group. Through its participation in the newly created UNCEEA, the Bank is contributing to the preparation of the revised SEEA dealing with the issues of valuation, as well as potential operational policy relevance and use of the proposed manual in informing a wider range of management decisions. Work in this area has been bolstered by the development of accompanying indicators of environmental change including estimation of Adjusted Net Savings (genuine savings) for more than 140 countries. These estimates are being published in the World Development Indicators and the Little Green Data book. <p>Priority objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of core environmental indicators for monitoring progress toward the international development goals adopted by the World Bank, United Nations and the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD. • Publication of environmental indicators through the Little Green Data Book, the World Development Indicators and the Environment Department website • Updated on a yearly basis. New products to be showcased in the website include environment at-a-glance fact sheets by country. • The World Bank will continue to provide expertise on green accounting and the measurement of sustainable development through its participation in activities with UNECE and other international groups.

3.1:	UN Statistics Division	<p><u>Environmental Statistics</u></p> <p>Overall goal: With the establishment of the biennial collection of environment statistics from non-OECD countries, UNSD's efforts concentrate on the improvement of the coverage, quality, comparability and timeliness of environmental data through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular revision of the UNSD/UNEP questionnaire; • Development of methodological manuals for data compilation; • Providing training and advisory services to countries and regions, and • Harmonizing international data collection and dissemination efforts through the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (IWG-ENV) <p>Ongoing work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the 2008 data collection cycle • Finalization of the International Recommendations for Water Statistics • Preparation for regional training and capacity building projects with a focus on African countries <p>Implementation of a global survey on the state of the art of national environment statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular publication of the ENVSTAT Newsletter and maintenance of the Environment Statistics website continues. (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/default.htm) • Finalization of the revision of the Glossary of Environment Statistics and the publication of the revised Glossary under the aegis of the IWG-ENV • Act as Secretariat to the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics. • Steer the work of the IWG Subgroup on water statistics to facilitate harmonization of international water statistics. <p>Priority objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of manuals on environment statistics and increased capacity building in countries and regions • Firm establishment of the regular collection and dissemination of environment statistics • Close collaboration with international and regional organisations to harmonize international data collection and dissemination efforts <p>New activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on a framework and a core set of indicators for climate change statistics <p><u>Environmental Accounts</u></p> <p>On-going methodological work: The UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) was established by the UN Statistical Commission at its 36th session in March 2005. It has the following three broad objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream environmental-economic accounting and related statistics; • Elevate the System of integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) to an international statistical standard; • Advance the implementation of the SEEA in countries. <p>Priority objectives: The UNCEEA programme of work focuses on the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster coordination, integration and complementarity of programmes in environmental-economic accounting and related statistics among international agencies and countries; • Advance the promotion and implementation of SEEA through fostering exchanges of best practices among countries with experience in the area, and by encouraging its use in support to decision making; • Further methodologies through coordinating the update of the SEEA-2003 by identifying, and prioritising issues that need to be addressed, establishing appropriate
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		<p>mechanisms to address those issues, monitoring progress made, reviewing proposed solutions and submitting recommendations to the United Nations Statistical Commission for approval;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonize data collection activities of environment and related statistics with concepts and definitions of environmental-economic accounting including the assurance of data quality. <p>New activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UNCEEA steers the revision process of the SEEA-2003; • The Committee, within its mandate, has an umbrella function in coordinating and providing vision, direction and prioritisation to ensure that existing groups work in complementary fashion; • To share best-practices, a web-based knowledge base platform has been set-up. It features events and activities in the field of environmental-economic accounting and a searchable archive of publications • The SEEA News and Notes, a newsletter that serves as the official vehicle to widely disseminate on-going activities in environmental-economic accounting, has been launched. <p>Meetings:</p> <p>The UNCEEA meets once a year; the Bureau meets more often by teleconference.</p> <p><u>More information can be found at the UNCEEA website:</u> http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/</p>
3.1:	CIS-STAT	<p><u>Environment Statistics</u></p> <p>Ongoing work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of data provided by national statistical services of the Commonwealth countries illustrating the state of environmental protection. Preparation of annual reports: "Environmental Protection in the Commonwealth countries" and "Progress of Work on Liquidation of Consequences of the Accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant". • There are plans to provide advisory services to national statistical services on the organisation of statistical observation of environmental protection in the Commonwealth countries.
3.1:	EEA	<p><u>Environment Statistics</u></p> <p>Summary description:</p> <p>The main objective of EEA's work is to support sustainable development and to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment through the provision of timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policy making agents and the public.</p> <p>The EEA has the mandate to establish and coordinate the European environment information and observation network (Eionet), based on the infrastructure for collection, analysis, assessment and management of data shared with the European Commission services, EEA member countries and international organisations, agreements and conventions.</p> <p>In 2005, DG Environment, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), Eurostat and the European Environment Agency (EEA) agreed on the division of coordinating roles in environmental reporting and dissemination and to establish Environmental Data Centres.</p> <p>EEA will furthermore contribute to the development of a Shared Environmental Information System for Europe (SEIS). The objective of SEIS is to establish a distributed and sustained environmental information system to improve accessibility and sharing of data and information within Europe and provision of services to policy makers and citizens.</p> <p>General priority objectives:</p>

To establish the Shared Environmental Information System for Europe (SEIS) and the five data centres for which the EEA has responsibility, i.e. in the thematic areas of climate change, air, water, biodiversity and land use, in partnership with DG Environment, JRC, Eurostat and member countries.

To establish agreement on arrangements for data transfer and cooperation in the areas of waste, material flows and resource accounting with Eurostat and on chemicals, environment and health, soil and forestry with JRC.

Specific priorities and objectives 2008:

Information system

- Improve the quality assurance of data flows within the EEA/Eionet information system with focus on the five thematic areas where EEA will act as data centre, including data for the core set of indicators plus the data flows envisaged under GEO, GEOSS, Inspire and GMES
- Further develop and maintain the EEA/Eionet reporting and information system, adjusting to the needs arising from the upcoming EEA strategy 2009-2013
- Develop and operate systems ensuring smooth and quality assured flow and management of EEA priority data, including the data required for the core set of indicators and Commission data flows to be handled by the EEA within Reportnet (reporting system)

Climate change and energy

- Develop the climate change data centre in accordance with the agreement between DG Environment, JRC and Eurostat, and in the context of SEIS, focussing on collection, management and quality assurance of greenhouse gas inventory data and gradually including other climate change data
- Develop and maintain energy and environment information base in order to analyse benefits of and pressures from the use of renewable energies
- Compile the EU annual Community greenhouse gas inventory, including a comparison of data from the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and data from Eurocontrol on aviation with national data

Nature and biodiversity

- Integrate the existing data flows on biodiversity (species and habitats) in the data centre on biodiversity in accordance with the agreement between DG Environment, JRC and Eurostat, and in the context of SEIS, focussing on links to land and water, as well as spatial data infrastructure developments under Inspire, namely integrating EUNIS, NATURA2000 and Art. 17 elements

Water and agriculture

- Develop the water data centre and WISE (water information system for Europe) in accordance with the agreement between DG Environment, JRC and Eurostat, and in the context of SEIS, focussing on collection, management and quality assurance of water quantity and quality data.
- Maintain a quality-assured flow of data and information as an integrated part of WISE and the water data centre, including data and information need to support the Water Framework Directive and other freshwater directives (UWWT, Nitrates, Bathing Water, Drinking Water), the Flood Action Programme and directive, the water-related aspects of the EPRTTR (European Pollutants Release and Transfer Register) and the proposed Marine Strategy Directive through the European Marine Monitoring and Assessment (EMMA) process
- Develop geographical and hydrographical data sets to include in WISE
- Maintain a selected set of agri-environment indicators in agreement with DG Agriculture, DG Environment and Eurostat and contribute to agri-environment indicator

		<p>development at EU and OECD level</p> <p>Air and transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the air data centre in accordance with the agreement between DG Environment, JRC and Eurostat, and in the context of SEIS, focussing on collection, management, quality assurance and web presentation of air emission and air quality data • Maintain and further develop transport and environment information • Extend the near real-time ozone data website towards other air quality parameters, in particular create a pilot particulate matter data display <p>Land use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the land use data centre in accordance with the agreement between DG Environment, JRC and Eurostat, and in the context of SEIS. Within this context, interactive spatial information services will be put into operation and gradually developed in support of the forthcoming EU Territorial Agenda and Maritime Policy • Finalise the 2006 Corine Land Cover inventory and related GMES land services • Implement spatial analysis methods to integrate data and models on land/maritime use, water and biodiversity from a variety of sources • Support the establishment of a regular data flow under the Environmental Noise Directive
3.1:	UNECE	<p>Environmental indicators (<i>Activity 9.1 of the 2008 UNECE Statistical Programme</i>)</p> <p>Summary</p> <p>Provide secretariat support to the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment which is, inter alia, developing indicators to be used for environmental reporting in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)</p> <p>Purpose</p> <p>A common set of environmental indicators to facilitate harmonized and cost-effective environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting, with a view to supporting decision-making processes and contributing to streamlining international reporting in the UNECE region.</p> <p>Output expected at the end of 2008</p> <p>The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy will consider extending the mandate of the Working Group at its 2008 meeting. If the mandate is extended, the Working Group on Environmental Reporting and Assessment will prepare a new work programme. Therefore, no output can be expected at the end of 2008.</p> <p>See also: http://www.unece.org/env/europe/monitoring/IandR_en.html</p>
3.1	London Group on Environmental Accounting	<p>Environmental Accounts</p> <p>On-going methodological work:</p> <p>The Group continues its efforts in advancing methodologies in environmental-economic accounting. In particular, it is contributing to the revision of the SEEA. It has now changed its governance structure to respond to the changes in the international statistical environment. Mark de Haan of Statistics Netherlands has been elected as the Chair of the London Group during the 11th London Group meeting (New York 2006).</p> <p>Priority objectives:</p> <p>The London Group's priority objectives in the next two years are to contribute to the revision of the SEEA-2003 upon request of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA), by developing a research agenda and solving the majority of issues on the agenda.</p> <p>The London Group is working on solving the issues on the research agenda through the preparation of issue papers. The recommendations of the London Group are brought to the UNCEEA for deliberation.</p> <p>New activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As part of the revision process the London Group is contributing to the further development of energy accounts, which is expected to be published as a separate

	<p>publication (SEEA-E).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The London Group is contributing to the harmonisation of Material Flow Accounts with SEEA. The methodologies are expected to be published as a separate publication by UNSD, OECD and Eurostat. <p>Meetings: In order to meet its objectives, the London Group has increased the frequency of its meetings. The 12th Meeting took place in December 2007 (Rome), and two meetings are planned for 2008-2009</p> <p>More information can be found at the London Group website: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/londongroup/default.asp_</p>
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