

INTRODUCTION

The Philippines started compiling environment accounts and statistics in 1991 through the projects on environmental and natural resources accounting. The first project, the Environmental and Natural Resources Accounting Project (ENRAP), was funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

In 1995, another environmental accounting project was implemented under the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Country Programme on Integrated Environmental Management for Sustainable Development (IEMSD). The Environmental and Natural Resources Accounting (ENRA) component of the programme adopted the UN System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) framework, a satellite accounting framework of the System of National Accounts (SNA).

The ENRA project built on the earlier works of ENRAP that resulted in the successful compilation of five asset accounts (fishery, forest, minerals, land and soil, and water resources) and accounts on environmental degradation brought about by several economic activities namely: palay farming, aquaculture, tuna canning, textile manufacturing, petroleum refining, etc.

The environmental accounting projects of the DENR and NSCB paved the way for the development of a database for environmental accounting and statistics as well as for the generation of a number of parameters/assumptions through the conduct of special studies.

Recognizing the lack of an organized and integrated framework in the collection and utilization of environment statistics, a project funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), developed the **Philippine Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics** (PFDES) based on the 1984 United Nations FDES. The project resulted to the publication of the first edition of the Compendium of Philippine Environment Statistics (CPES) in 2000.

The PFDES provided a systematic approach to the development of environment statistics and was an instrument by which data coming from various data collecting institutions were compiled and integrated in such a way as to be more useful in the formulation and valuation of socio-economic and environmental programs and policies. The FDES relates each component of the environment (Flora, Fauna, Atmosphere, Water, Land and Soil, Mineral and Energy Resources 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. The former NSCB released a total of five CPES publications based on the 1984 FDES.

With the endorsement at the Forty Fourth (44th) Session of the UN Statistical Commission of the revised FDES or FDES 2013, the Philippine Statistics Authority through the locally funded Philippine Economic-Environment and Natural Resources Accounting (PEENRA) project embarked on updating CPES based on the 2013 FDES. The first updated CPES was published in January 2015.

The CPES publication is a compilation of statistics and other information by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) that focuses on the core set of statistics of the Basic Set of Environment Statistics. The Basic Set of Environment Statistics is organized into a structure of six components namely: environmental conditions and quality; environmental resources and their use; residuals; extreme events and disasters; human settlements and environmental health; and environment protection, management and engagement.

The core set of environment statistics is aimed to serve as an agreed, limited set of environment statistics that are of high priority and relevance to most countries. It is intended to foster collection, coordination and harmonization of environment statistics at the national, regional and international levels.

The 2013 FDES identified a total of 100 core sets of environment statistics spread over the six components: Component 1 with thirty-two; Component 2, thirty; Component 3, nineteen; Component 4, four; Component 5, twelve; and Component 6, three.

While the PSA tried to compile all the core sets of environment statistics which are applicable to the Philippines, only 68 sets were compiled based on data availability. For Component 1, a total of nineteen sets were generated; Component 2, twenty-three; Component 3, fourteen; Component 4, four; Component 5, five; and Component 6, three. An improvement in this publication is the addition of Tier 2 and Tier 3 statistics. A total of seven Tier 2 statistics, four for Component 1 and three for Component 4, and one Tier 3 statistics for Component 4 were likewise included.

Moreover, the glossary of terms used in the compendium is included as a supplementary part of the publication. The inclusion of the glossary is a way by which the usefulness of the statistics presented in the compendium is enhanced. As work on the improvement and institutionalization of the 2013 FDES continues, it is hoped that the coverage would be expanded by including more tier 2 and tier 3 statistics, especially those that are related to the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Also, it is expected that the terms would be standardized to conform with internationally accepted definitions, while at the same time maintaining relevance to the local situation.