

## **Global Webinar on Geospatial and Other Data Sources for Environment Statistics: Assessing the Impact of the Economy on the Environment**

*21-23 March 2023*

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

#### **1. Background**

The *Global Webinar on Geospatial and Other Data Sources for Environment Statistics: Assessing the Impact of the Economy on the Environment* will be organised as a series of online meetings on 21, 22 and 23 March 2023.

The webinar is part of the activities of workstream 2.4 “Assessing the Impact of the Economy on the Environment” of the Statistics and Data Project “Resilient and agile National Statistical Systems to meet post-COVID-19 data needs to recover better” under the 14th tranche of the United Nations Development Account, launched in September 2022.

The Project is expected to enhance the resilience and agility of national statistical systems (NSS) of the 50 beneficiary countries<sup>1</sup> to respond to emerging economic, social and environmental data needs in times of crises and disasters using innovative data sources, advanced data acquisition methods and modern technologies, while ensuring a path towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The webinar is organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions, the UN Statistics Division, as well as other international and national organisations.

The goal of the webinar is to increase the knowledge of the beneficiary countries and other invited countries about statistics derived from geospatial and other data sources to assess the impact of the economy on the environment.

#### **2. Introduction**

The webinar on 21, 22 and 23 March 2023 covers countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The target audience for the meetings are national agencies that are responsible for the collection and dissemination of data and statistics on terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, as well as domestic

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<sup>1</sup> Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chile, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lao PDR, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Paraguay, Senegal, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Sudan, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

material consumption. The participants could be from the National Statistical System, ministries of environment, mineral mining and other relevant government agencies.

*The structure of the webinar:*

- 21 March 2023:

**Session 1: Opening and Introduction.** The organizers will share information about the scope and goals of the project.

**Session 2: Impact of anthropogenic and natural processes on freshwater and marine ecosystems.**

Anthropogenic and natural processes affect the extent and quality of freshwater and marine ecosystems. In this session, experts from countries and international organisations will present how to understand and use geospatial and other data to monitor changes in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time, as well as to estimate coastal eutrophication. The knowledge received will directly contribute to the development of SDG indicators such as 6.6.1 “Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time” and 14.1.1a “Index of Coastal Eutrophication (ICEP)”.

- 22 March 2023:

**Session 3: Impact of illegal economies on the environment: monitoring of illegal mineral mining.** Extractive illegal economies like illegal mineral mining and illegal logging typically impact communities in remote and ecologically important areas, far away from central government oversight. Data about these illegal operations are often scarce or incomplete. Geographic information, including from Earth Observation satellites, are critical for obtaining complete and detailed insights in the extent and impact of the exploitation of illegal mineral mines. In this session, various entities will demonstrate how national agencies can leverage geospatial data and techniques to detect mineral mines and to generate statistical estimates about mineral production and environmental degradation indicators. The session will include a panel discussion on data availability and the role that geospatial data can play in addressing issues around informal and illegal mines, including the impact on natural resources in a complex and vulnerable environment.

- 23 March 2023:

**Session 4: Domestic Material Consumption as an indicator of economic pressure on the environment.**

Domestic material consumption (DMC) has a high environmental significance as an indicator of the economic pressure on the environment. DMC measures the total amount of materials directly used in an economy and is based on data on domestic material extraction and physical imports and exports. In this session, experts from countries and international organisations will share their knowledge of the available guidelines and tools to support the calculation of DMC at the national level. The session will include a panel discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of the DMC methodology. The knowledge received will contribute to the development of SDG indicators 8.4.2/12.2.2 “Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP”, as well as indicators for the Circular Economy and other environmental frameworks.

**Session 5: Conclusions and Recommendations.** The session is expected to conclude with some recommendations and a summary of lessons learned during the webinar.

### **3. Organisation of the Webinar**

The meeting will be held using an online platform with English-French-Spanish Interpretation from 13:00 – 16:00 Greenwich Mean Time / Universal Coordinated Time (GMT/UTC) on each of the three days.

The national statistical offices are invited to nominate and register up to six participants per country, covering relevant organizations using the following link: [click here](#) (available until **15 February 2023**). Closer to the beginning of the webinar, all registered participants will receive a link to the webinar sessions, the final agenda and will be invited to complete short pre- and post-webinar surveys.

For any questions about the event you can contact Ekaterina Poleshchuk ([ekaterina.poleshchuk@un.org](mailto:ekaterina.poleshchuk@un.org)) from UNEP and Coen Bussink ([coen.bussink@un.org](mailto:coen.bussink@un.org)) from UNODC.