Preliminary national diagnostic for environment statistics

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National vision

Sustainable Environment aligns itself with Pillars 2 and 5 of the TSDFII, namely Outcomes:

2.1 Improved collaboration with and support to social and community group;

5.1 More equitable, sustainable and appropriate management of the use of natural resources, to maintain a steady long term flow of benefits;

5.2 Cleaner environments and less pollution from household and business activities;

5.3 Improved national and community resilience to the potential disruption and damage to wellbeing, growth and development from natural disasters, including extreme weather events, with particular focus on the likely increase in such events with climate change

5.4: Improved resilience to extreme natural events and impacts of climate change

Environmental concerns

- Solid Waste Management in Tonga / Pollution

  (Hazardous & Noxious and E-waste)

 - Resilience to Sea Level Rise

 -Decrease agricultural production

 - Energy Consumption

 - Unplanned development

 -Deforestation / Forest Degradation / Land Degradation

 -Biodiversity loss

 -Ocean resources depletion due to overfishing & impacts of climate change / Marine Pollution

 -Water resource & Quality

Policy priorities and tools

Policy Priorities

-Waste Management

-Environment Management

-Biodiversity conservation & Management

-Climate change & Disaster risk reduction

-Energy Consumption

Policy tools in place & Planned

-Environment Impact Assessment Regulation 2003

-Environment Management (Litter & Waste Control) Regulation 2016

-Park and Reserves Act 1998

-Tonga Climate Change Policy 2016

-Ozone layer protection Act 2014

-Biosafety Act 2005

Stakeholders and institutions

Stakeholders in environment sustainable development :

-Government Organization

-Non-government Organization

-Private sectors

-Overseas Development Funding Partners (GEF, UNDP, UNEP, SPREP, UNFCCC, etc…)

Role of the National Statistical office in environment statistics:

-The main role of the Tonga Statistics Department now is coordinating the national outputs required by SDGs and the Tonga Strategic Development Framework (TSDF) related to environment statistics.

This coordination involves merging of the data needs and what has to be supplied and to allocate who is doing what and when.

Data sources

-Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications

-Department of Statistics

-Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources

-Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries

-Ministry of Customs and Revenue

-Ministry of Internal Affairs

-Tonga Waste Authority Limited

-Tonga Water Board

-Ministry of Tourism

Data Source

Statistics Department is collecting environment data in:

-Census

-HIES (Household Income & Expenditure survey)

-Trade Statistics

The question now is the coverage of such collection….does it include all that is needed from climate change, oceans, water, solid waste and energy concern?

Its requires to see what data on environment are collected by other stakeholders (shifted from NSO to NSS).

Now data gap can be identifies and lastly through NSDS, the NSS will decide who is collecting what data and when.

Existing compilations

Tonga is the process of developing its 1st State of Environment Report which compiles data in regards to the thematic area and indicators.

-Government Financial Data

-Annual GDP Data

-Agricultural Census

-Population Census

-Waste Management

-Export & stock data

-Merchandise data

-MPAs & SMAs data

-Marine Spatial Planning Data

-Household income & expenditure

However there are no SEEA Accounts yet for Tonga.

Priority environment data needs

- Waste Management

-Climate change

-Marine Monitoring

-Water Resource & Quality

-Population Census

-Environment Impact Assessment

-State of Environment

- Marine Spatial Planning

-Energy Efficient Use

-Water Resources & Quality

Constraints

◦ **Coordination (which now starting to roll over – merging of demands and supply)**

◦ **Capacity – There are new thematic areas for both analytical and collection modules to be address by the producers of information related to environment statistics**

◦ **Capacity building**

-Lack of Training and skills

-Lack of resources to implement work effectively and efficiently

-Lack of staff

Constrains cont'

◦ **Data Collection**

-No sharing of data & Information

-Duplication of data due to Surveys carried out by different organizations

-Poor quality of data

◦ **Communication Channel**

◦ **Cooperation with Stakeholders**

◦ **Limited financial support**

Opportunities: Priority Actions

National Strategy for development of Statistic (NSDS)for Tonga is key action that we are now finalizing so that environment statistics needs are being captured by the National Statistical System (NSS).

- Through NSDS as a roadmap, the environment data needs will be addressed, capacity for collection of such statistics will be addressed, Statistical related policies for the National Statistical System (NSS) will be in place for sustainable delivery of environment statistics.

-Understand, Address and Prepare SEEA and Climate Change Statistics for Tonga

Opportunities: Priority Actions

-**Identify Climate change related indicators and data needs based on knowledge and skills of SEEA accounting principles**

-**Trainings & Improve Technical Assistants**

-**Increase National budget**

-**Improve Communication channel with line Ministries**

-**Sharing information & data**

-**Propose for funding opportunities and financial supports**

Good Policy is based on Good Quality Data from Visible & Realistic Accounts

Malo 'Aupito

Thank you