3. Environment and multi-domain statistics (World Bank)

3.1 Environment

Environmental Indicators

• The 2009 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. 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. Go to http://www.worldbank.org/environment and select Data & Statistics from the left navigation bar.
• The World Bank works with the UN Statistics Division in this area and continues to support initiatives in the field of environmental 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.
• The World Bank has devoted its 2010 World Development Report to Climate Change."

Priority objectives:

• 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.

3.2 Regional and small area statistics

Sub-national Statistics

New Activities

The Development Data Group of the World Bank is involved in maintaining, documenting, and incorporating sub-national data into its databases. We will be augmenting the World Development Indicators CD-ROM product to support mapping and charting of sub-national data.

Rural Development Statistics
• Rural Development Indicators Handbook presents a number of indicators based on rural economic performance, natural resource management, and rural well-being. These indicators are presented for over 200 countries, in addition to regional and income-level tables.

3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators

Infrastructure Indicators

Ongoing work:

The World Bank's Development Data Group (DECDG) along with the Sustainable Development Vice-Presidency and the various sector and regional offices are developing a core set of infrastructure indicators and systematic database covering the energy, water & sanitation, transport, and ICT sectors which will be used to monitor project, country, and global policies & performance. Country tables on ICT, sourced mainly from the ITU, can be accessed from the World Bank's external Data site.
See also: http://www.worldbank.org/data/countrydata/countrydata.html

3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues

Poverty Statistics

• New estimates of global poverty are the first re-evaluation of the World Bank's "$1 a day" poverty line since 1999. The international poverty line has been recalibrated at $1.25 a day, using new data on purchasing power parities (PPPs), compiled by the International Comparison Program, and an expanded set of household income and expenditure surveys. New measurements of the extent and depth of poverty are presented for 115 developing countries, along with poverty measurements based on their national poverty lines.

• The World Bank will continue its theoretical and practical work in the area of measuring and analysing income poverty, as well as efforts in developing tools to measure the many other dimensions of poverty. In the past few years the WB prepared a Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP) Source Book, which is designed as a handbook for the 42 PRSP countries (9 of them are in the ECE region) in developing their strategy for poverty alleviation. A considerable part of the book is focused on the issues of data on poverty, poverty measurement, and poverty monitoring.The Bank will continue maintenance and updating of databases on Poverty developed to assist countries in monitoring poverty trends and embarking on strategies to help them reduce poverty. The aim is to help countries reach the Strategy 21 goals of fostering economic well-being and social development. They include:
Poverty Monitoring Database provides quick access to comprehensive poverty information. Its main components are:
(i) Information on household surveys: key features and general information on income/consumption surveys conducted recently. The information sheets indicate whether household survey data are available to the general public. Links to the data set are provided when they are available on the web;
(ii) Poverty Assessment Summaries conducted by the World Bank since 1993;
(iii) Participatory Poverty Assessments, which provide basic information on assessments conducted by the Bank and other institutions;
PovcalNet is an interactive computational tool that allows users to replicate the calculations made by the World Bank's researchers in estimating the extent of absolute poverty in the world.
PovcalNet also allows one to calculate the poverty measures under different assumptions and to assemble the estimates using alternative country groupings or for any set of individual countries of their choosing. (http://go.worldbank.org/NT2A1XUWP0).

• Training of statisticians and policy makers on how to use household survey data for analysis and policy is and will continue to be provided by the World Bank Institute on a regional basis. Country specific training on analysis is carried out under several LSMS projects and under Poverty Assessments.

• The Bank will continue maintenance and updating of databases on Poverty developed to assist countries in monitoring poverty trends and embarking on strategies to help them reduce poverty. The aim is to help countries reach the Strategy 21 goals of fostering economic well-being and social development.
- o Poverty Monitoring Database (http://go.worldbank.org/CVC2XGIIH0)
- o Living Standards Measurement Study Survey Database http://www.worldbank.org/lsms/
- o Database on Household Expenditure and Income Data for Transitional Economies (http://go.worldbank.org/KTN5N3L4H0)
- o PovcalNet http://go.worldbank.org/NT2A1XUWP0).

See: http://www.worldbank.org/data/ for more information.

3.3.5 Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals

MDG Indicators

• In collaboration with other international agencies the World Bank is working to strengthen the system to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. At the international level, efforts are continuing to improve poverty and education data and to promote greater coordination in the compilation and dissemination of data on the MDG indicators. At the national level, efforts are under way to strengthen the capacity of countries to report on progress towards the goals and to document the statistical methods and procedures used.

• The Bank maintains a web site on Millennium Development Goals (MDG). MDGs grew out of the agreements and resolutions of world conferences organized by the United Nations.
See also: http://www.developmentgoals.org/.

• 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.

3.3.6 Sustainable development

Sustainable Development

• The World Bank contributes to the Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development (WGSSD). This group aims to develop a guidance document on developing asset-based approaches to measuring sustainable development.
• The World Bank contributes to the update of the Indicators of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development Indicators taskforce. Indicators are now classified as core and non-core and provide methodology sheets and background information to support indicator efforts in countries.

3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia

Compendia

• The Bank releases two annual publications both in hard copy and on CD-ROM, World Development Indicators and Global Development Finance. The Atlas of Global Development is distributed in hard copy. This year, it will also be available in electronic format. Selected indicators from the World Development Indicators also appear in the World Development Report, the Little Data Book, the Little Green Data Book, The Little Book on External Debt (all annual), The Little Data Book on Information, and Communication Technology, The Little Data Book on Private Sector Development, and the Little Data Book on Gender. Selected tables from these publications are available on the Bank's website: http://www.worldbank.org/data/.

DECDG also produces the online Atlas of MDGs available from http://devdata.worldbank.org/atlas-mdg/.