

Environmental Statistics

Agri-Environmental Indicators - 2017-2018

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.

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.

Now the database is publicly available online.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Russian Federation, South Africa.

Main Developments for 2018

General aspects:

To update the Agri-environmental indicators database and to migrate data to new database on statworks.

The data will be used to evaluate agricultural policies in OECD countries.

The collection and compilation of the Agri-environmental Indicators (AEIs) that started during the PWB 2015-2016 has been finished.

Now the database is publicly available online.

Environmental Data

Purpose

Produce objective, reliable and comparable environment statistics at the international level as a factual basis for the OECD's policy and analytical work on environment, sustainable development and green growth (environmental indicators, environmental country peer reviews, resource productivity, environmental outlooks, and green growth indicators).

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 partner countries in the field of information production, management and use concerning the environment, green growth and sustainable development.

Objectives and outputs

Update the OECD Core Set of Environmental Data and the OECD System of Information on Resources and the Environment (SIREN) database (available on oecd.stat and the OECD's Data Portal, structured by theme). Collect environmental data from member and selected partner countries via the OECD questionnaire on the state of the environment (joint work with Eurostat ; co-operation with UNSD and UNEP for non-OECD economies), and from other international sources (IGOs, Convention Secretariats, EU sources, national sources), including earth observations. Contribute to the international harmonisation of environmental data, definitions and concepts, and the cost-effectiveness of related international work, including through the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics - IWG-ENV-, led by UNSD, and through cooperation on environmental-economic accounting and on SDG indicators (under environment-related targets).

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Lithuania, Russian Federation, South Africa.

Main Developments for 2018

General aspects:

(1) Continued implementation of the Collaborative Plan of Action on Environmental Data Quality, linked to the "OECD Quality Framework" with efforts to improve "coherence among countries" and "interpretation", notably through the Annual Quality Assurance (AQA) of environmental reference data (i.e. data underlying key environmental indicators and green growth headline indicators): simplified annual updates, checking of prefilled data tables, improved country documentation (metadata, links to relevant national websites and documents, explanation of major trends, information on the national circumstances).

(2) Revision of the questionnaire section on environmental protection expenditure and revenues (EPER) to align it with the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) and the Eurostat questionnaire on Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts (EPEA); testing of a draft revised questionnaire with pilot countries; improvement of the coverage of biodiversity related expenditure and revenues (with Eurostat, the UNCEEA, and UNDP Biofin).

(3) Updated database for green growth indicators (OECD.stat; iLibrary; Data Portal).

(4) Continued work on the measurement of material flows and resource productivity (as part of the implementation of the OECD Council recommendations on material flows and resource productivity adopted in 2004 and 2008). Current work focuses on methodological approaches to measure demand-based material flows and resource productivity indicators (raw materials embodied in international trade using the OECD ICIO database). A consensus was reached among IGOs on the calculation methods to use. Work continues to test and refine the method, and to improve the underlying data sources (with Eurostat and UN Environment).

(5) Continued co-operation with the UNCEEA and the London Group on Environmental Accounting, and implementation of the SEEA Central Framework (OECD Task Force on the implementation of the SEEA; joint EPOC/WPEI and CSSP/WPNA project). Priority areas: GHG and air emission accounts; natural assets (in physical and monetary terms); establishment of environmentally related tax revenue accounts (link to Policy Instruments for the Environment, PINE).

(6) New database on land cover changes and conversions using geospatial data from earth observation (in cooperation with other IGOs and the Group on Earth Observations) (on oecd.stat).

(7) Updated data on the extent of protected areas using data from the WDPA (on oecd.stat).

Environmental Indicators

Purpose

Provide policy-relevant and reliable indicators for the OECD's policy and analytical work on environment, green growth and sustainable development (e.g. environmental country peer reviews, environmental outlook studies, resource productivity, sustainable development, green growth, economic analysis) and support related efforts by member and selected partner countries.

Develop core sets of environmental indicators to contribute to: measuring environmental performance with respect to environmental quality, environmental goals and international agreements (OECD Core Set of environmental indicators); integrating environmental concerns in economic and sectoral policies; monitoring progress towards sustainable development and green growth, including decoupling of environmental degradation from economic growth; measuring material flows and resource productivity (link to the OECD Council recommendations on material flows and resource productivity adopted in 2004 and 2008); informing the public about major environmental trends and conditions (key environmental indicators); informing the public about progress towards green growth (green growth headline indicators).

Objectives and outputs

I-Environmental indicators:

Support the work of the OECD Environmental Policy Committee and its subsidiary bodies, in particular country peer reviews.

Update, improve and publish indicators to monitor environmental progress and policy integration: core set indicators; agri-environmental indicators (see related activity description); material flow and resource productivity indicators for international use at various levels of detail/aggregation.

II-Green growth indicators:

Support OECD work on green growth, in particular country studies, structural policy surveillance and policy analysis of particular issues.

Update, improve and publish indicators to monitor progress with green growth (first report published in 2011 as part of the OECD Green Growth Strategy; second report published in 2014; third report published in June 2017).

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Lithuania, Peru, Russian Federation, South Africa.

Main Developments for 2018

General aspects:

OECD Core Set of environmental indicators: further development of indicators on land and soil resources (land cover conversions; soil organic carbon; etc.); environmental quality of life (e.g. population exposure to air pollution); protected areas (using the WDPA and a new methodology to eliminate double-counting). See also "Environmental Data".

Updated OECD key environmental indicators (KEI) and country profiles for use in country peer reviews. Updated set of indicators to monitor progress with green growth, including green growth headline indicators, and updated GG database (link to the implementation of the OECD Green Growth Strategy; available on OECD.stat). Applications of the OECD GG indicator set and framework in non-member countries (e.g. China, countries of the EECCA region, e.g. Kazakhstan).

Continued statistical and methodological work on green growth headline indicators: material productivity (production- and demand-based); environmentally adjusted multifactor productivity (EAMFP); natural resource index (cooperation with the WB; link to work by the OECD Task Force on the implementation of the SEEA); land cover; population exposure to air pollution.

Continued work on indicators on biological diversity with emphasis on biodiversity related expenditure (cf. Environmental Data) and policy instruments (cf. PINE database). Updated land cover indicators derived from geospatial data (in support of environmental performance reviews and work on green growth).

Continued work on indicators on material flows and resource productivity with emphasis on raw materials embodied in trade (demand-based indicators or footprints): common input-output database, agreement on measurement approaches and calculation methods (in cooperation with UN Environment IRP and Eurostat).

OECD Inventory of Support Measures for Fossil Fuels

Purpose

The OECD Inventory of Support Measures for Fossil Fuels identifies, documents and estimates direct budgetary support and tax expenditures supporting the production or consumption of fossil fuels in OECD countries and eight large partner economies (Argentina, Brazil, the People's Republic of China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, and South Africa).

Objectives and outputs

In 2018 we will proceed with the collection of updated data.

Currently, the new data is released to the public on a biennial basis.

The release of the publication "Companion to the Inventory of Support Measures for Fossil Fuels 2017" is planned for early 2018.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, South Africa.

Main Developments for 2018

General aspects:

The database contains not only quantitative but equally important qualitative information describing each fossil fuel support measure.

We are currently investigating the possibility to integrate this database with the IEA database on the same topic (which actually covers almost exclusively non-member countries).

Policy Instruments for the Environment (PINE)

Purpose

Provide harmonised information on environmentally related taxes and other instruments used for environmental policy (including natural resource management).

Support of OECD policy and analytical work on the environment, green growth and sustainable development, including country reviews. Inform policy assessments and the development of guidance for effective policy implementation.

Objectives and outputs

The aim of the OECD database on Policy Instruments for the environment (PINE) is to provide information on various types of instruments applied in OECD member countries and in other countries.

Originally focused on environmentally related taxes, in particular, pollution-oriented levies and tax-bases, the scope of the PINE database has been progressively expanded to cover levies associated with resource management, and other instruments such as tradable permit systems, environmentally motivated subsidies, deposit-refund systems and voluntary approaches used for environmental policy.

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, as well as management of water, land, soil, forests, biodiversity, wildlife and fish stocks.

The database covers OECD member and accession countries, as well as many non-member economies, including Brazil, China, Colombia, India and South Africa.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Albania, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Main Developments for 2018

General aspects:

The PINE database is being expanded to better cover biodiversity related instruments. Exploratory work on how best to allocate revenues from the application of the policy instruments to paying and receiving industries is being carried out.

A further broadening of both country and instrument coverage is expected.

Work on the establishment of environmental tax revenue accounts in line with the SEEA is being initiated (with pilot countries; cooperation with Eurostat).

Cooperation with other international organisations carrying out related work is being strengthened (Eurostat, UNDP-Biofin, GGKP).