

Framework of OECD work on environmental data and indicators

Environment at a Glance presents selected environmental indicators. The report shows the progress that OECD countries have made since the 1990s in addressing a range of environmental challenges. These include air and water pollution, waste management, and the protection of biodiversity and other natural assets.

The indicators in this report are those that are regularly used in the OECD's work and for which data are available for a majority of OECD countries.

For more than 30 years, the OECD has prepared harmonised international data and sets of indicators on the environment, assisted countries to improve their environmental information systems. The main aims of this work have been to:

- Measure environmental progress and performance.
- Monitor and promote policy integration, in particular, the integration of environmental considerations into policy sectors, such as transport, energy and agriculture, and into economic policies more broadly.
- Help monitor progress towards sustainable development and green growth by measuring the extent of decoupling of environmental pressure from economic growth.

The OECD approach to indicators is based on the view that:

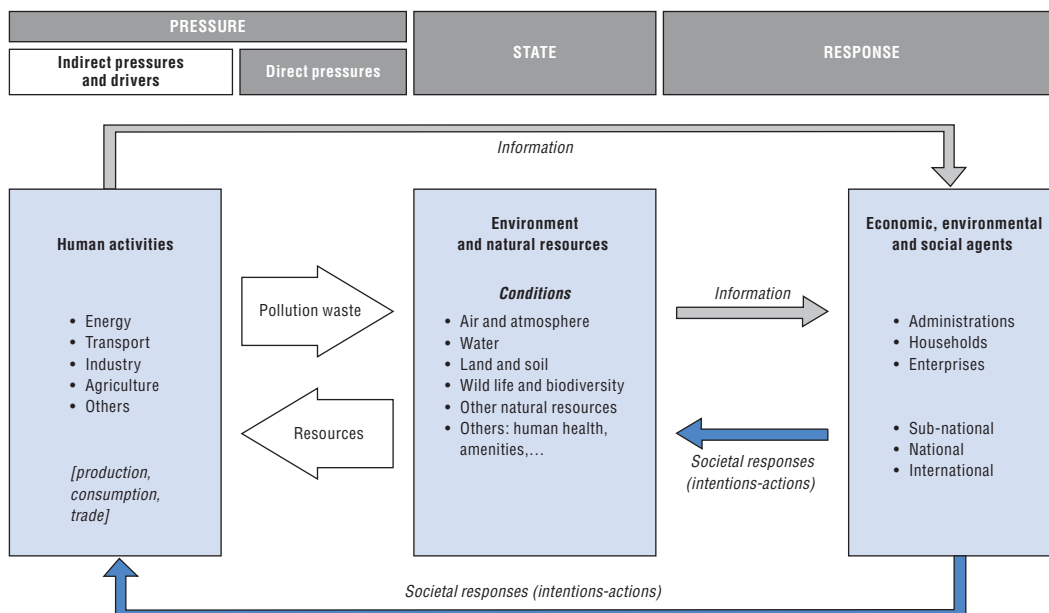
- There is no unique set of indicators; whether a given set of indicators is appropriate depends on its use.
- Indicators are only one tool among others and generally should be used with other information in order to draw robust conclusions.
- OECD environmental indicators are relatively small sets of indicators that have been identified for use at the international level, and should be complemented by national indicators when examining issues at national level.

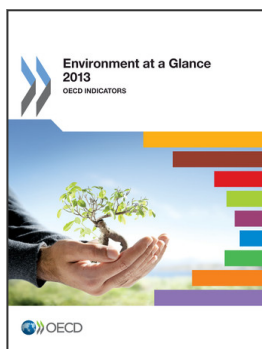
The programme builds on agreement by OECD member countries to:

- Use the pressure-state-response (PSR) model as a common reference framework.
- Identify indicators on the basis of their policy relevance, analytical soundness and measurability.
- Use the OECD approach and adapt it to their national circumstances.

The development of environmental indicators in OECD has been grounded in the practical experience of OECD countries. Their development has benefited from strong support from member countries, and their representatives in the OECD Working Party on Environmental Information. OECD work on indicators also benefits from close co-operation with other international organisations, notably the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and United Nations regional offices, the United Nations Environment programme (UNEP), the World Bank, the European Union (including Eurostat and the European Environment Agency), as well as international institutes.

The OECD Pressure-State-Response model





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