The Use of Population Census Data for Environmental Analysis

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Main facts

- Censuses provide information that can be used for climate change both for mitigation and adaptation policies.

- In spite of the above, Census data from last rounds of censuses have not been fully used for environmental analysis.

- The new round of census 2010 offers an opportunity that can not be missed.

- We could be missing this opportunity unless we take actions to promote a better and wider use and support NSO in this endeavor.
What explain the limited use

- Particular limitations of censuses:
  - Timing (each 10 years).
  - Relevance of specific questions (and categories) included.

- Quality:
  - Census coverage

- Availability of data:
  - Access to micro data

- Definition of census areas
  - Size of smaller areas for which data is available
  - Comparability with previous censuses
ADVANTAGES

- Census provide **disaggregated data**. There is not another source.

- Good news:
  - Software available (i.e. REDATAM)
  - NSO offices are becoming increasingly aware of the relevance of good a good statistical system
Possibilities and examples:
Two entry points

- Population and housing data not collected specifically for environment
- Data from specific questions
Possibilities and examples:
Population and housing data not collected specifically for environment

Exposition: Population size and growth
- Linking population to geography: Density; Slums; LECZ; Drylands; etc.
- Demographic determinants of influencing population growth by area (fertility, mortality and migration)

Socio-economic and demographic vulnerability:
- Socio-economic characteristics of the population (i.e living in cities: education, occupation, income, etc.)
- Demographic characteristics: sex, age, household type; etc.

Impacts:
- Migration (environmentally induced).
- Other socio-economic and demographic changes
Possibilities and examples: Data from specific questions

- **Source of Energy for Cooking and Lighting**
  - Type of energy used for heating
  - Availability of piped gas

- **Waste Disposal**

- **Access to Water and Sanitation**
  - Toilet facilities, etc.

- **Type of dwelling**
  - Year of construction
  - Material used in the walls, floor and roof
  - Assets in the households
  - Property tenure
Recommendations

(1) Ensure that relevant questions are included in the censuses or those usually included is adequate to current needs.

- The process of design of the questionnaire and the plan of analysis of census data must involve researchers and policy makers working in the mitigation and adaptation plans.
- New questions must eventually be added in order to measure specific vulnerabilities associated to climate changes (i.e. in the case of a recent environmentally-induced disaster).
- The categories for questions that focus specifically on environmental can be adapted to the national needs.
Recommendations

(2) Ensure that census data are collected and processed to facilitate detailed analysis at very small areas.

☐ NSO should consider environmental areas in the definition of census areas.

☐ NSO should keep record of census areas to allows for inter census comparison.
Recommendations

(3) Ensure that census data are made available, disseminated, analyzed and used for national mitigation and adaptation policies

- Create awareness: Advocate for a more extensive access to data for detailed analysis at the local level
- Capacity building. Provide instruments and capacity building for NSO
- Make census data useful by disseminating good practices
- Promote a closer work between different ministries with NSO and between agencies.
The way forward:
The UNFPA perspective

- Elaborate a Manual (practical guide) on the use of census
- Collaborate with other agencies and UN DESA in developing further this links between census data and environment (still not fully developed)
Ecuador
- Censo de Población y de Vivienda Galápagos 2006
- VI Censo de Población y V de Vivienda 2001
- V Censo de Población y IV de Vivienda 1990

Honduras
- XVI Censo de Población y V de Vivienda 2001

México
- II Censo de Población y Vivienda 2005

Nicaragua
- Nicaragua - Censo de Población y Vivienda - 2005

Panamá
- Censo de Población y Vivienda 2000 - Jerarquía Censal
- Censo de Población y Vivienda 2000 - Lugas Poblados
- Censo de Población y Vivienda 1980 - Jerarquía Censal

Paraguay
- Censo Nacional de Población y Viviendas 2002

Perú
- Perú - Sistema de Recuperación de Datos de los Censos Nacionales

Venezuela
- Venezuela - Sistema Integrado de Indicadores Sociales para Venezuela (SISOV)

El Caribe / The Caribbean
Census en línea / On Line census - Windows Internet Explorer

Paraguay

Censo Nacional de Población y Viviendas 2002

Perú

Perú - Sistema de Recuperación de Datos de los Censos Nacionales

Venezuela

Venezuela - Sistema Integrado de Indicadores Sociales para Venezuela (SIOSV)

El Caribe / The Caribbean

Belize

2000 Housing and Population Census

República Dominicana

Censo de Población y Vivienda 2002
Censo de Población y Vivienda 1981 - Muestra

Santa Lucía

Census 2001: A Count 4 Everyone

Trinidad y Tobago

2000 Housing and Population Census

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