

[\[Version française \]](#)

Executive summary

In agreement with the recommendations from the United Nations conference on the environment and development in Rio 1991, Senegal is sincerely engaged in the process of implementing the necessary political and programs with the overall objective to achieve a sustainable improvement of the livelihood of the population. It is thus only Senegal that has taken active part in all steps in the elaboration of the international conventions, the ratification and the implementation. The past creation of the following important documents contributes to this effort: The National Environmental Action Plan (PNAE), The National Action Program against the Desertification (PAN/LCD) and the Biodiversity Strategy for Senegal.

The implementation of the different proposed actions within the mentioned programs, must be based on the use of pertinent, reliable and up-to-date data. Furthermore, the need for readily available and reliable environmental information is progressively growing as a consequence of the increased pressure on the natural resources. However, it is reckoned that the general consciousness of which data are available, where they are physically located and how they can be accessed, is not a part of the present day context.

The Ministry of Environment has consequently initialized the elaboration of the document "A Guide to the Environment and the Natural Resources in Senegal" with two objectives; firstly to evaluate the environmental constraints as described below, and secondly, to obtain a consensus on base line data and subsequently make them available for all current studies and research being done on the state of the country's environment. The Centre de Suivi Ecologique has been given the mandate to coordinate and execute this work by The Ministry of Environment. The elaboration of this document has called for a broad collaboration among all relevant technical departments and research institutes possessing or analysing environmental data.

The selection of data and the choice of methods

A dynamic participative and interactive approach were adopted. Initially, a workshop was organized and attended by some 25 technical institutions, representing various government departments and ministries. During this workshop, the objectives for the environmental guide were elaborated and pertinent data describing the natural resources and the economic, social and demographic situations, were identified. In order to facilitate the collection of data, focal points were identified at the relevant national institutions and an inter-ministerial

pilot committee was established with the task of coordinating the work.

It was decided to collect exclusively validated and homogeneous data from the national technical institutions and departments. However, this made it difficult to compile national data being representative at the smallest administration units. Consequently, in the future it will be wise to include as well data from regional and local projects. Furthermore, because only the available data were collected, there is still room for improvement of these. The quality and consistency of data depend to a large extent on the objectives of the institution responsible for the data collection.

Upon the first phase of collecting data, a draft report was written jointly by the focal points and the pilot committee. The analysis of the draft permitted to identify additional data to be collected and to conclude the preliminary version. Subsequently, the report was presented at a validation workshop, where all initial stakeholders participated. The objective of this meeting was to validate the information content, decide on how to distribute the report and ultimately to make a plan for the following updating of the Guide to the Environment and the Natural Resources in Senegal.

The presentation of the data

The data presented in the environmental guide are naturally very heterogeneous. However, this diversity of information is considered as the main asset of the document. In order to facilitate the exploitation of the environmental guide, the information is presented whenever possible in three paragraphs: summary, metadata and information.

The summary presents the data along with comments. This is the only paragraph, where the editors have contributed with text and information. The two remaining paragraphs are exclusively provided by the responsible institutions.

The metadata presents information about the data. The following subjects are addressed:

- the data available ;
- the representation in time ;
- mean, max and min values ;
- method employed for measuring or calculation ;
- the lacunas ;
- the institution collecting and being responsible for the data ;
- the source document ;

- how the data are presented on a map or as graphics ;
- the spatial representation.

This is the general frame for the data presentation, however, with some exceptions, such as the sampling of data from mine- and fossil fuel exploitation.

The information

This paragraph presents all the data or a part of it. Only one single table relating to the previous paragraph is presented. Very diverse information can be presented here, however always strictly related to the source with an appropriate reference.

The document

The document is composed of four parts. After the [foreword](#) and the executive summary, the first part is devoted to [Senegal's context](#) ; the second part is dealing with the [principal natural resources](#) related to: [hydrology](#), [soils](#), [forest](#), [fisheries](#), [mining](#) and [fossil energy](#).

The third part is devoted to [socio-demographic](#), [health](#), [housing and the removal of refuse](#). The fourth part is dealing with the [socioeconomic aspects](#) of [agriculture](#), [industry](#), [transport](#) and [tourism](#).

For each sector, it is indicated which institution that has the mandate to collect the data. Wherever it is possible, some samples of data are presented along with the metadata.

The conclusion of the document includes recommendations for the improvement of the following version.

http://www.cse.sn/annuaire/resume_eng.htm