

# Section 4 : Means of Implementation

## Chapter 40

### Information for Decision-Making

#### A. Bridging the data gap

More data needs to be collected on the planet's ecosystem, natural resources, pollution and socio-economic variables. At present, the limited quality and quantity of data coupled with its poor dissemination, impairs the capacities of countries to make informed decisions. Existing indicators such as gross national product (GNP) are inadequate indicators of sustainability.

#### Objectives

To:-

- increase the effectiveness of data collection by identifying the data requirements of the end users.
- strengthen institutional capacity to collect and analyse data, and use the data in decision-making.

#### Activities

Governments and other relevant organisations should:

- develop sustainable development indicators for use in national accounts
- develop indicators for international resources such as the high seas and upper atmosphere
- improve data collection and analysis for decision-making
- integrate environment and development information

#### B. Improving availability of information

There already exists a wealth of data and information that could be used for sustainable development. This information is often difficult to use or difficult and expensive to access.

#### Objective

Mechanisms for information processing and exchange need to be strengthened to ensure effective and equitable availability of information.

#### Activities

Governments and other relevant organisations should:

- review and strengthen information systems and services in sectors related to sustainable development
- develop mechanisms to transform scientific and socioeconomic data into information suitable for planning and the public
- develop mechanisms for the exchange of information at all levels of Government
- establish electronic networks to enable information sharing, and facilitate access to databases.