

62. Vulnerable population groups should be identified (such as rural landless workers, ethnic minorities, refugees, migrants, displaced people, women heads of household) whose changes in demographic structure may have specific impacts on sustainable development.

63. An assessment should be made of the implications of the age structure of the population on resource demand and dependency burdens, ranging from educational expenses for the young, to health care and support for the elderly, and household income generation.

64. An assessment should also be made of national population carrying capacity in the context of satisfaction of human needs and sustainable development, and give special attention to critical resources, such as water and land, and environmental factors, such as ecosystem health and biodiversity.

65. The impact of national demographic trends and factors on the traditional livelihoods of indigenous groups and local communities, including changes in traditional land use because of internal population pressures, should be studied.

(b) Build and strengthen a national information base

66. National databases on demographic trends and factors and environment should be built and/or strengthened, disaggregating data by ecological region (ecosystem approach) and population/environment profiles established by region.

67. Methodologies and instruments should be developed to identify areas where sustainability is, or may be, threatened by the environmental effects of demographic trends and factors, incorporating both current and projected demographic data linked to natural environmental processes.

68. Case studies should be developed of local level responses by different groups to demographic dynamics particularly in areas subject to environmental stress and deteriorating urban centres.

69. Population data should be disaggregated by, inter alia, sex and age in order to take into account the implications of the gender division of labour for the use and management of natural resources.

(c) Incorporate demographic features into policy and plans

70. In formulating human settlements policies, account should be taken of the resource needs, waste production and ecosystem health.

71. The direct and induced effects of demographic changes in environment and development programmes should, where appropriate, be integrated, and the impact on demographic features assessed.