Chapter 6

**Environment**

The conservation of environment is one of the four pillars of Bhutan’s development philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH). Accordingly the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) has been putting constant effort in protecting the environment and the priority has been in the sustainable use of natural resources in all its policies, plans and programs.

This chapter presents statistics which are related to environment. The statistics presented here are not so comprehensive particularly from the point that some of the statistics are already presented under other chapters. However, the statistics collected and presented in this chapter are organized based on the broad Framework for Development of Environmental Statistics (FDES) provided by the United Nations Statistics Division. The six components of FDES, namely, environmental conditions & quality, environmental resources & their use, emissions, residuals & waste, extreme events & disasters, human habitat & environmental health, environmental protection, management & engagement have been used to gather statistics from different sources.

The chapter on Environment Statistics gives a general statistics on atmosphere, climate & weather, hydrographic characteristics, geological & geographic information, land cover, biodiversity and forest. It also gives statistics on extraction & trade of mineral, production & use of energy, land use, timber resources & their use, crops, livestock, water resources, emissions of greenhouse gases, occurrence & impact of natural extreme events & disasters, urban & rural population, water & sanitation, other urban habitat concerns and government environmental protection & resource management expenditures.