Capacity Building Activities for Environmental-Economic Accounting at Statistics Canada

20th meeting of the London Group

October 15-17, 2014, New Delhi

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Main Issues

- Staffing
- Links with data users
- The policy environment
- Knowledge of the availability of the accounts
- Education and training
Staffing

- Primarily generic competitive processes at Statistics Canada

  Active participation in the recruitment processes and staffing planning discussions to ensure that screening criteria are set so that those with appropriate backgrounds (e.g. GIS, environmental studies, etc.) can make it into the competitive process at the outset.
Links with other government departments and data users

- Policy demand for environmental-economic accounts is a very important way to ensure they are both used and produced.

Supply and demand dimension for data.

To help foster this engagement, Statistics Canada has initiated an outreach process to encourage inter-departmental dialogue.
A supportive policy environment is helpful to building capacity for the production of environmental-economic accounts.

Keep SEEA on the radar, since its status and context is helpful for capacity building and can be encouraged through further harmonisation of these efforts internationally.
Knowledge of the availability of the accounts

• For researchers and analysts to use the accounts, they have to know they exist and how to use them.

Exploit the standard dissemination vehicles for releasing data to the public, showcase accounts where appropriate, and use social media to better inform Canadians of our outputs.

Engage in interdepartmental and public outreach activities.
Education

•Linked with the knowledge of the availability of the accounts is their use in the education system and for subject-matter training.

  Development of teacher’s kits that provide lesson plans linking environmental accounts and survey data to the school curriculum requirements.

  Participation in generalised staff training.

  Provide expert assistance to the UN (SEEA and SNA) and to other countries.
Working better together

• Through participation in UNSD initiatives, UNCEEA, the OECD Working Party on Environmental Information, various technical groups and task forces, the Council of European Statisticians, the London and Oslo Groups, etc. our expertise is both shared and improved.

Support more formal methods of training and staff exchange. Statistics Canada management through our International Cooperation Division, is willing to be part of those discussions moving forward.
Questions?

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