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Environmental-economic accounting at Statistics Canada

**Tenth meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on
Environmental-Economic Accounting
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Presentation outline

- Overview of Statistics Canada's work on environmental-economic accounts
- Statistics Canada's international activities
- Institutional arrangements and modernization of statistical production processes
- Challenges to the environmental-economic accounts program



Current environmental-economic accounts

- Physical flow accounts
 - energy use
 - greenhouse gas emissions
 - water use

- Natural capital asset accounts
 - energy and mineral reserves (physical and monetary)
 - timber stocks (monetary only)



New accounts

- Using recent investments in the environmental statistics program, the following accounts will be released starting in 2015-16:
 - Annual land cover/land use change, with an initial focus on Canadian Census Metropolitan Areas
 - Annual renewable freshwater stocks (1971 – 2011)
- Both accounts are compatible with SEEA EEA and CF concepts.



Research and development

Feasibility studies:

- Supply and use of environmental protection expenditure account
- Physical flow account for solid waste
- Improving sector estimates in existing physical flow accounts for energy/GHG (i.e., institutional and commercial sector)
- Also working on a proposal to secure funding for a natural resources satellite account



Statistics Canada's international role

- Chair of London Group
- Member of UNSD Technical Committee on SEEA CF: review of Technical Notes
- Active participation in development of SEEA EEA: Expert Forum and review of Technical Guidance document
- Development and delivery of material for the “Training of Trainers” initiative
- Participation in regional workshops for both SEEA CF and SEEA EEA
- Pilot country for SEEA AFF



Institutional arrangements

Features of business stats program at StatCan

- Standardized corporate business architecture
- Metadata driven processes
- Large focus on administrative data
- Centralized business register
- Generalized and modular systems (edit, imputation, estimation)



Institutional arrangements

Optimized use of administrative data

- New corporate approach to the use of administrative data
- Use of administrative data within the environment accounts has always been significant
- New land and water yield accounts will extensively and regularly use biophysical and geospatial data (e.g., stream-flow gauging data collected by Environment Canada)
- Administrative data is a major part of R&D related to new accounts



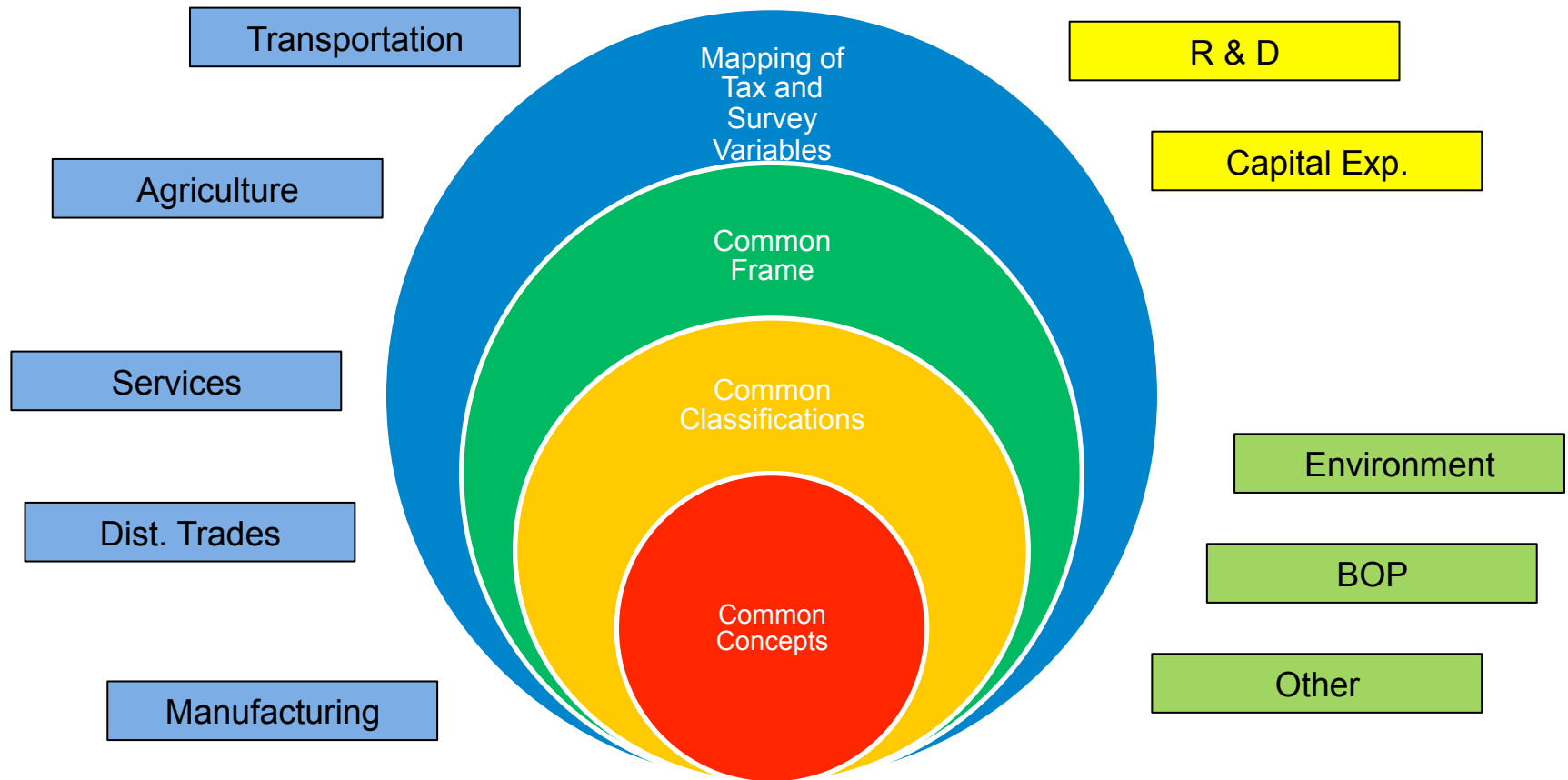
Institutional arrangements

Modernization of statistical production processes

- Statistics Canada's Integrated Business Statistics Program (IBSP) provides a generic model for the production of economic statistics
- The energy feeder surveys for the environmental-economic accounts will start this year to adhere to the IBSP model. The water use surveys will move to IBSP in 2018-19



Integrated Business Statistics Program





Challenges

- No clear link to legislation, such as the regulations driving accounts in the EU
- Starting to work more with outside data providers, to find more opportunities for data integration
- Requests for geographical disaggregation of accounts
- Data produced elsewhere are not necessarily produced with time series in mind



Thank you!

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