

Roadmaps for climate change-related statistics

Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics

5-7 October 2016
UNECE, Geneva

Robert Smith, Principal, Midsummer Analytics and Co-Chair UNECE Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics

midsummer.ca



Why this session?

- At the 2015 Expert Forum there was a request to prepare “generic” roadmaps for climate change-related statistics
 - Want to share the generic roadmaps
- Also want to share some examples of what actual roadmaps look like
 - Presentations from Canada and Kazakhstan
- Finally, want to share feedback from a survey of NSOs and GHG inventory compilers with results that are relevant to the development of roadmaps



Why produce statistical roadmaps?

- To avoid producing statistics on an “ad hoc” basis
 - Preparing a roadmap requires:
 - Thinking about what the real priorities are
 - Understanding what data exist and where the gaps are
 - Discussions with partners and other stakeholders to learn about their needs and challenges
 - Realistically considering all this in the context of available resources and competing priorities
 - The result should be a plan to produce statistics that will meet real needs in the most efficient way possible



A success story – Health statistics roadmap for in Canada



- In the late 1990s, Statistics Canada realized that its health statistics did not meet users’ needs
- Among the priorities identified were the need for:
 - Better information on current and emerging health issues
 - Consensus on common data and technical standards
 - Solutions to fragmented or incomplete data
 - Improved health information for analysis
 - Better dissemination of health information
- Sound familiar?



Creating the health roadmap



- Some 550 stakeholders brought together to identify Canada's health information needs in 1998
- The result of these consultations was a national vision and action plan for health information
- The federal government then identified a number of specific priority projects and earmarked \$95 million over the four years
- The roadmap was a collaboration between Statistics Canada and a variety of health agencies
- A variety of advisory structures were created to guide individual projects and the overall implementation of the roadmap
- Considerable effort went to ensuring that the roadmap avoided duplication of effort



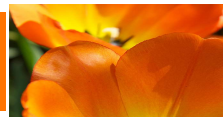
Evaluating the roadmap's success



- An evaluation conducted in 2006 by IBM concluded that without the roadmap:
 - reliable inter-provincial comparisons would be nearly impossible
 - public debate on health care would deteriorate
 - There would be fewer insights into best practices
 - Costs would rise as health providers would need to collect their own data



Generic roadmaps for climate change statistics



- Three generic roadmaps have been prepared for fictional countries
 - Non-Annex I country with limited statistical capacity
 - Annex I country with moderate statistical resources
 - Annex I country with advanced statistical resources
- The roadmaps were prepared using the Excel-based tool for prioritizing the CES recommendations
- The draft roadmaps can be found [here](#)
- The Excel prioritization tool can be found [here](#)



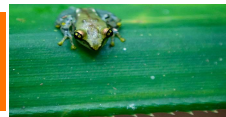
Excel tool output



CES Recommendations related to other climate change-related statistics	Cost to implement	Time to implement	Impact on data quality if implemented	Recommended timeframe for implementation	
	Rating 1=low 2=medium 3=high	Rating 1=low 2=medium 3=high	Rating 1=high 2=medium 3=low		
NSOs must improve the contribution of official statistics to climate change analysis by, among other things, facilitating access to existing statistics					
4.1	Create national forums or events for discussions between users and producers of climate change statistics	1	2	1	Start now
4.2	Promote the use of existing official statistics	1	2	3	Start within two years
4.3	Provide access to climate change-related statistics (including scientific data collected by others) using NSOs' dissemination channels	3	3	2	Start within three years
4.4	Improve access to microdata for researchers working on climate change	2	2	2	Start within two years
The usefulness of existing environmental, social and economic statistics for climate change analysis should be improved					
5.1	Review statistical programs and data collections from the viewpoint of the data needs of climate change analysis	1	2	2	Start as soon as possible
5.2	Address the difficulties in matching data from different statistical domains	1	2	2	Start as soon as possible
5.3	Geo-reference all relevant data to support analysis of the spatial dimension of data linked to climate change	3	3	2	Start within three years
5.4	Produce statistics for new geographical areas	3	3	2	Start within three years
NSOs should consider development of new statistics based on a review of the key data needs of climate change policy makers and analysts in their country					
6.1	Improve data for analyzing drivers of climate change	3	3	2	Start within three years
6.2	Develop statistics on the use of economic instruments	NA	NA	NA	No action needed
6.3	Develop statistics to address climate change adaptation	3	3	1	Start within three years
6.4	Consider how to contribute to the on-going efforts to monitor biodiversity and ecosystems	3	3	2	Start within three years



Generic roadmaps for climate change statistics



- Each roadmap covers
 - Data for GHG inventories
 - Data for other climate change analytical needs
 - Statistical infrastructure needed to meet the needs for climate change-related statistics



To summarize

- Roadmaps help avoid “ad hoc” data collection
- Roadmaps offer an opportunity to bring stakeholders together to discuss data needs
- Roadmaps can make it easier for treasury departments to allocate funds for statistics
- There is evidence that roadmaps work



Questions for the session

- Has your agency created a roadmap in any area of statistics? If so, what was the result?
- Has your agency created a roadmap for climate change-related statistics? If so, what was the result?
- Has your agency thought about creating a roadmap for climate change-related statistics but not done so? If so, why not?



Thank you

Robert Smith, Principal
Midsummer Analytics
+1-613-716-5230
rob@midsummer.ca

