How can official statistics support the IPCC's work?

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Structure of Presentation

- Background to IPCC's work
- Key statistical inputs into their models
- Some (statistical) criticisms of the Fourth Assessment Round
- Key areas where official statistical community can assist
- A suggested way forward

Definition of Official Statistcs

- Includes statistical offices within Ministries
- Includes international agencies
- Excludes statistical modellers working at research institutes

Climate Change Scenarios

- A1 - very rapid economic growth, global population peaking in mid century, economic convergence, rapid introduction of new technologies
- A1FI – fossil intensive
- A1T – non-fossil energy sources
- A1B – balanced

- A2 – heterogeneous world, regional based development, continually increasing population

Climate Change Scenarios

- B1 – Similar to A1 but change towards a service and information economy with reductions in material intensity

- B2 – Similar to A2 but population increases at a slower rate and intermediate levels of economic development

Key Variables in Scenarios

- Economic Growth
- Population Growth
- Energy Intensity
- Carbon Intensity in Energy Used

Statistical Criticisms of Fourth Assessment Round

- Economic Growth Rates too high because of non-use of PPPs and assumption of economic convergence
- Population Growth Rates too high

Why does it matter?

- Need best possible evidence base to support analysis of impacts, and to assess adaptation and mitigation strategies

Where might official statistics assist?

- Population Projections
- Economic Growth Projections
- Application of Purchasing Power Parities
- Energy Use and Carbon Intensity Statistics
- Land Use/Cover Data
- Assessing cost of emission strategies

A Way Forward

- Involve an experienced official statistician in the development of the climate change scenarios