



Capacity building for environmental accounts and statistics

statistics for informed

Mark Lound, ABS Centre of Environment Statistics
London Group meeting New Delhi, India
15 – 17 October 2014

Background

- Environmental accounting and related statistics is a complex and relatively new field.
- Draws on specialist knowledge & skills across multiple disciplines.
- Ensuring the capacity to produce and develop Environmental Accounts (EAs) is challenging.

Background cont...

- Multidisciplinary nature of EAs means it requires a mix of skills and experience to support its progress
- Currently minimal levels of staff experience in the ABS or elsewhere.
- The presentation outlines ABS activities aimed at capacity development for EAs, with a view to improvements.

Developing ABS capacity:

Building knowledge

- *On the job training* – learning by doing
- *Informal seminars* on SEEA and related statistics
- *Formal courses* – in house and external
- *International seminars and conferences*
 - London Group
 - Completing the Picture
 - Membership of UNSC Expert Groups
- *International support*
 - WAVES

Developing ABS capacity:

Sourcing knowledge

- ***Internal secondment***
 - Rich source of specialist knowledge, particularly for the CES research programme
- ***Staff exchanges and collaborations***
 - ABS benefited from the exchange of staff from both national and international statistical agencies
- ***Summer students***
 - Provided the environment area with graduates that possess a range of skills and knowledge

Capacity building efforts internationally: **WAVES**

- The ABS has received funding to support the implementation of SEEA in Asia
- International WAVES engagement in ecosystem and environmental accounting
- Developing partner countries:
 - The Philippines
 - Vietnam
 - Indonesia

Capacity building efforts internationally: **WAVES cont...**

The Philippines

- Regular tele- and video-conferencing with TWGs
- Six-monthly visits to give hands on assistance and to deliver formal training
- Beginning fortnightly parallel-work sessions

Vietnam

- Land Accounts training delivered in March 2014

Indonesia

- ABS awaiting results of Indonesian scoping exercises before tailoring EAs training to the country's needs

Capacity building efforts internationally:

Samoa

- ABS participated in a UN hosted regional training forums
- Representatives from across national and international organisations contributed
- Combined training on SNA with SEEA training
- Provided an opportunity to both help Samoa form a national strategy and also to test the materials in a national setting.

Capacity building internationally: **In house visits**

- ABS hosted delegations from several statistical offices
- Provided training and support on the construction and population of various environmental accounts
- These have included:
 - The Philippines - Mineral/Energy stock accounts
 - Samoa - Water flow accounts
 - Malaysia - Energy stock/flow accounts
 - Botswana - land and water accounts
 - Uganda - land and water accounts
 - Mongolia - General overview
 - China - General Overview

Key messages

- Building statistical capability is very important for countries to develop their own EA programmes
- Capability training often has a low priority with the focus on producing accounts
- There are a number of ways that this can be undertaken including formal training, on the job training and staff exchanges
- International capacity building efforts (WAVES) provides operational staff opportunities to develop
- With NSOs facing increasing pressures on their budgets, the focus should be directed to cost effective initiatives
- International collaborations are essential so that efforts are not duplicated