Development of Material for Policy Uses and Applications

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Overview of presentation

- Background

- Review of accounts uses

- Increasing the understanding of the link between policy and information

- New materials and a process of engagement

WAVES

Background

- Examples of policy use are needed to promote the understanding, implementation and increased use of environmental and ecosystem accounts

- Relatively few examples and those available are from the perspective of account producers ("information push")

- Need to better understand decision-makers and policy analysis needs to generate greater demand ("policy pull")
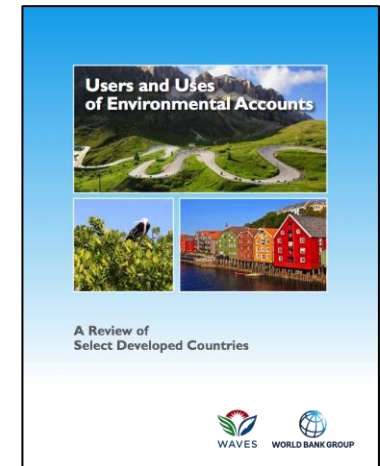
WAVES

Smith (2014)

- Developed country focus (Australia, Canada, Sweden, etc.)

- Country by country

SEEA – Applications and Extensions

- By types of uses (intensity indicators, analysis, modelling, etc.)

Both used material collected from the account producers

Range of other material

Useful to analyse the material further including developing the classifications of:

- Users

- Types of uses

- Purpose of uses

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Policy and information

OECD (2012) Review of the Implementation of the OECD Environmental Strategy for the First Decade of the 21st Century (p. 89)

> "A common challenge is to design environmental information systems so as to respond to the needs of decision makers, and to avoid a supply- or technology-driven approach."

http://www.oecd.org/env/50032165.pdf

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Three stakeholder groups

Head (2008)

- Systematic research (science, economics)

- Program management experience (public service)

- Political judgement

Each has there own knowledge and experience and hence "multiple sets of evidence that inform and influence policy rather than determine it"

Head, B.W. 2008. Three lenses of Evidenced Based Policy. Australian Journal of Public Affairs 67: 1-11.

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Different uses of information

Hezri and Dovers (2006)

- Instrumental: direct link exists between information and an actual decision.

- Conceptual: information sensitizes users to new problems and perspectives, but cannot be linked to specific policy decisions *per se*.

- Tactical: information are used as a delaying tactic, substitute for decision or actions, or to deflect criticism.

- Symbolic: information is used as an assurance that something is being done.

- Political: information is used to support predetermined positions or arguments.

Hezri, AA. And Dovers, SR. 2006. Sustainability indicators, policy and governance: issues for ecological economics. Ecological Economics. 60: 86-99.

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- Need to move beyond identifying issues at the start to an on-going interaction

- Need to be able to connect with policy makers in terms that they are familiar

- Policy makers do not do training!

- Policy briefings – presenting the material we have in contexts which they are familiar to generate thoughts and discussion

- Policy roundtables

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- Australia?

- UK?

- Netherlands?

- USA?

- WAVES implementing countries – Philippines?

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