

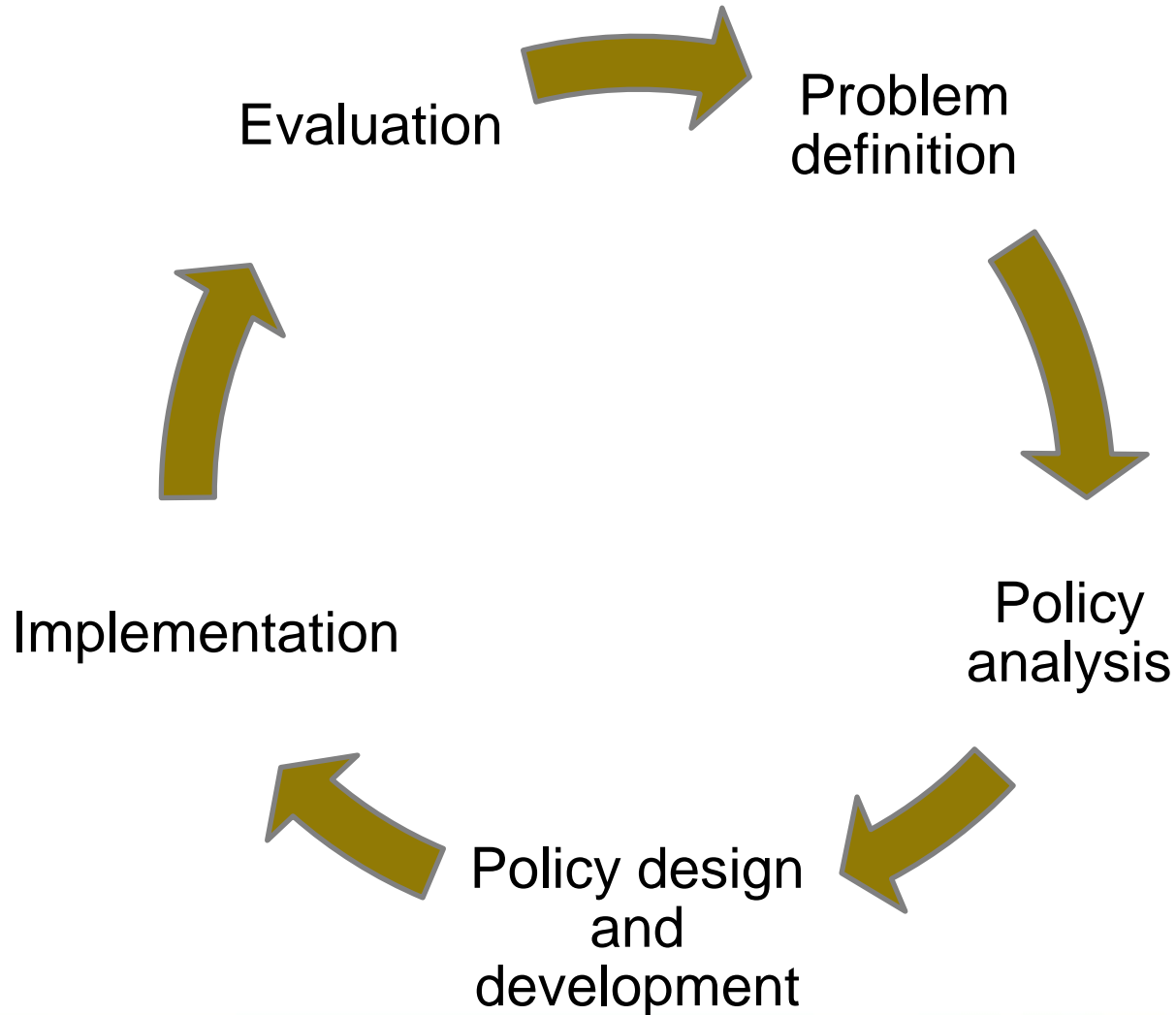
The role and challenges for official statisticians in fostering progress

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History of statistics: measuring what matters in the world



Official statistics and policy-making



Official statistics and accountability

- ⊙ Official statistics facilitate debate
- ⊙ European Union, OECD & WTO accession processes
- ⊙ New Zealand's "opening the books" legislation
- ⊙ Policy targets e.g. inflation targets
- ⊙ Reporting on progress

Challenges

- ⊙ Who determines what is produced?
- ⊙ Maintaining relevance and impartiality in light of
 - changing context and
 - need for social and scientific acceptability

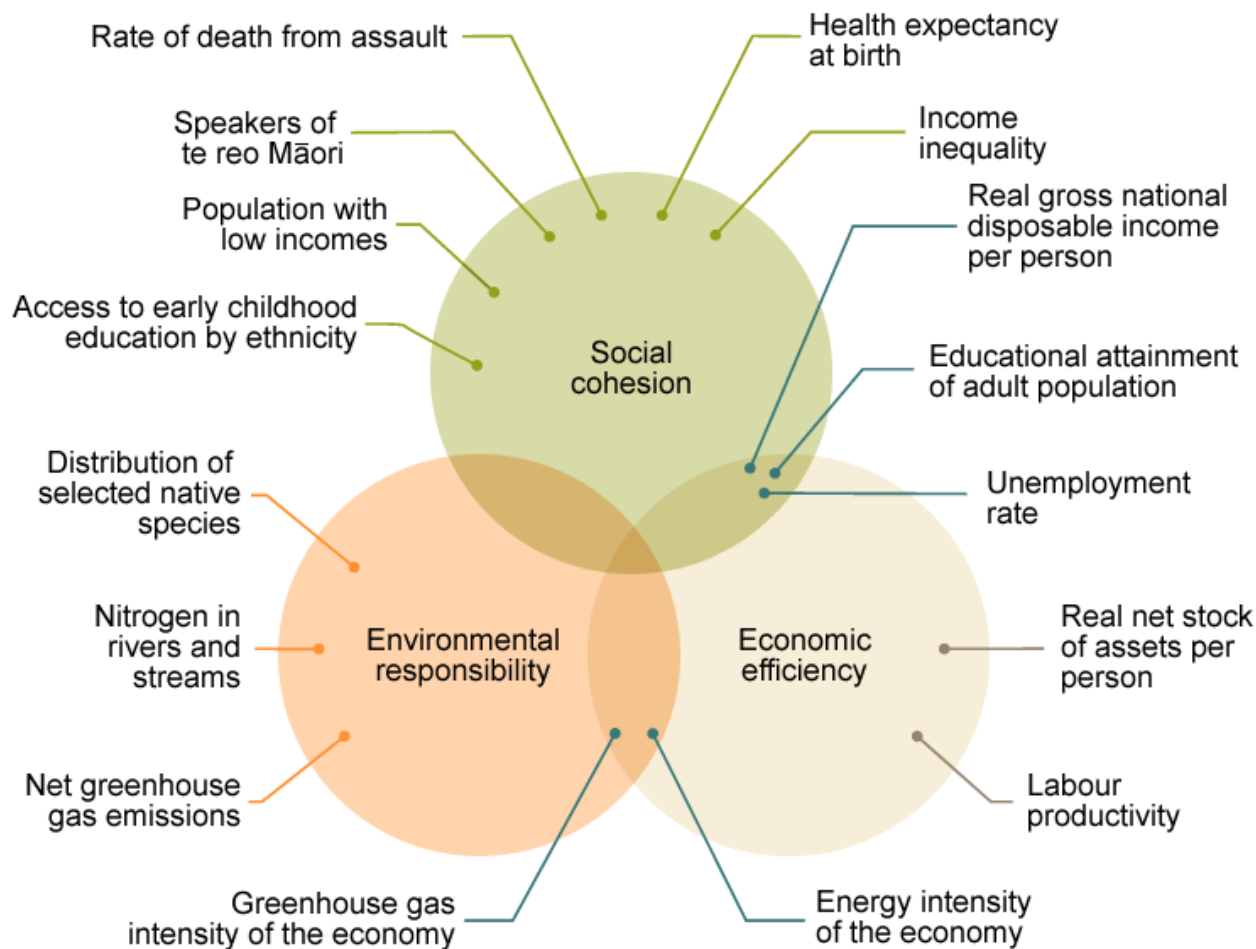


First, too many people listed their ethnicity as "New Zealander" at the last census, then he tried to create social welfare policy based on disadvantage and not race...



Sustainable development report

Relationship between target dimensions and key indicators



Types of indicators

How well do we live?

Level indicators

How well are resources distributed?

Structural criteria (fairness)

How efficiently are we using our resources?

Structural criteria (efficiency)

What are we leaving behind for our children?

Capital stock and flow indicators

What are we leaving behind for our children?

Indicator	Target trend	What has happened	Actual result
2.2 Distribution of selected native species	↑	Since the 1970s, the distribution of all seven indicator species has continued to decline.	✗
3.1 Net greenhouse gas emissions	↓	New Zealand's net greenhouse gas emissions have grown since 1990, although there has been little change since 2002.	✗
4.2 Nitrogen in rivers and streams	↓	Levels of nitrogen at monitored river and stream sites have increased since 1989.	✗
10.5 Educational attainment of the adult population	↑	The proportion of adults with at least secondary qualifications has increased between 1990 and 2008.	✓
11.1 Real net stock of total assets per person	↑	Net capital stock per person rose 29% from 1988–2008.	✓
15.1 Speakers of te reo Māori	↑	The proportion of Māori able to hold an everyday conversation in Māori language decreased slightly between 1996 and 2006.	≈

Conclusions

- ⊙ Do we just report on the past or do we shape the debate?
- ⊙ How do we manage the tensions?
 - policy and legislative framework
 - measurement frameworks
 - legitimising enduring priorities
 - consultation and advisory mechanisms around user needs
 - influential negotiators and communicators