CRI
Centre for Regulatory Innovation

Regulators' Capacity Fund

Environment Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

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$539,000

EDATUM (Environmental Data is Accessible, Timely, Usable and Managed) Business Case

ECCC has a large and active regulatory agenda, which has seen rapid growth over the past decade. The department's regulatory reporting systems have not kept pace with this growth or in modernizing legacy tools and technology. Currently, ECCC collects a significant portion of its regulatory and supporting scientific data manually, with few regulations using electronic reporting systems. This situation can create burden for those who report on regulatory requirements. The regulated community has identified this as a concern. The current state of ECCCs systems and data collection hinders ECCC's ability to use and provide information to Canadians in a timely fashion.

ECCC's regulatory reporting systems have been developed independently and, for the most part, do not benefit from a coordinated or integrated data collection, management and service oriented approach. To improve the current state, ECCC is working on the EDATUM (Environmental Data is Accessible, Timely, Usable and Managed) initiative.

As part of this Regulators' Capacity Fund project, ECCC developed a business case for the EDATUM initiative, focusing specifically on the environmental protection regulatory work. To develop this business case, ECCC: conducted internal workshops to gather information and support on the EDATUM initiative; developed current operating models for 23 regulations and a proposed target operating model; established the current state of regulatory reporting forms and data elements in use; and identified 151 internal applications not previously included in the department's *Application Portfolio Management* inventory.

EDATUM proposes to evaluate and seek opportunities to standardize certain common aspects at all stages throughout the regulatory lifecycle. The Business Case confirms the rationale for moving from a fragmented regulatory reporting framework with multiple paper-based and digital reporting systems to a framework comprised of interoperable reporting systems. The long-term goal is to develop and implement an agile and client-focused approach, which will implement service design thinking. This will allow the consistent development of both internal data management processes and external reporting tools, resulting in a more efficient and effective regulatory service delivery that focuses on the users. In turn, this should reduce the regulatory burden on industries, allow ECCC to provide timely reporting of regulatory data to Canadians, and enable government and non-governmental users to access and utilize that data more effectively.