

Draft annotated outline of Volume 1 of the revised SEEA

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Background

- Interim editor of SEEA revision appointed during the 14th meeting of the London Group held late in April 2009.
- Importance of having an annotated outline of the revised SEEA was raised during this meeting.
- The interim editor asked to produce an annotated outline of the Volume 1 of the revised SEEA for the 4th meeting of UNCEEA.

Why is UNCEEA interested?

- The UNCEEA is the body entrusted by the UN Statistical Commission to provide guidance and direction to the project on the revision of the SEEA

The draft annotated outline:

- Proposes a broad structure for Volume 1 of the revised SEEA
- Provides some indication of content within this broad structure
- Gives London Group and the editor a basis for developing the revised SEEA – its work program and its chapter text

The draft annotated outline doesn't:

- Identify the various SEEA revision issues and point to possible worked solutions...
- Pose questions throughout the outline relating to various decision points...

(Both of the above features are worthwhile, but would require time and resources to develop.)

SEEA revision: London Group:

- London Group accepted UNCEEA's request to develop a list of issues for the revision of SEEA2003 and to solve a significant number of these issues as part of its work program
- London Group and UNCEEA have discussed a number of papers addressing questions on the structure and content of the revised SEEA
- As far as possible, the annotated outline reflects official decisions and thinking on the structure and content of the revised SEEA

SEEA revision: general principles:

- No fundamental change to principles and approach of SEEA2003
- Need to adopt singular accounting recommendations, rather than multiple possible treatment options
- Need to remove country examples, use of boxes, and discussion of implementation and compilation issues

SEEA revision: broad structure of Volume 1:

- Chapter 1 Introduction to the SEEA
- Chapter 2 Accounting structure and concepts of the SEEA Volume 1
- Chapter 3 Physical flow accounts
- Chapter 4 Accounts for environmentally-related economic activities, products and other transactions
- Chapter 5 Hybrid flow accounts
- Chapter 6 Asset accounts and the valuation of natural resource assets
- Chapter 7 Full sequence of environmentally-adjusted monetary flow accounts

SEEA revision: broad structure of Volume 1. Comments:

- Chapter sequence broadly follows SEEA2003
- With flows again discussed before stocks
- Full sequence of environmentally-adjusted monetary flow accounts developed toward the end of the revised SEEA

SEEA revision: broad structure of Volume 1. Comments: *continued*

- Discussion of EPE, NRM, EGSS, taxes, subsidies etc. placed into 1 chapter (rather than 2)
- Treatment of degradation; applications of the SEEA removed from revised SEEA Volume 1
- Placement of Hybrid flow accounts chapter remains unclear, possible options include:
 - separate chapter (as in SEEA2003)
 - within the chapter on full sequence of environmentally-adjusted monetary flow accounts
 - within the chapter on environmentally-related economic activities, products and other transactions

Attachments to the draft annotated outline:

- Provide point-form description of required topics under the broad chapter headings of the revised SEEA Volume 1
- Also suggest broad areas for inclusion in Volumes 2 and 3 of the revised SEEA