

Government of **COUNTRY**

**National Statistical
Office/Central Bank/
Ministry of Environment**

**Suggested structure of initial assessment for integrated
environmental-economic statistics in support of SEEA
implementation**

First Draft

<month,year>

National Statistical Office/Central Bank/Ministry of Environment in collaboration with <other
national agencies>

COUNTRY

FOREWORD

The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 Central Framework (SEEA Central Framework) is a multi-purpose statistical framework for describing the interactions between the economy and the environment. It provides consistent comparable and comprehensive statistics and indicators on the environment and its relationship with the economy that make explicit the trade-offs and co-benefits of the decisions that affect natural resources and associated services. They are used a great deal by national, regional and international agencies, among other reasons, for designing and assessing policies and for making comparisons of growth and development at an international level. The SEEA Central Framework has been adopted as an international statistical standard by the Statistical Commission of the United Nations at its 43rd session in 2012.

The proposal to develop an initial assessment for integrated environmental-economic statistics in support of the SEEA implementation is intended to be a useful tool for the various departments of the [COUNTRY] National Statistical Office in their analysis of needs and their formulation of actions and outputs in adapting and improving the institutional arrangements and statistical infrastructure and operations to improve the situation of existing basic statistics and their integration in the accounting framework.

The [COUNTRY] National Statistical Office has undertaken the drafting of this report in consultation with <national agencies> and would like to express their sincere appreciation for their contributions. While this report draws on this collective institutional strength and knowledge of the national statistical system, the National Statistical Office assumes ownership of what is contained in the initial assessment for the Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 Central Framework (SEEA Central Framework) and Supporting Statistics.

The drafting team consisting of <names> worked extremely hard to meet the timelines agreed at the seminar, but now seeks further comments and suggestions to further improve the initial assessment as a basis or the formulation of a more detailed programme of work.

[HEAD OF NSO]

[TITLE]

National Statistical Office/Central Bank

STRUCTURE OF THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT FOR INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC STATISTICS IN SUPPORT OF THE SEEA IMPLEMENTATION

The United Nations Statistical Commission adopted the implementation strategy for the SEEA Central Framework. The implementation strategy takes a strategic approach to the implementation of the SEEA and advocates close linkages to national policy priorities, national programming and budget cycles and adapts to national institutional arrangements and statistical infrastructure and operations.

This initial assessment is prepared to seek the political motivation and undertake the strategic assessment through a broad consultation process.

The structure of the initial assessment contains the following elements:-

- **Background:** This section will provide a general overview of the need for integrated information derived from the SEEA on the basis of national policy demands and their linkage to regional and international initiatives (e.g. Post 2015 Development Agenda, SDGs, Broader Measures of Progress, World Bank WAVES, UNEP TEEB, UNDP Poverty and Environment Initiative, etc..).
- **Policy setting:** This section will describe the main policy issues and instruments (e.g. regulations, fiscal policies, pricing, trade, etc.), It will also provide an overview of national plans and strategies (e.g. national statistical development strategies, national development strategies, national sustainable development strategies, national biodiversity strategy action plan, national sector plans for water, energy, etc. national policies for climate change, as well as other existing policy objectives).
- **National Stakeholders:** This section will describe the main stakeholders consisting of both users and producers of statistics (e.g. National Statistical Office, Central Bank, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance, Water agencies, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Forest, Ministry of Agriculture, etc..). It will also discuss the establishment of a national coordination board consisting of the various stakeholders under the leadership of the **National Statistical Office**.
- **International regional and bilateral statistical and policy programmes relevant for the implementation of the SEEA:** This section will describe the relationship between the SEEA implementation and other existing statistical programmes aiming at improving and strengthening the basic statistics. These include the implementation programme of the 2008 implementation, the strategy for improving agriculture statistics, other regional and subregional statistical programmes (e.g. on business registers, tourism statistics, trade, etc.) as well as policy and analytical application being promoted by international agencies (e.g. UNEP TEEB, World Bank WAVES, UNDP, etc).
- **Broad assessment of data availability:** This section will describe in broad terms the data available and the institutions responsible for their collection, Often times quite a lot

of data is available in the country but it is collected in an uncoordinated manner using classifications and definitions that are not compatible making their integration in a common framework difficult.

- **Constraints:** This section will describe the most common issues related to existing data (e.g. data collected irregularly using different methodologies based on specific project demands, limited data sharing arrangements among different organizations and lack of awareness of existing data collection activities), limited technical knowledge on environment statistics and accounts, lack of experience in environmental-economic policy making, etc.
- **Opportunities:** This session will describe the benefits that the SEEA implementation will generate for example concerning evidence based decision making integrating environment/natural capital in development policies, improvement of quality of basic data sources including the use of administrative records, reduced response burden and data collection duplication, strengthened institutional dialogue on policy and statistics, strengthen statistical coordination arrangements for production of statistics and its policy use in support of compilation and policy use of the SEEA through service contract agreements, memorandum of understanding, etc.
- **Actions:** This section will describe the possible actions and timelines to be complete them including the establishment of a national coordination committee, the preparation of a national assessment outlining the priority accounts to be developed and related time series indicators and policy applications, institutional arrangements, data quality assessments and pilot SEEA compilations, necessary funding to undertake the implementation.