

**Developing Programmes for Implementing the 2008 SNA, the 2012
SEEA and Supporting Statistics in the Pacific Region
(Apia, Samoa, 20-23 August 2013)**

Draft Agenda

**Regional Seminar on Developing a Programme for the Implementation of
the 2008 SNA and Supporting Statistics in the Pacific region**

Tuesday 20 August 2013

08:30 – 09:30 Registration

9:30 – 10:00 First Session

9.30 – 9.35 Welcome

Samoa Bureau of Statistics

9.35 – 9.45 Keynote address:

**Prime Minister and Minister for Samoa Bureau of Statistics:
Honourable Tuilaepa Dr Sailele Malielegaoi**

9.45 – 10.00

I. Briefing remarks

Brief remarks will be made on the need for the development of a common strategic vision and programme of work on the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics. UNSD and the regional organisations will add the international and regional perspectives to the objectives of the regional seminar in initiating the drafting of the strategic vision and programme of work on the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics. The opening will also be used to underline the benefits of moving over to the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics in a global economy with internal and cross boundary vulnerabilities.

- United Nation Statistical Division
- United Nation Economic Social Commission Asia and Pacific
- South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- Australian Bureau of Statistics

10.00 - 10.30 Break

10:30 – 12:30 Second Session

I. Briefing remarks (cont'd) (20 min)

Objectives of the Seminar

Adoption of agenda

Introduction of participants and administrative announcements

II. Developing a programme for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics (100 min)

The institutional process and assessment and reporting tools for the development of a programme of implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics and the 10-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy will be set out. Particular attention will be given to the stages in undertaking a system wide consultation, outreach and involvement of the major data producers and users, the coordinating role of the NSO, the required resource mobilisation for the programme and the possible external technical assistance required.

Presentations

- UNSD
- ESCAP
- PFTAC
- SPC

Discussions

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:10 Third Session

III. Country presentations (10 min presentation, 5 min discussion for each)

Each participating country will make a presentation on an overview of the main policy issues and their relationship with the scope and detail of the national accounts framework, as well as an overview of current compilation practices, new requirements by economic activity and institutional sector, and statistical and institutional actions to remedy shortcomings as described in the note prepared by the countries for the meeting.

Presentations

- Cook Islands
- Fiji
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Vanuatu

15:15 – 15:30 Break

15:30 – 17:00 Fourth Session

IV. Overview of statistical production process in an integrated economic statistics approach (20 min presentation, 10 min discussion for each)

This session will offer presentations by UNSD, the lead country and Australian Bureau of Statistics on the application of the integrated economic statistics approach to the statistical production process taking into account the institutional environment and the main elements of the statistical production process such as the statistical business registers, surveys and administrative sources, dissemination and communication methods.

Presentations

UNSD

- Integrated economic statistics

ABS

- Business registers

ABS

- Prices

Wednesday 21 August 2013

09:00 – 10:30 First Session

IV. Overview of statistical production process in an integrated economic statistics approach (*continued*)

Presentations

Samoa Bureau of Statistics - overview

- NSDS and institutional setting
- Classification (ISIC Rev 4)
- Surveys (Quarterly and annual surveys)
- Use of administrative data sources
- Use of government finance statistics

Discussions

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Second Session

V. The scope and detail of the national accounts required for effective policy purposes

This session will be used to present the progressive multiple policy uses of the statistics, accounts and tables of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics with the extended scope and detail as recommended and required by the Minimum Required Data Set (MRDS). The discussion will allow the participants further insight in developing a more articulate outreach programme for the senior policy makers and analysts in their countries.

Presentations

UNSD

- The policy use of national accounts
- MRDS

Countries

- Present selected issues for discussion

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 Third Session

VI. Discussion on selected issues on 2008 SNA implementation

Based on the results of the capacity screening exercise, participants will discuss specific topics and issues related to the conceptual implementation of the 2008 SNA that need to be addressed in the respective countries. Brief presentations to introduce the main issues concerning those topics will be made. The specific topics to be covered are: exhaustive coverage of the GDP taking into account the measurement of the informal sector and production for own final use. The relevant conceptual issues related to the change over to the 2008 SNA will also be discussed.

Presentations

SPC

- Results from the capacity screening exercise of Pacific countries

PFTAC

- Exhaustive coverage of GDP (informal sector, production for own final use)

UNSD

- Present selected issues for discussion

15:00 – 15:30 Break

15:30 – 17:00 Fourth Session

VII. Way forward

This session will allow for reaching a broad agreement on the actions to be taken at the national, sub-regional, regional and international level to ensure that mutually reinforcing actions will advance the formulation and implementation of a multi-year national and sub-regional programme for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics.

Regional Seminar on Developing an Implementation Strategy for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework in the Pacific Region

Thursday 22 August 2013

I. SEEA Introductory remarks(9:00-9:15)

UNSD and ESCAP will add the international and regional perspective to the objectives of the regional seminar in initiating the development of an implementation strategy for the SEEA Central Framework in the Pacific Region.

Opening remarks:

- UNSD
- ESCAP

Objectives of the Seminar

Adoption of agenda

II. Policy demands and priorities to monitor the effect of economic and other human activity on the environment (09:15 – 12:30)

The section will discuss the growing policy demands and priorities to monitor the effect of economic and other human activity on the environment in the Pacific region. Several initiatives have demonstrated that continuing economic growth and human welfare are dependent upon the benefits obtained from the environment and there are growing concerns about the effect of each country's economic activity upon the global, regional and national environment. Countries will have opportunities to discuss the growing policy demand and priority and the uses of SEEA in response to policy needs.

Presentations:

- Post-2015 Development Agenda and 2014 International SIDS process on integrated policy making (30 min)
 - Ivo Havinga, UNSD
 - ESCAP on the 2014 SIDS process
- Regional environment policy demands and basis data (30 min)
 - SPREP
 - FAO
- National policy demands and priorities – countries' presentations (5 min presentation, 10 min discussion for each country)
 - Samoa

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

- National policy demands and priorities - countries' presentations
(*continued*)
 - Cook Islands
 - Fiji
 - PNG
 - Solomon Islands
 - Tonga
 - Vanuatu

12 :30 – 13:30 Lunch

III. Overview of the SEEA family and its principles and components (13:30-17:00)

This session will provide an overview of the SEEA and its subsystems, and discuss the relevance and utility of the SEEA in meeting such policy demands. Elements of the SEEA Central Framework and examples of SEEA accounts and tables will be discussed in greater details. The session will also present an overview of the implementation strategy for the SEEA Central Framework.

Presentations:

- Overview of the SEEA and its subsystems; Relevance and utility of the SEEA in meeting policy demands (30 min)
 - Alessandra Alfieri, UNSD
- Introduction to the SEEA Central Framework (30 min)
 - Carl Obst, SEEA Editor
- SNA and SEEA: Synergies and complementarities (30 min)
 - Carl Obst, SEEA Editor

15:00 – 15 :30 Coffee Break

Presentations:

- Implementing the SEEA: The Australian Experience (30 min)
 - ABS
- Implementation Strategy for the SEEA Central Framework (30 min)
 - Alessandra Alfieri, UNSD
- Discussion (30 min)

Friday 23 August 2013

IV. Self-assessment concerning the implementation for the SEEA Central Framework and the SEEA diagnostic tool (9:00-12:30)

This session will discuss in greater details the implementation strategy for the SEEA Central Framework, focusing on the first and second phase. The aim of the implementation strategy is to assist countries in the adoption of the SEEA Central Framework and to establish the technical capacity for regular reporting on a minimum set of environmental-economic accounts. The seminar will present the SEEA diagnostic tool, which is critical for countries to carry out self-assessment concerning

their SEEA implementation for selected modules and to determine which accounts are needed to meet policy demands. Countries will have opportunities to carry out an initial self assessment using the rapid diagnostic tools and present their findings during the session.

Presentations

- SEEA implementation guide and diagnostic tool (45 min)
 - Carl Obst, SEEA Editors
- Results of the preparatory mission assessing the policy priorities, data availability and main institution in Samoa (45 min)
 - Samoa preparatory mission team

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

Self assessment exercise by countries (90 min)

- Self assessment exercise– rapid diagnostic tools
- Identification of policy priorities and types of accounts and tables to answer the policy questions.
- Presentation of the preliminary findings of the self assessment for each country

12 :30 – 13 :30 Lunch

V. Regional and national initiatives for formulating strategy for the implementation for the SEEA Central Framework and the development of environmental economic accounts (13:30-15:30)

This session will call for the establishment of a regional and national institutional mechanism and multi-year development strategy that drive the implementation strategy, and seek commitments from all stakeholders in the countries and international donors for the development of environmental economic accounts in the Pacific region.

It is expected the development strategy for the national implementation for the SEEA Central Framework will be formulated as an outcome document that contains:

- i) A broad agreement from all national stakeholders in the countries of priority policy questions with identification of types of accounts and tables that could provide evidence for addressing policy questions.
- ii) Commitments from participating countries to develop a statement of strategy outlining the policy priorities, institutional framework, accounts to compile and strategies for improving data availability;
- iii) A broad agreement on the main elements of a regional strategy for the SEEA implementation based on policy priorities and follow up actions.

Presentations

- Draft recommendations on developing an implementation strategy for the SEEA Central Framework in the Pacific Region (30 min)
 - To be prepared by the organizers
- Discussion (90 min)

VI. Closing (15:30-16:00)

Closing remarks by the organizers (30 min):

- The Samoa Bureau of Statistics
- SPREP
- UNSD
- ESCAP