17th meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting
12-15 September
Stockholm

Meeting report

1. Coffee and registration

2. Opening

Mr Stefan Lundgren, Director General of Statistics Sweden, welcomed all participants to the meeting. He stated that finalising the SEEA revision is of high priority to Statistics Sweden. He added that there is a strong need for an international statistical standard for environmental-economic accounting.

The proposed agenda was adopted with one additional item, a presentation by Jana Tafi on an upcoming conference in Astana, Kazakhstan on environmental statistics assessments.

Session 1 – SEEA revision process

3. UNCEEA business

Alessandra Alfieri provided a brief summary of the sixth UNCEEA meeting. The committee concluded that substantial progress was being made toward finalising the SEEA. The committee also noted that the timeline for the completion of the SEEA was tight but feasible.

As for the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounts the Committee requested UNSD, the EEA and the World Bank to lead its development and establish an expert group consisting of experts from the scientific, the statistical and the ecological economics community to address the draft list of issues which will be discussed at the London Group meeting. While some members of the London Group will also be part of the Expert Group, consultation with the whole London Group will take place on a regular basis.

SEEA Extension and Applications was also on the agenda of UNCEEA and the proposal prepared by the Subgroup of the Committee was agreed. No case studies will be presented in Part 3 but it will provide a general overview of how the SEEA can be used focusing in particular on various techniques.

The UNCEEA also considered how to best position SEEA in light of Rio+20 and other international meetings and programs. It was noted that there is a need to explain the benefits of implementing SEEA to wider audiences and how it can help policymakers. A stronger communication strategy was central in ensuring that the SEEA will be recognized as the monitoring framework for green economy, green growth and sustainable development in Rio +20.

The committee also discussed the development of SEEA Energy and agreed that it was timely to complete it before Rio+20. It noted that SEEA-Energy and the revised SEEA should be fully consistent. In order to avoid overlap in the global consultation between the SEEA and the SEEA-Energy it was recommended to have the global consultation on the SEEA-Energy after the completion of the SEEA. Prior to the global consultation, SEEA-Energy will be reviewed by an expert group which will meet in New York in October 2011.

4. Status report on the SEEA revision

The SEEA editor Carl Obst updated the LG on the SEEA revision process. Approximately 50 countries and 8 international organisations provided comments during the global consultation process which was very encouraging.

The editor also provided an overview of the status of the various SEEA chapters. A first draft of chapter 1 was completed and was being considered by the editorial board. Global consultation of chapter 2 had finished. Some commentators noted that the text was too 'national accounty'. There were no widespread concerns raised and only some further clarifications are needed. Global consultation of the chapters 3, 4 and 5 was also completed and feedback has been processed. A number of key issues which still need to be solved are: definition of environmental assets, accounting for soil resources, depletion of renewable resources and definition and scope of 'environmental activities'.

The London Group was also made aware of the tentative timeline for the completion of the revision of SEEA. The editorial board was to meet in September. The aim is to redraft the text and provide a reading guide by early October. This would be followed by a final global consultation in October and November. The final draft would be completed by late December 2011 which would be presented to the UNSC for consideration in February 2012.

A question was raised during the presentation on the consequences of adopting the standard for individual countries. It was noted that there are no formal (legal) obligations that result from the adaption of the standard by the UNSC. However, countries are encouraged to implement the standard and workshops and training to assist countries would be conducted to help with the implementation

Session 2 – Review of SEEA chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6.

5. Chapter 3

Michael Kuhn began his presentation by noting that chapter 3 gives a good general conceptual overview. However, for compilation purposes additional guidance will be essential.

The presentation and the follow up discussion focused on a number of important topics. The proposed typology of natural resource inputs in chapter 3 was found somewhat unclear, particularly with regard to the inputs from soil. The boundary, if any, between natural resource inputs and ecosystem inputs also needed to be clarified. It was noted that the definition of resource inputs in chapter 3 should to be consistent with the definition of natural resources in chapter 5. Some members argued that soil nutrients need to be classified under ecosystem inputs, although the name of this input category is expected to change. It was further suggested that there needs to be a category for movements of soil (for example in cases of land improvement).

The discussion also touched on the recording of residuals from demolition and scrapping, and air emissions from landfills. It was suggested that the proper place for recording these flows is the accumulation account.

Another topic discussed was that of net versus gross emissions to air. It was suggested that both net and gross emissions are important concepts and should be included in the SEEA.

A few other issues were discussed including choice of wording and the need to align different tables, including the yet to be introduced water emission tables. The need for a glossary was also mentioned.

6. Chapter 4

Viveka Palm introduced the content of chapter 4, noting that over 30 countries and organizations had provided comments during the global consultation process. The first issue raised was whether to include natural resource use activities within the scope of environmental activities. Some argued that climate adaptation and resource use expenditures are very important but these are not environmental activities, in the sense of being beneficial to the environment. Most LG members preferred not to include resource use activities under environmental activities. However, they should be identified in the text since they are important to policymakers and are used in the calculation of resource rent.

The second issue discussed related to the Classification of Environmental Activities (CEA) being a tentative classification. Members noted that a classification covering all EGSS activities was essential for the SEEA. The third issue suggested that tables on emission permits should be included in the SEEA. Similarly information on investments and climate adaptation should be presented in tables. The fourth topic discussed was on whether to include adapted goods in the SEEA. A number of countries suggested during the global consultation that adapted goods be removed from the SEEA mainly due to difficulties in compilation. However the consensus in the group was to keep them in the SEEA considering that they have been part of EPEA.

The last few issues raised were mainly related to presentation of text. Some LG members felt that the title of the chapter should be changed. A number of suggestions were made and after some discussion it was agreed to keep the initial title. It was suggested that all environmental taxes, subsidies and transfers for all industries are presented in the appropriate tables. This would make it easier to analyse the environmental impact of all taxes and subsidies (such as potentially harmful ones). Last but not least it was noted that even though the SEEA uses the accounting structure of the SNA, some of its users may not have a strong SNA foundation. Hence, great care must be taken to ensure that terminology is clear and consistent and that the SEEA is a self contained document. It was suggested that chapter 1 could highlight that reading the SEEA requires a basic understanding of the national accounts. Other (glossy) publications could help bring the SEEA to the attention of a wider audience.

7. Chapter 5

The chapter 5 discussion issues were introduced by Ole Gravgård. One of the main issues that received several comments during the global consultation was the definition of assets. In particular, the phrase ‘used in production’ in the definition of environmental assets was considered inappropriate. Also a reference to ‘a benefit of future generations’ was considered redundant because the needs of future generations are unknown. Some members suggested that for the SEEA only a definition of natural resources was needed because benefits from ecosystems more generally are not addressed in the central framework.

It was noted that the term ecosystems has yet to be properly defined. Hence, it was recommended that text related to this subject is either improved or shortened. If the latter approach is chosen then reference should be made to the experimental ecosystem accounts of SEEA. The overarching definition of ecosystems should only be discussed in chapter 2 of the central framework.

The presenter also noted that the definition of depletion in Annex 5.1 is different from that in outcome paper 13 and this should be explained in Chapter 5.

Discussants in general agreed that appropriate text be included in the SEEA recommending the use of specific extraction profiles and extraction cost information for individual mineral deposits.

On the question of the categorization of mineral and energy resources, it was noted that the categories proven, probable and possible resources are not part of the UNFC-2009. A suggested solution to this issue is to refer to the UNFC-2009 definition of Commercial Recoverable Resources, as was recommended before by the LG and explained in the draft SEEA-Energy. It was mentioned that only class 'A' reserves will be subject to valuation.

The presentation also touched on issues related to the allocation of depletion between owner and extractor and the depletion of biological sources. Both need to be further clarified and explained in chapter 5. In particular with respect to the allocation of depletion there should be an explanation as to the rationale for redistributing part of depletion, together with the resources rent, to the owner of the natural resource. Similarly the conceptual underpinnings of depletion of biological resources, based on references to the concept of maximum sustainable yield, need to be fleshed out in more detail. It was stressed that reasonable depletion estimates can only be based on biological assessments.

Some of the feedback from the global consultation suggested that social values should be included in the calculation of the resource rent. It was stressed that, like the SNA, the SEEA should stick to valuation based on market prices. Also a sensitivity analysis of the use of discount rates in net present value estimates was considered useful in either the main body of chapter 5 or in an annex.

8. Chapter 6

Rocky Harris introduced the content of chapter 6. The key objective of this chapter is integrating and linking the different chapters of the SEEA. Most LG members advocated the need for such a chapter. Some overlap with chapter 2 was not considered as problematic.

Without going into implementation issues, it was considered important to explain in chapter 6 the main principles of compiling time series in current and constant prices. It was also noted that it is useful to have in chapter 6 a section on combining monetary and physical information. Furthermore adding a summary table of potential monetary and physical indicators would illustrate the added value of the SEEA.

It was noted however that the SEEA should not provide an exhaustive set of indicators to be derived from the accounts. Also, the relevance of combining monetary and physical accounts should be emphasised in chapter 2 as well.

Before the closing of Session 2, LG members were invited to address any important issues not yet discussed. The editor suggested taking these issues into consideration in the finalisation of the SEEA standard. The following points were addressed:

- Maintaining consistency between SEEA-Water and the Central Framework;
- Including in chapter 3 bridge tables for energy and emission statistics versus accounts;
- Clarifying the scope of resource management activities in respect of produced versus non-produced assets;
- Clarifying the status of some of the classifications in SEEA such as CEA and classifications for land cover and land use;
- Clarifying the drafting process of the SEEA part on applications (formerly known as Volume 3).

Session 3 – SEEA Ecosystem accounts

9a. SEEA Ecosystem accounts roadmap

Alessandra Alfieri gave an update of the SEEA Ecosystem accounts roadmap. The presented roadmap was based on the outcome of the expert group meeting in Copenhagen and of the UNCEEA meeting, both held in 2011. It was mentioned that there is a growing consensus on the general principles of ecosystem accounting.

The presented road map included a proposed outline of the SEEA ecosystem accounts, a proposed list of ten issues and a proposed timeline of related actions. A global consultation of the ecosystem accounting framework is expected by September 2012 followed by submission to the UNSC for endorsement in early 2013.

A technical expert group will be tasked with the drafting of outcome papers. Also an editorial board will assist the SEEA editor in putting together the SEEA framework for ecosystem accounts.

The LG was invited to keep engaged in this process. One suggested role for the LG was to safeguard the linkages of the ecosystem accounts with the central framework.

It was mentioned that the roadmap is probably too ambitious. Alessandra Alfieri pointed out that only the main principles of ecosystem accounting will be explained in a limited number of (about 50) pages. Details will not be dealt with at this stage.

A number of representatives mentioned that their countries will be active in this area and would therefore like to be engaged in the process.

Finally the group warned against portraying ecosystem accounting as leading to valuation of degradation of ecosystems and to an environmentally-adjusted aggregate, although this was not precluded at this stage. Managing expectations was considered very important in this regard.

9b. World Bank WAVES project

Glenn-Marie Lange introduced the ongoing work at the World Bank on ecosystem accounting and the valuation of ecosystem services. Adjusted net savings are published annually by the World Bank while comprehensive wealth accounts are published less frequently. WAVES (Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services) is a five year project. It is expected that the SEEA will be the methodological framework for implementation of WAVES.

The project expands on comprehensive wealth measurement in several ways with a key focus on natural capital. Components of the WAVES program include the implementation of SEEA in a range of ‘pilot’ countries, establishing links to policy analysis, contributing to methodology for ecosystem accounting and the promotion and adoption of natural capital accounting beyond the selected pilot countries. A policy and technical committee will be established to assist in dealing with some of these (and other) key challenges. Partnerships will be established with UNEP, UNDP, UNCEEA, national governments and NGO’s.

9c. Ecosystem accounting in Australia

Michael Vardon informed the LG on a research project on ecosystem accounting in Australia. In this project various kinds of quality indicators are being developed for both regional and local areas. Data on the characteristics of land is collected by the ABS on the basis of administrative spatial units as well as spatial grids. In the project the total condition of land

cover (ecosystem quality) is weighted and assessed by one overall index (between zero and hundred) in which the current state of land parcels is compared to its pristine state. The next phase of the project will focus on improving data quality and capturing transboundary flows.

Session 4 – SEEA implementation issues and data requirements

10a. SEEA-Energy progress report

Alessandra Alfieri informed the LG on the current status of SEEA-Energy. SEEA-Energy was drafted in advance of the central framework and as a result the SEEA-Energy differs on some points from the SEEA central framework. Further harmonisation is therefore needed. Because the SEEA is still in the process of being finalized, it was decided to go ahead with the Expert Group Meeting on the SEEA-Energy. The Expert Group will also discuss issues of harmonization with the SEEA.

SEEA-Energy will be coherent to the extent possible with IRES but some differences may be necessary. It is expected that the Eurostat TF on Energy accounts will provide useful input and will harmonize their work with that of the SEEA and SEEA-Energy.

10b. Data requirements of transforming energy balances to energy accounts

Sjoerd Schenau introduced the main data items needed to transform energy balances into energy accounts. Adjustments are needed to overcome differences between the residence and territory principles. Additional adjustments are also needed to reallocate data to ISIC classes (in the case of the Netherlands particularly those of transport and services activities). Various data sources were highlighted that are used for both transitions (e.g. traffic statistics, transport statistics, tourism statistics, structural business statistics, car registers, power supplier's customer registers).

It was mentioned that the Dutch experience is not necessarily applicable to a wider range of countries. In many countries statistics on energy are not generally broken down by industries as is the case in the Netherlands. This means that in these countries the allocation of energy use by industry is more complicated requiring additional data sources. In some countries energy accounts are also used for compiling energy balances. These comments are particularly important in the context of the energy statistics compilation manual (agenda item 10c). This manual is expected to cover the data items needed for compiling energy accounts.

10c. Energy Statistics Compilers Manual

Elisabeth Isaksen gave an update on the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual. Last year the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics finalised the IRES (International Recommendations for Energy Statistics). The IRES implementation plan entails among other things technical assistance (workshops), revision of the UN questionnaire and the preparation of the ESCM (Energy Statistics Compilers Manual).

The ESCM will provide practical guidance by explaining in more detail compilation issues and relevant data items in IRES as well as those needed for the compilation of the SEEA-Energy standard tables. The manual will also include country examples.

Assistance from London Group would be particularly helpful in the context of exchanging experiences with compiling energy accounts. It was suggested that LG members provide comments to the templates for country examples which will be disseminated among LG members.

Expected timeline of finalising the ESCM is as follows:

- September 2011, collection of country examples, formation of working groups and delegate responsibility for writing the chapters in the ESCM.
- Autumn 2011-summer 2012, drafting of the chapters.
- Autumn 2012, 7th OG meeting and 18th LG meeting in which reviews of chapters are foreseen.
- 2013: finalisation of the ESCM.

The London Group accepted to assist in the development of those parts of the ESCM related to the compilation of Energy Accounts. It also recommended that ESCM dedicates a chapter to the compilation of the SEEA-Energy.

11. Initiating a SEEA Implementation Plan

Mark de Haan introduced some issues related to the implementation of the SEEA. The presented paper provided an overview of policy needs (demand for environmental accounts), particularly at the international level, and country practices (supply). For the various SEEA building blocks the paper defined a (1) a minimum required dataset, (2) a recommended dataset and (3) a desired data set. The intent of a minimum required set is to promote SEEA's worldwide implementation.

The UNCEEA gave its support to the idea of a minimum required data set but considered the current proposal too ambitious. For asset accounting some flexibility in terms of asset coverage was suggested. Implementation should be a joint effort of international and regional organisations (under the umbrella of UNCEEA). The UNCEEA Bureau will further discuss the implementation strategy of SEEA.

In reaction to the presentation it was mentioned that the minimum required set reflects perhaps too much an EU perspective. With respect to the global implementation the Group expressed two somewhat conflicting views. One perspective was that building up accounts should be country specific, anticipating local policy needs. The other view was that one common set of accounts increases SEEA's relevance for international policy initiatives such as the Green Growth and Green Economy strategies.

A future role of the LG would be related to the preparation and vetting of training material. It was considered important to obtain an agreed set of training material that could be used by anyone providing training in workshops on in-country missions. A collection of existing training material would be initiated by UNSD. UNSD also offered to prepare for the next London Group meeting a proposal for training material on water for discussion by the group.

12. Valuation of water resources and water infrastructure assets

Michael Vardon introduced certain issues regarding the valuation of water resources and water infrastructure assets. Due to its critical function water supply in certain countries is usually tightly controlled by government. This often results in low returns to capital for the water supply companies. It may also lead to negative resource rents. If markets for natural resources are constrained, NPV type of calculations do not lead to meaningful outcomes. As a result one may wrongly conclude that water is worth nothing. Other methodologies need to be investigated to value water properly. This was considered an issue for further research.

13. Forest income and capital accounting

Alejandro Caparrós introduced the RECAMAN project on forest income and capital accounting. This ecosystems based accounting approach takes the Spanish system of national

accounts as a starting point. A distinction is made between commercial and environmental values such as public recreation, amenity self consumption, threatened biodiversity, and carbon sequestration. The so-called simulated exchange value method is developed to simulate shadow prices with the overall objective of measuring a Hicksian Green Total Social Sustainable Income and Capital. The first project results are expected in May 2012.

Session 5, SEEA applications and user needs

14. Accounting for environmentally related subsidies

Maja Cederlund presented some issues regarding environmentally related subsidies which are currently subject to international debate (LG, OECD, WTO, leaders of G20, APEC, others). It was mentioned that there seems to be a strong need for data. In 2010/2011 a Eurostat task force developed a methodology and definitions for environmentally motivated and potentially damaging subsidies. Potentially environmentally damaging subsidies are linked to the actual negative effects they may have on environment. It was mentioned that further guidance is needed. The compilation of a Eurostat handbook is scheduled for 2012/2013.

15. The CREEA project

Viveka Palm introduced the Compiling and Refining Economic and Environmental Accounts (CREEA) project. The project has several partners such as TNO, CML, WI, SERI, CBS and SCB and addresses several topics such as water accounts, MFA, climate and land use including economic instruments, forestry accounts, and environmentally extended input-output analyses.

One of the project goals is the construction of EU aggregates. As partners, SCB and CBS are responsible for correctly applying SEEA concepts in this project. Another project goal is the compilation of multiregional supply and use tables and extended IO tables (continuation of the EXIOPOL project). It was highlighted that EXIOPOL is important for several environmental accounts applications, such as the calculation of consumption based indicators. In the coming years, SCB and CBS will keep the London group updated on the progress made.

16. Emission permits

Kristine Kolshus presented the Norwegian experience in accounting for the quantities of issued, owned, transferred and surrendered emission permits. The relevance of these kinds of tables to the SEEA was widely acknowledged, irrespective of the treatment of emission permits in the national accounts, and in the monetary accounts of the SEEA. One important issue addressed by several representatives was that relevant information from the ETS authorities is often very difficult to obtain due to strict confidentially rules.

17. SEEA Agriculture

Robert Mayo introduced a proposal for a system of environmental-economic accounting for agriculture. He emphasised the policy and research needs of such accounts, particularly given the strong interrelationships between agriculture and the environment. These accounts are expected to become a useful platform for integrating food and agricultural statistics into the national statistical system. Resources such as forests, fishery, water, energy and land are all in the scope of the project. It was also mentioned that there is a clear link to ecosystem accounting.

FAO will lead the development of the SEEA Agriculture. It was suggested to form a group of experts to participate in the development of the SEEA-Agriculture. For a small number of countries, FAO has already started with pilot studies. Several representatives (from Australia, Brazil, UK, Netherlands, Canada) expressed their interest to participate in this subgroup.

18a. Consumption perspective: the Global Footprint Network

Alessandro Galli presented the main characteristics of the ecological footprint indicator and the underlying environmental accounting. This indicator is measured in terms of the bio-productive land needed to maintain all uses of the natural environment. A number of countries such as Ecuador, Wales and Emirates currently use the footprint indicator in their policy plans.

The need of a (common) harmonised, multi-region, environmentally extended input-output table based on the SEEA concepts was stressed for carrying out the consumption based calculations in a proper and consistent way.

18b. Consumption perspective: a web-tool for environmental pressures

Anders Wadeskog presented a web tool (www.mirdata.scb.se) whose purpose is to explain the main outcomes of the environmental accounts of Sweden to users. The tool covers, among other things, emissions, energy and material flows and allows for highlighting decoupling trends, showing emission intensities of product groups and presenting emissions assigned to consumption. A personal footprint calculator is not (yet) presented on the website of Statistics Sweden. The web tool was generally well received by users.

19. Developing Accounts for the Arab-ESCWA Region

Wafa Aboul Hosn discussed some of the environmental accounting work being done in the ESCWA region. She stressed the clear need for environmental accounts. Most countries in this region heavily rely on non–renewable resources, particularly energy and water. A range of important aspects were highlighted in the process of establishing environmental accounting programs in the region such as funding, coordination with other UN bodies, bilateral cooperation, publication strategies and being engaged in the revision of the SEEA. A web based forum is being established for disseminating information. Representatives from Ministries of Finance in Arab countries appeared to be very interested in environmental accounting, particularly, energy accounting. A number of future challenges were highlighted such as legislation, budget constrains, data quality issues, use of common concepts and development of indicators.

20. CO_2 emissions on quarterly basis

Maarten van Rossum presented a project carried out in the Netherlands on compiling $C0_2$ emission accounts (based on the residence principle) on a quarterly basis. He explained that short term indicators should not ignore the environmental domain. Compiling quarterly emission accounts fits into the understanding that GDP alone is an incomplete indicator of economic progress. In the Netherlands the communication strategy is to release the quarterly CO2 emission accounts together with the flash GDP estimates (t+45).

Several data sources were mentioned as being useful to compile the quarterly accounts (annual emissions-inventory, natural gas balance, oil product balance, coal balance, renewable energy statistics, national accounts, airline information, etc). Statistics Netherlands tested the developed methodology for the period 2001-2009. The results were considered sufficiently robust. The results of the first two quarters of 2011 were published in August. The

coordination of these quarterly estimates with all stakeholders in the Netherlands was quite challenging. Currently to detect structural trends corrections for weather effects are made. Seasonal effects however have not yet been taken into account.

Other representatives mentioned their statistical offices having similar ambitions to publish CO_2 accounts on a quarterly basis.

21. SEEA's connection to sustainable development indicators

Micheal Kuhn explained how the German system of environmental accounts is connected to sustainable policies. He highlighted several challenges. Sustainability requires a holistic view and the integration of all environmental issues at stake. At the same time policy makers need easy to understand indicators with a clear link to policy goals (the German strategy for Sustainable Development). For this purpose Destatis developed an indicator system representing easy to understand indicators. One third of them are derived from SNA and SEEA. However, others, particularly those addressing greenhouse gas emissions, are not derived from the accounts. Besides the indicators, various kinds of applications (I-O analysis) are also found in the annual German environmental accounts publication.

22. Accounts and their connections to state of the environment statistics

Viveka Palm discussed the current state of environmental statistics and accounts in Sweden. She used the DPSIR-model (Driving forces, Pressures, State, Impact, Responses) to evaluate data needs and data availability in Sweden. In Sweden there are various suppliers (about 25) of environmental statistics. The accessibility of these statistics to policymakers and researchers is of a great concern. Another issue is the timeliness of environmental accounts and statistics.

23a. Green growth publication the Netherlands

Sjoerd Schenau presented the Green Growth publication recently released by Statistics Netherlands. This publication is linked to OECD's green growth strategy and gives a comprehensive macro overview of green growth developments in the Netherlands. The publication was well received by all stakeholders in the Netherlands. It is expected that the publication will be further developed.

The publication has indicators in the following domains: environmental efficiency of production, environmental assets, quality of life and policy response and economic opportunities. Most of them are directly derived from the environmental accounts.

It was concluded that the SEEA provides a very useful conceptual statistical framework for the green growth strategy. The need of international benchmarking was emphasised. It was also suggested to supplement the indicators with more in depth analyses.

23b. Green economy publication Australia

Michael Vardon presented work carried out in Australia in the field of the green economy. He signalled several overlapping initiatives such as green growth, green economy, green jobs etc. Several EGGS related issues were discussed. Future work of ABS is expected to focus on measuring imports and exports of environmental goods and services, environmental R&D, tax and subsidies, integrated greenhouse gas emissions accounts and energy, and water and CO2 emissions embodied in final goods and services.

24. Other business

Rocky Harris informed the LG on the drafting of a glossary publication on the 'green economy'. Representatives were invited to provide relevant country examples.

Jani Tafi introduced the goals, context, and content of the 5th conference on European environment assessment in Astana, Kazakhstan. The use of accounting methods and indicators to support water and green economy objectives will be at forefront of the conference.

25. Closing of the Meeting

Mark de Haan thanked Statistics Sweden for their hospitality and the very well organised LG meeting in Stockholm.

The 18th LG meeting is scheduled after the summer of 2012. It is expected that the main agenda items will be addressing (1) the SEEA implementation and (2) any follow up on ecosystem accounting. LG members were invited to provide suggestions for future agenda items.

Background information

Presented papers, background material and presentations of this meeting can be found at the following website: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/londongroup/meeting/17.asp.

Action points following from the 17th LG meeting

	Description of issue	Leading organisation
1.	Assistance from LG members in further development of ESCM. The Oslo Group secretariat will submit for this purpose a country practices template.	All LG members / Oslo Group secretariat
2.	Proposal for training material on water accounts	UNSD
3.	Other organisations are equally invited to present training material they may have available.	All LG members
4.	Keep the LG informed on the outcomes of the CREEA project	Statistics Netherlands, Statistics Sweden
5.	Keep the LG informed on activities of the SEEA Agriculture 'Subgroup'	FAO
6.	Suggestions for future LG agenda items	All LG members

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