Programme of Work for the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EEA)

United Nations Statistics Division

9th Meeting of the UNCEEA
Overview

- Technical Committee on the SEEA-EEA
- Advancing the SEEA-EEA Research Agenda
- Output/events for the near future
- UNSD-UNEP-CBD project on “Advancing the SEEA-EEA in pilot countries"
SEEA-EEA Technical Committee

- At its 45th session, the Statistical Commission agreed to establish a technical committee on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting to advance its research and testing agenda prioritizing those issues that could be solved in the short to medium term.

- Pre-meeting in June 2014
SEEA-EEA Technical Committee

**Mandate:**

- Advance the research agenda on ecosystem accounting within the general framework provided by SEEA-EEA

- Identify and recommend best practices to pilot SEEA-EEA
  - use of models and tools
  - testing of methods for measuring ecosystem services
  - testing of methods for measuring and reporting ecosystem condition and capacity;

- Promote the SEEA framework and the associated research and ensure sound relationships with other similar initiatives and projects;

- Assist UNCEEA in organizing relevant meetings and conferences to advance the research agenda.
Advancing the SEEA-EEA Research Agenda

The research priorities discussed at the last UNCEEA meeting were grouped under 5 streams of work:

a) Geospatial, having to do with land classifications, delineation of statistical units
b) Physical measures of ecosystem services and ecosystem conditions
c) Presentation and policy linkages
d) Valuation techniques and approaches to aggregation
e) Integrated accounting issues.

The areas are indicated in the order of priority as identified in the Technical Committee of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
Issued covered by the pre-meeting

- Membership
- Programme of work of the Committee - prioritization
- Development of guidelines
- The Norwegian funded project on testing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and its role in the global strategy of the SEEA-EEA testing.
Advancing SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting project (2014)

- **Global strategy** for the testing of the SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting at the national level
- **Guidance** document and **training** material for the testing of the SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
- **Support pilot countries:**
  - assessment of policy priorities, data situation and tools used for ecosystem accounting
  - provide a national programme of work on how to advance the testing of the SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, including by using non-conventional data sources;
  - identify relevant national stakeholders beyond statistical offices (e.g. in academia, research institutions, NGOs, etc.).
Project Outputs

- Preparation of a global strategy for advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
- Development of guidance document on compilation
- Development of training material
- Communication
- Forum of experts in ecosystem accounting
- Testing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in countries
Global Strategy for advancing SEEA-EEA

- Assist countries in the testing of the SEEA-EEA and establishing incrementally the technical capacity for compiling a set of ecosystem accounts
- Build on the early experience of testing the SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in countries to
  - identify linkages and contributions to relevant initiatives, platforms and processes;
  - identify relevant data sources managed by national and international agencies and others;
  - identify tools that can develop baselines for 2016;
  - identify list of desired outputs, associated outcomes and timelines at the global and national level beyond 2015.
Guidance documents on compilation

- Provide practical guidance to countries on how to embark on SEEA-EEA through a step-by-step process
- It is intended to
  - help country expert and practitioners understand the available options for models and links to policy demand
  - explain, in particular, how to compile the data, including from non-conventional data sources (e.g. remote sensing)
  - help determine which tools may be applied in various circumstances
  - include case studies from the country pilots
Training material

- A blended learning combining online training and a follow up phase is currently planned.
- A standard set of presentations for common use will be developed as part of this exercise.
Outreach and communication

- To ensure that a clear and effective message is developed to obtain the buy-in of various stakeholders
- Communication strategy for the SEEA-EEA as part of the broader communication programme of the SEEA, to
  - determine how to profile ongoing work in countries online;
  - maintain community of practice informed of progress on implementation of project
  - profile in relevant fora and workshops
  - develop information material
  - share experiences and good practices, and lessons learned with broader country groups, through regional or sub-regional workshops.
Forum of experts in ecosystem accounting

- A forum where experts will meet in person on a yearly basis will be established and scheduled for December 2014 to discuss progress of testing of the SEEA-EEA and the research agenda.

- Lead to a large, multi-stakeholder, international conference bringing together various stakeholders and communities proposed to be held in 2016 for:
  - showcasing advances in research and testing of the SEEA-EEA
  - pointing to the potential for more definite methods and guidelines to be developed;
  - providing recommendation for the revision of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.
Linking SEEA-EEA with business accounting

- An international meeting on linking SEEA EEA with business accounting, data revolution and sustainable development will be held in November 2014.

- This meeting will bring together experts and practitioners from a number of areas (ecosystem accounts, business accounts, national statistical offices, users of accounts from different policy departments) to discuss
  - the role of ecosystem accounts within the context of the data revolution,
  - how to best use the ecosystem accounts to support sustainable development
  - how the ecosystem accounts can be useful to business accounts.
Testing SEEA-EEA in countries

- UNSD-UNEP-CBD project on “Advancing the SEEA-EEA in pilot countries”
- Seven pilot countries and a large group of associate country pilots.
- An assessment of policy priorities and data availabilities and develop a programme of work in 2014, which will serve as an input for the next phase of the project
- **List of countries**
Question for discussions

- Comments on the research agenda

- Comments on outputs/events for the near future
  - Preparation of a global strategy for advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
  - Development of guidance document on compilation
  - Development of training material
  - Communication
  - Forum of experts in ecosystem accounting
  - Testing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in countries