



# SEEA Implementation Guide and Diagnostic Tool and Suggested Structure for Assessment

United Nations Statistics Division

*Regional Seminar on the System of Environmental-Economic  
Accounting in the Caribbean*

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## Nature of the Implementation Guide

- Broad direction and support to national level implementation
- Introductory and overview document
- Works within the framework of the SEEA implementation strategy
- Recognise differences between countries and regions in actual situations and contexts
- Reflect lessons learned on implementation from past compilers
- Promote awareness of key implementation issues and risks



## Structure of the Guide

- Introduction
  - Rationale for implementation of SEEA
- Description of key elements of global implementation strategy
  - Including international measurement programs
- Overview of implementation at country level
- Preparation of assessment reports and implementation plans
- Annexes
  - Including Diagnostic tool, References



## Four Phases of Implementation at Country Level

- Strategic planning
  - Establishing a core group
  - Completing a national assessment report
- Building mechanisms for implementation
  - Authorised senior board or group
  - Implementation team/s
- Compiling and disseminating accounts
- Strengthening national statistical systems



## Technical Notes And Core Tables

- Technical notes are designed to summarise key aspects of specific themes to guide initial discussions on implementation
- Planned to release 10-15 technical notes on various themes
  - Draft technical notes for land and water completed
- Basic structure
  - Introduction and context
  - Core tables
  - Possible extensions
  - Measurement steps and challenges
  - Reference links – technical and country examples



## Core Tables

- Core tables provide concise, highly relevant information
- Information is key to deriving indicators and aids in developing evidence based public policies
- UNSC at its 44<sup>th</sup> session urged UNCEEA to develop a core set of tables and accounts
- No final set of core tables – for discussion here
- No short term plans for international reporting



## Diagnostic Tool

- Tool to support discussions on the implementation of SEEA – particularly in initial assessments
- Eight areas in line with the logic of the implementation guide
- Order of areas a guide only



## Key Messages

- Essential to undertake strategic planning with range of users and producers
- Make regular and clear decisions and written statements of direction and intent
- Invest in ongoing communication
- Aim to prepare accounts on an ongoing basis
- Incorporate relevant investments in national statistical systems
- Release experimental or research data as part of building capacity and awareness – “learning by doing”
- Share experiences and use international support





# Suggested structure of initial assessment of integrated environmental information



## Overview of structure

- Background
- Policy setting
- Stakeholders
- Relevant international, regional, bilateral programmes
- Current information/data available
- Constraints
- Opportunities
- Actions



## Background

- National environmental and economic policy priorities linked to national programming and budgeting cycles
- Need for integrated information for evidence based policy making for sustainable development
- Link of national policy and statistical priorities to regional and international agenda
  - Post-2015 agenda / SDGs / Broader measures of progress/WAVES/ UNEP TEEB



## National policy setting and policy issues

- Main policy issues and instruments (regulations, fiscal, pricing, financial, trade, etc.)
- Environmental plans and strategies (e.g.
  - Sustainable Development Strategy
  - National Policy for the Environment Management
  - National Statistical Strategy
  - National sector plans/strategy (energy, water, waste, etc.)
  - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
  - National Policy for Climate Change
    - Energy (renewable, energy efficiency)
    - Deforestation
    - Low carbon agriculture



## National stakeholders

- Establish national coordination board/committee
- Identify national stakeholders:
  - National Statistical Institutes
  - Central Banks
  - Ministry of Environment
  - Ministry of Finance
  - Water agencies/boards
  - Ministry of Energy
  - Ministry of Forestry
  - .....



# International, regional and bilateral statistical and policy programmes relevant for the implementation of SEEA

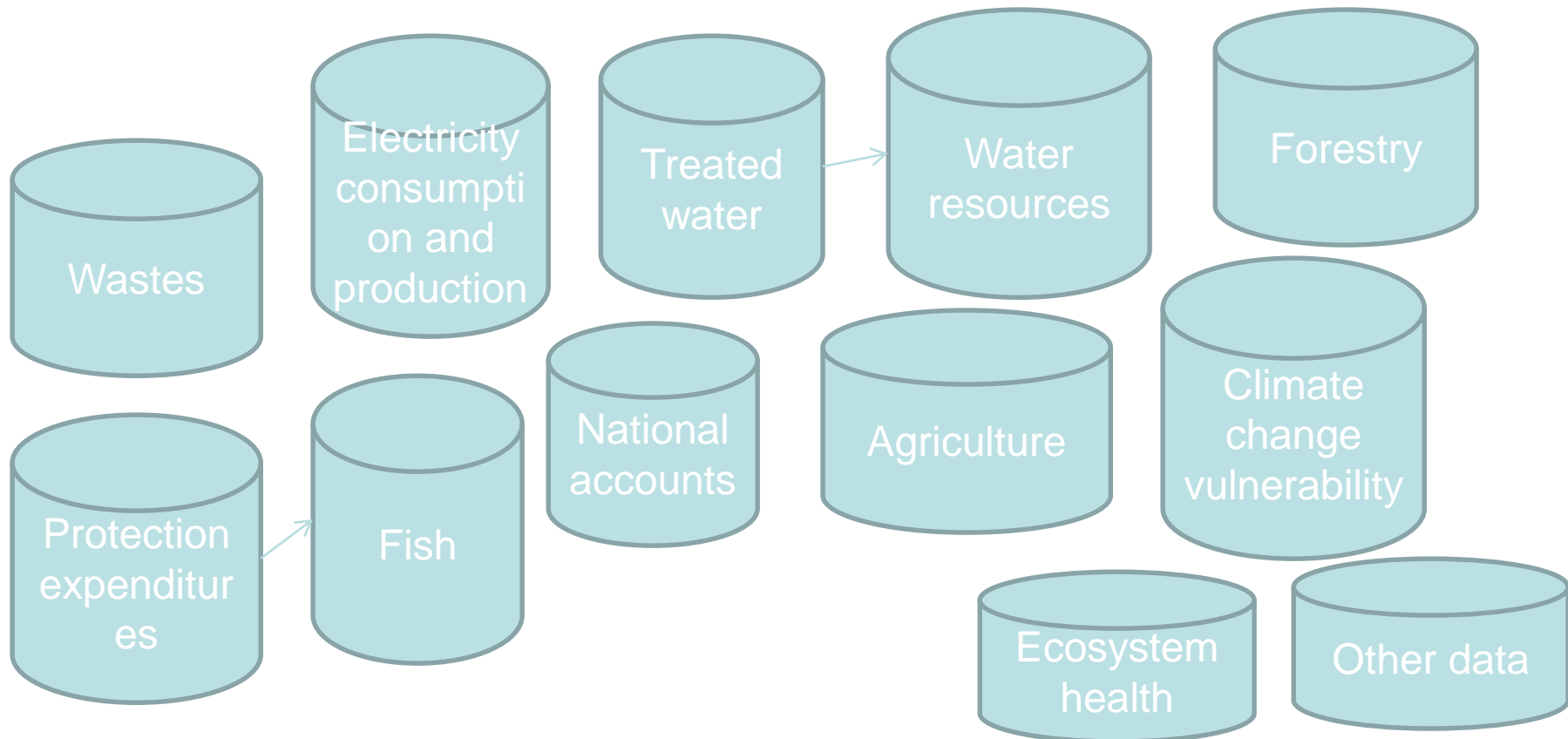
By way of example;

- Global programme on 2008 SNA implementation
- FAO global strategy for agriculture and rural statistics, pilot country
- Regional and subregional programmes
- Policy and analytical applications promoted by WAVES, TEEB and UNDP activities



## Broad assessment of data availability

- Lots of data available  
... But the data is not coordinated





# Constraints and Opportunities





## Constraints

- Data spread across national agencies and sections / not co-ordinated
  - Project based statistics
  - Limited data sharing or awareness of information
- Limited technical knowledge on environment statistics and accounts (water, forest, energy, etc.) and its linkage with economic statistics
- Lack of experience of the environment in economic policy making (e.g. use of policy instruments for fiscal and regulatory policy)



## Opportunities

- Improve evidence based decision making in integrating environment/natural capital in development policies
- Improve quality of basic data sources (including the use of administrative records and official statistics)
- Reduce response burden and data collection duplication and increase cost efficiency/value for money in use of administrative sources and integration of business and household survey related collections and processing



## Opportunities

- Strengthen institutional dialogue on policy and statistics
- Strengthen institutional coordination arrangements (e.g. Boards, MoUs. service agreements) for production of statistics and its policy use in support of compilation and policy use of SEEA
  - Need to identify coordinator for statistics
  - Objective to improve coordination



# Actions



## Actions

- Establish the national coordination board/committee with users and producers
- Prepare national statement of strategy (by December 2013)
- Decide on priority accounts and related time series, indicators and policy applications
- Institutional arrangements (strategies and plans)
- Data quality assessment (following demands from strategies and plans)



## Actions

- Pilot SEEA compilation (suggested as priorities like water, energy, forest, environmental protection expenditures, land cover/use)
- Plans by accounts:
  - objectives, institutional arrangements, outputs, activities, sources, timelines, requirements for external assistance
- Dissemination and communication strategy on nationally agreed accounts and time series of statistics and indicators



**THANK YOU**