



Global Implementation Strategy for SEEA

United Nations Statistics Division

Regional Seminar on Developing an Implementation Strategy for the
SEEA Central Framework in the Latin American Region

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Outline of presentation

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Background

- SEEA CF adopted by UNSC in 2012
 - SEEA implementation should be a **long-term program**, to be implemented **flexibly and incrementally**, giving full consideration to **national circumstances and requirements**
 - Requested UNCEEA to develop an implementation strategy
- Implementation strategy endorsed by 2013 UNSC
 - Practical actions that can be taken by international organizations and national statistical systems to maximise the extent to which SEEA is implemented in the short to medium-term
- Discussion of implications at International conference on SEEA implementation in New York 17-19 June 2013



Current state of play

- At the national level, many countries already have extensive environmental-economic accounting programs
 - Eg Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, Sweden
- There are also a range of international initiatives relevant to environmental-economic accounting
 - WAVES (Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services) – World Bank
 - Green Growth Strategy – OECD
 - Green Economy Initiative – DESA, UNEP, UNDP
 - Poverty and Environment Initiative - UNDP
 - EU strategy for Environmental Accounting – European Commission



Objective

- To assist countries in the adoption of the SEEA Central Framework as the measurement framework for environmental-economic accounts and supporting statistics, and
- To establish incrementally the technical capacity for regular reporting on a minimum set of environmental-economic accounts with the appropriate scope, detail and quality



Flexible and modular approach

- Countries differ in terms of their specific environmental-economic policy issues and their level of statistical development. Accordingly, countries may prioritize the accounts they want to implement over the short to medium-term based on the most pressing policy demands
- The flexible and modular approach is operationalized by a number of phases



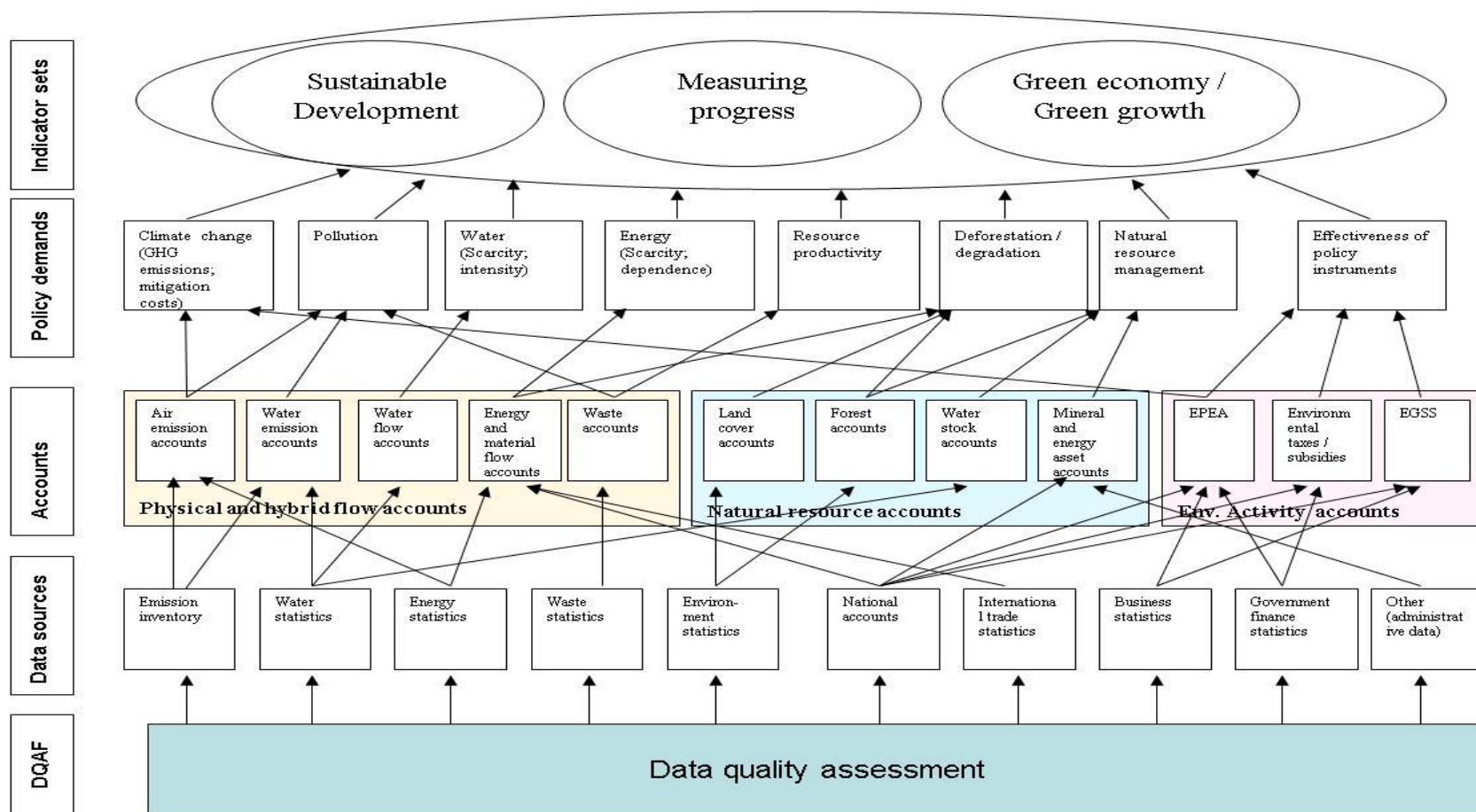
Four phases

- First phase – establish national institutional arrangements
- Second phase – self assessment using diagnostic tool
- Third phase -- data quality assessment
- Fourth phase – preparation of strategic development plan

- These phases would be supported by international activities



Diagnostic tool





Example – energy flow accounts

- **Policy areas served:** Energy dependence, energy scarcity, energy efficiency, climate change etc.
- **Analyses:** Decoupling energy use economic growth, structural decomposition analyses for energy use, energy or carbon footprint, etc.
- **Indicators:** Net domestic energy use, energy intensity for industries, energy dependency ratios etc.
- **Accounts:** Physical supply and use tables for energy
- **Data sources:** energy statistics, national accounts, international trade statistics, traffic statistics



Implementation activities

- Technical assistance and training
- SEEA implementation guide, compilation manuals, diagnostic tools, technical notes, data quality assessment framework and training materials
- Core sets of SEEA tables for data collection and reporting
- Creation of partnerships at global, regional and national level, including cooperation with the policy and scientific communities
- Advocacy and communication



Considerations for SEEA implementation

- Strategic approach to the implementation
 - National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) should be linked to strategic planning frameworks such as the National Development Strategies, National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP)
- Linking the implementation to policy demands
 - The SEEA can serve as the statistical infrastructure in response to existing policy frameworks such as Post 2015 Development Agenda, Natural Capital Accounting and Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), green economy/green growth, sustainable production and consumption (SPC), etc



Considerations for SEEA implementation

- Bottom-up approach
 - countries owning the implementation process and agreeing on national implementation strategies and implementation plans
- Sub-regional and regional approach
 - sub-regional organizations have played important roles in bringing together countries, compiling existing statistics, promoting standards and developing capacity in countries and fostering south-south cooperation
- Linked to the 2008 SNA implementation programme and the global strategy for agriculture and rural statistics
- Stages of implementation by 2020 based on national priorities



Coordination

- Mechanism for coordination, monitoring progress and facilitating cooperation
 - Proposed Partnership Group, overseen by UNCEEA and supported by trust fund for the development of common tools (e.g. implementation guidelines, data assessment tools, training materials, E-learning, technical notes), training strategy, capacity building activities, communication strategy and eventually data reporting.
- Information structure for coordination, monitoring and reporting
 - Project management – global, regional and national
 - Stakeholder communication
 - Information system for monitoring and reporting



Strategy for funding

- SEEA implementation should be included, as appropriate in national statistical development plan and actively funding should actively sought for this work
- International agencies will be encouraged to provide technical assistance and financial support, including for the development of basic environmental statistics
- Donors will be approached to provide funding for the trust fund
- SEEA implementation should build on synergies with other programs of work (eg PARIS 21)



Experimental ecosystem accounting

- SEEA Experimental ecosystem accounting is not an international standard, rather it is conceptual framework setting out the current ‘state of the art’
- Nonetheless countries are encouraged, where possible, to test and experiment in this new field of statistics
 - Where this is done, it should complement the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework



Thank you