System of Environmental Economic Accounting
Introduction to Core Accounting Principles on SEEA and SNA

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United Nations Statistics Division
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Objectives of the Session

• Define the scope of measurement in the SEEA
  > Defining the economy and the environment
  > The production boundary
  > Economic units – sectors and industries

• The accounting structure of the SEEA
SEEA Conceptual Framework

**Activities**
- Production
- Consumption
- Accumulation

**Instruments**
- Financial/Monetary
- Taxes/subsidies
- Financing
- Resource rent
- Permits

**Economic Units**
- Enterprises
- Households
- Government
- Non-profit institutions

**Economy**

**Environment**

**Territory of reference**

**Imports/Exports**

**Outside territory of reference**

**Natural inputs**

**Ecosystem services**

**Residuals (e.g., emissions, waste)**

**Individual Environmental Assets** (e.g., land, water, mineral and energy, soil, aquatic)

**Ecosystem Assets**

**Transboundary Environmental Flows**
Defining the economy
Defining the “Economy”

- Economic activities
  > Production, Consumption, Accumulation

- Economic products
  > Goods and services

- Economic assets
  > Produced, Non-produced, Financial assets

- Economic units
  > Establishments, enterprises, households, governments

- Economic territory
  > Residence, geographic coverage
Constituents of an economy

- All institutional units residing in the economic territory of a country during the accounting period constitute its economy.
  - **Institutional unit**: an entity capable of owning assets, incurring liabilities, carrying out economic activities, taking decisions on all aspects of economic life and engaging in transactions with other entities.
  - **Residing**: The economic territory in which an institutional unit has its centre of predominant economic interest [2008 SNA] is the residence of the unit.
  - **Economic Territory**: The geographic territory administered by the government of the country within which persons, goods, and capital can circulate freely.
Institutional sectors

- economy
  - corporate
    - Financial corporate sector
    - Non-financial corporate sector
  - General government
  - Household sector
  - NPISHs
Enterprises, Establishments and Industries

- Enterprises
  > Institutional units from the perspective of being producers of goods and services

- Establishments
  > Enterprises in a single location performing a single or predominant type of productive activity

- Industries
  > Groupings of establishments undertaking similar types of productive activity
The Production Boundary

• “Production is an activity carried out ... by an institutional unit that uses inputs of labour, capital and goods and services to produce outputs of goods and services” (2008 SNA, 6.24)

• In practice:
  > Exclude things you do only for yourself
  > Exclude household production of services for itself
    - Except rent of owner-occupiers & wages of domestic staff
  > Include household production of goods for itself
    - Agricultural products, fishing, fuelwood, clothes, furniture, water, energy
  > Include concealed and illegal activity
Types of Output and Production

- Market output
  - Transactions between economic units at market prices

- Non-market output
  - Not transacted at market prices (government education, health)
  - Valued at cost of production

- Own-account production (within establishments)
  - For own final consumption (e.g. subsistence agriculture) : INCLUDED
  - For own final capital formation (e.g. building own house) : INCLUDED
  - For own intermediate consumption : EXCLUDED (except ancillary activity)
Questions on the economy

State whether TRUE or FALSE.

1. Foreign students staying for three years are considered residents. **Q 1. FALSE**
2. A branch of Citi Bank (an American bank) in Tokyo is a resident of Japan. **Q 2. TRUE**
3. Australian crew of a ship of a Japanese company are residents of Japan. **Q 3. FALSE**
4. Non-residents are not considered to be owners of immovable assets. **Q 4. TRUE**
Key Messages

• Many aspects to defining the economy
• Measurement boundaries are important to understand
  > Production boundary key determinant of the size of GDP
• Own- account activity needs special consideration
• Economic (institutional) units can be seen from two key perspectives
  > Institutional sector: Similar economic behaviours / legal basis
  > Industry: Similar productive activities
The accounting structure of the SEEA
Some definitions

1. Environmental assets are the naturally occurring living and non-living components of the Earth, together constituting the biophysical environment, which may provide benefits to humanity.

2. Ecosystems are a dynamic complex of plant, animal and microorganism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

In the SEEA CF has an environmental assets approach.
Environmental and economic assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic assets</th>
<th>Environmental assets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Produced assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>Natural resources and land with no economic benefits (barren land, known mineral deposits without current economic value)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets and inventories</td>
<td>Cultivated biological resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-produced assets</strong></td>
<td>Natural resources and land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts, marketing assets, etc.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial assets</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Physical and Monetary Scope

• In principle, when accounting for environmental assets in physical terms all environmental assets whether or not they have a monetary value are included
  ➢ All land in a country is included in physical land accounts
  ➢ Also timber resources, other biological resources, soil, inland water resources

• Mineral and energy resources scope is known deposits

• Aquatic resources scope is all resources within EEZ plus rights on high seas
  ➢ In practice limit to commercial stocks and subsistence
Key Points and Boundary Issues

• Distinct treatment of land
  > Account for its provision of space / area not the resources that are within it

• Include natural and cultivated biological resources

• Oceans and atmosphere excluded

• Stocks of potential energy from renewable sources excluded
  > E.g. solar, wind, tidal power
  > Slight exception for hydropower
The SEEA Central Framework Accounts

1. **Stock accounts** for environmental assets: natural resources and land
   - physical (e.g. fish stocks and changes in stocks) and/or monetary values (e.g. value of natural capital, depletion)

2. **Flow accounts**: supply and use tables for products, natural inputs and residuals (e.g. waste, wastewater) generated by economic activities.
   - physical (e.g. m² of water) and/or monetary values (e.g. permits to access water, cost of wastewater treatment, etc.)

3. **Activity / purpose accounts** that explicitly identify environmental transactions already existing in the SNA.
   - e.g. Environmental Protection Expenditure (EPE) accounts, environmental taxes and subsidies

4. **Combined physical and monetary accounts** that bring together physical and monetary information for derivation indicators, including depletion adjusted aggregates
Basic form of monetary supply and use table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supply table</th>
<th>Industries</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Accumulation</th>
<th>Rest of the world</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Products</td>
<td>Output</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Imports</td>
<td>Total supply</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use table</th>
<th>Products</th>
<th>Intermediate consumption</th>
<th>Household final consumption expenditure</th>
<th>Government final consumption expenditure</th>
<th>Gross capital formation (including changes in inventories)</th>
<th>Exports</th>
<th>Total use</th>
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<tr>
<td>Value added</td>
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Basic form of physical supply and use table

### Supply Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Industries</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Accumulation</th>
<th>Rest of the world</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural inputs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Products</td>
<td>Output</td>
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<td>Residuals</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Residuals generated by industry</td>
<td>Residuals generated by final household consumption</td>
<td>Residuals from scrapping and demolition of produced assets</td>
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<td>Flows from the environment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Use Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Extraction of natural inputs</th>
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<th></th>
<th>Total of natural inputs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural inputs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Products</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intermediate consumption</td>
<td>Household final consumption</td>
<td>Gross capital formation</td>
<td>Exports</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residuals</td>
<td>Collection and treatment of waste and other residuals</td>
<td>Accumulation of waste in controlled landfill sites</td>
<td>Residual flows direct to environment</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SEEA**
Some observations on the physical and monetary supply and use tables

1. Differences in the rows
2. Differences in the columns
3. Classifications
Supply and use identity

*Total Supply of Products*

= Output + ????

is identical to

*Total Use of Productions*

= Intermediate consumption
+ Household final consumption
+ Gross capital formation
+ ????
Input-output identity

\[\text{Materials into the economy} = \text{Flows from the environment} + \text{imports} + \text{residuals received from the rest of the world} + \text{residuals recovered from the environment}\]

is equal to

\[\text{Materials out of the economy} = \text{Residual flows to the environment} + \text{exports} + \text{residuals sent to the rest of the world}\]

plus

\[\text{Net additions to stock in the economy} = \text{Gross capital formation} + \text{accumulation in controlled landfill sites} - \text{residuals from produced assets and controlled landfill sites}\]
## Basic form of asset accounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Opening stock of environmental assets</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additions to stock</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Growth in stock</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discoveries of new stock</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Upward reappraisals</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reclassifications</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total additions of stock</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reductions of stock</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extractions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Normal loss of stock</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Catastrophic losses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Downward reappraisals</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reclassifications</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total reductions in stock</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revaluation of the stock</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Closing stock of environmental assets</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other accounts

- Functional accounts
  - Environmental protection expenditure accounts
  - Environmental goods and services
  - Environmental taxes
- Combined presentations
THANK YOU

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