



# Elements of the SEEA Implementation Strategy

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## Background

- SEEA Central Framework adopted (UN Statistical Commission 2012)
- Implementation strategy for SEEA Central Framework endorsed (UNSC 2013)
- SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting endorsed (UNSC 2013)
- Encouragement to test and experiment with the SEEA EEA for those countries wanting to embark on ecosystem accounting (UNSC 2013)
- Step up the SEEA implementation in countries (UNSC 2015)



## Policy landscape

- **SDG**
  - Integrated policies in need for integrated information system (SNA, SEEA CF, SEEA EEA can inform many goals and targets)
- **Green economy/Green growth**
  - OECD has launched data collection on air emission and subsoil assets with intention to expand to other accounts
- **Beyond GDP**
  - Eurostat has mandatory reporting on: air emission accounts, MFA, EPEA, env. Taxes, energy and EGSS
- **Aichi targets**
  - SEEA been recognized as the framework to report on Target 2 as well as other targets
- **Natural Capital Accounting**
  - World Bank recognizes the SEEA as the underlying statistical framework



## Statistical initiatives

- SDG indicators
- Modernization of the statistical system
  - SEEA as a catalyst
- Big data
  - Use of geospatial data in support of official statistics
- GGIM
  - Setting the agenda for geospatial information
  - One group dealing with geospatial information in support of sustainable development and Post-2015 development agenda



## Objective of the SEEA implementation strategy

- Adoption of the SEEA as the measurement framework for sustainable development
- Mainstream the SEEA implementation in countries as part of regular production process
- Establish technical capacity for regular reporting on a minimum set of environmental-economic accounts



# 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), National Compacts
- 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 consumption and Production (SCP), thematic information



# Considerations for SEEA implementation

- Bottom-up approach
  - countries own the implementation process and agree on national implementation strategies and national 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
- South-south cooperation
- Linked to the 2008 SNA implementation programme and global strategy for agriculture statistics
- Stages of implementation by 2020 based on national priorities



## Elements of national SEEA implementation

- National assessment of existing initiatives – policy, data, stakeholders
- Development of national plan to be adopted by all stakeholders at the highest level
- Establishment of a formal coordination mechanism of main stakeholders (possibly with different layers – senior and technical)
- Agree on priorities
  - Identify policy questions and stakeholders
  - In-depth assessment of data availability (e.g. definitions, classifications, data collection methods)





## Elements of national SEEA implementation (Cont'ed)

- Pilot compilation of priority accounts with existing data
- Analysis of data gaps and overlaps and identification of opportunities to move towards an integrated data production process
- Develop a plan for regular collection/compilation of the accounts – short and long term plan including harmonization of input data, improvement of data quality, efficient statistical system (GBSPM model)



## Elements of global SEEA implementation

- Coordination
- Development of tools and materials to support the national implementation
- Advancing the research agenda
- Development of baseline for the SDG
- Communication



## Coordination

- Among international agencies
  - Obtain buy-in from the different communities (e.g. water, SCP, forest, etc.)
  - Ensure a coordinated approach to the development of statistical system based on standards, using common tools and approaches
  - Coordinated technical assistance
- With scientists from academia, think-tanks, etc.
  - Leverage on scientific expertise and mainstream it within the national statistical system



## Coordination (Cont'ed)

- With the business community
  - Ensure alignment of concepts and methods business accounting with the SEEA to obtain higher quality data from businesses



## Tools in support of SEEA implementation

- Training materials (E-learning, workshops, etc.)
- SEEA implementation guide, compilation manuals, diagnostic tools
- Core sets of SEEA tables for data collection and reporting
- Creation of E-platform – repository of technical and implementation materials and tools in support of the SEEA implementation
- Regional and sub-regional workshops
- In-country technical assistance



## Training of trainers

- Being developed jointly by GIZ and UNSD in collaboration with experts
- Blended learning
  - On-line preparatory phase
  - 1 week face-to-face workshop to share experiences and obtain training on how to organize and conduct a workshop
  - On line deepening phase
- On-line phases facilitated by tutor and SEEA Expert
- Intended for those with some experience on the SEEA and being tasked to provide training to other countries or within country



## Training the trainers (Cont'ed)

- Modules for selected accounts to be developed
  - Ecosystem accounting
  - Water
  - Energy
- Rolling out the TOT programme in all regions
  - Global (UNSD, New York April - July 2014)
  - Africa (ECA, Addis Ababa October 2014 – February 2015)
  - Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC, April – July 2015)
  - Asia (ESCAP SIAP, September 2015 – January 2016)



## Advancing the research agenda

- Prioritize issues focusing in particular on those issues that can be elevated to standard or agreed methodologies (e.g. land cover, land use classification, classification of ecosystem types, classification of ecosystem services, carbon, etc.)
- Use existing mechanisms (e.g. London Group on Environmental Accounting, Forum of Experts on Ecosystem Accounting) or new mechanisms that bring together experts from different disciplines to address conceptual and implementation issues with the objective of reaching agreement on common approaches





## Baselines for SDG indicators

- SEEA has been recognized as an important framework to inform SDG indicators

..... But there are very few data which are SEEA compliant

- Opportunity to mainstream the SEEA in the national statistical system
- In the short term, use available data and try to estimate SEEA compliant indicators using existing data collection and reporting processes, understand differences
- In the medium term, align the reporting to SEEA or develop standard methods to bridge



## Baseline for SDG

- Goal 15 – Can we develop a baseline based on the SEEA?

*Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*