

UNCEEA WORKING GROUP ON COORDINATION (AREA A)

Background papers and resources

- [Global Consultation on Climate Change Statistics and Indicators](#)
- [Measuring the Circular Economy](#)

Area A – developments in 2020-21

The proposal to merge Area E's responsibilities into Area A were approved by the Committee at the 15th Meeting of the UNCEEA. The Working Group met regularly in 2020 and has focussed on reviewing and further defining its role and priorities.

Area A has also actively expanded participation in the Working Group to include representation from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); Eurostat; IMF; UNECE; OECD; India; Netherlands; and the United Kingdom.

Group A continues to support the tools that can facilitate the discussion and coordination related to SEEA and environmental statistics through the development of various tools and resources such as:

- Super calendar– A [super-calendar](#) that lists SEEA-relevant meetings and workshops around the globe
- Development of a knowledge base on SEEA publications – this is a [resource](#) that provides access to SEEA-related documents on a large number of topics searchable by subject, country, date etc.
- [Quarterly SEEA News & Notes](#)

Priority areas of work:

Communication

Area A will continue to support the UNSD quarterly newsletter that covers global and regional SEEA-related initiatives and news, updates on country compilation and programmes, recent and upcoming events and new publications. It also includes an update on the E.U.-funded Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project.

Developing a broader framework for wellbeing and sustainability to fit better in the context of the COVID-19 recovery

The recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will require a broad set of metrics to ensure that actions taken are equitable and environmentally sustainable. The Advisory Expert Group on Economic accounts has already noted the need for guidance to provide clearer links between material wellbeing, including for example distributional measures, and broader issues of wellbeing and sustainability.

Area A can play a role to contribute to this thinking, but also to examine short-term actions that can be taken to provide broad metrics on the recovery using the SEEA and creating links to SNA indicators. In this context, it can also examine the role that SEEA can play in the emerging area of sustainable finance.

Mainstreaming SEEA

Expanding the use of the SEEA in areas such as the development and reporting of indicators, analysis and decision-making at national and global levels is a key role for Area A. Emerging issues include climate change, sustainable finance, biodiversity, and circular economy. The work programme is directly related to Area E's previous mandate as well as Area A's coordination role. For these emerging issues, it is necessary to identify entry points and mechanisms to support the mainstreaming of the SEEA in relevant policy and statistical initiatives.

There are a number of emerging areas of development where SEEA could play a role, and the overall goal is to play a coordination and mainstreaming role. Overall, the Working Group agreed to focus their efforts on specific topics, given limited resources. These topics include climate change, circular economy, sustainable finance and biodiversity.

To better coordinate the work surrounding these initiatives, Area A is working towards conducting a mapping exercise of work taking place within the UNCEEA and also to map thematically the various international groups engaged in emerging areas. The objective is to identify the various stakeholders and to better understand the state of play and how the SEEA could play a role moving forward. The approach can be an iterative one, beginning with international groups and eventually will include the work of regional groups (e.g. ESCAP, ocean accounts).

Coordinate indicators and the conceptual development in the area of sustainable finance

Area A has continued to engage with various groups on how the data needs of players in the sustainable finance space can be provided by the statistical community, and how existing initiatives of NSOs and international organizations can contribute through the SEEA.

Coordinate indicator and conceptual development in the area of circular economy

Area A is engaged with the UNECE on metrics for the circular economy, with the plan to align the activities on circular economy with the efforts in the OECD, ISO and other relevant work taking place on this topic. Area A will continue to provide feedback from a SEEA perspective related to the UNECE findings. Area A will also engage with the OECD representative on the Working Group to support coordination and collaboration related to topics of mutual interest/work.

Coordinate indicators and conceptual development in the area of climate change

Area A continues to coordinate with the UNECE related to engaging in activities to advance the use of SEEA to measure climate change indicators through such efforts as the high-level seminar on climate action organized by the UNECE. The IMF's creation of a climate change dashboard has several indicators derived using the SEEA, including the use of global SEEA databases as the source for a number of dashboard indicators. Area A supports efforts to increase the dialogue between the IMF and NSO's related to the compilation of the dashboard and use of SEEA for climate change metrics. In addition, the SEEA is very relevant other climate change initiatives, including the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators and upcoming G20 Data Gaps Initiative.

Collaboration to provide a SEEA perspective on the post 2020 framework for the Convention on Biological Diversity

The SEEA is well-positioned to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and Area A has begun to work with the CBD Secretariat on ensuring that the SEEA is reflected in the monitoring framework. Area A will continue to monitor developments through the CBD Area A representative as well as support the bringing together of focal points and NSOs through mechanisms such as regional webinars and regional workshops on this topic. UNSD is working on a concept note to be circulated when completed.

Questions for the Committee

The UNCEEA is asked to consider:

- Does the Committee have any comments or feedback on the priorities chosen by Area A?
- What should be the role of the NSO members of Area A, particularly in areas (such as biodiversity) where national leads tend to be assigned to policy ministries?
- How can the Working Group ensure better coordination and representation of the SEEA in areas with a proliferation of groups and initiatives, such as climate change and circular finance?