



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Project management framework for the update of the SEEA Central Framework

Draft incorporating UNCEEA feedback

Note: This document was prepared by the Technical Committee on the SEEA Central Framework and then reviewed by the Bureau of the UNCEEA and Committee for comment; and an updated version, incorporating the Committee's feedback, is being circulated for the 19th Meeting of the UNCEEA.

Project management framework for the update of the SEEA Central Framework

1. The United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) at its 18th meeting, held in 2023, agreed to an update of the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF) with a focused scope. In 2024, at the 55th Session of the UN Statistical Commission, the Commission endorsed the proposed update of the SEEA Central Framework (English draft report subject to editing available [here](#)).
2. The present document outlines the project management framework to clarify the project coordination, the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders, and the timeline for the SEEA CF update process. After approval by the Committee, it will be sent to the UN Statistical Commission in 2025, along with the final list of issues.

Overall approach

3. Under the auspices of the UNCEEA, the SEEA CF Technical Committee (TC), with UNSD as Secretariat, will lead the management of the SEEA CF update process. The role will include establishing and endorsing a detailed programme of work, identifying consultants and reviewers as required, leading engagement with multiple stakeholders and ensuring that guidance notes and resulting documents undergo the appropriate process for endorsement. The work also includes the identification of financial resources by the UNCEEA Bureau to fund an editor, consultants, meetings and user forums. The drafting of the updated SEEA CF will be overseen by an Editorial Board that will be set up for the update process.
4. The SEEA CF update will follow a three-pronged approach: (a) undertaking technical research and reaching recommended guidance on a set of specific issues; (b) engaging in progressive rounds of inclusive, global consultations and review; and (c) coordination and collaboration with different stakeholders.
5. It is envisaged to include a broad set of users in the update process of the SEEA CF, including statisticians, national accountants, policy makers, academia, the environmental economics community, private sector, etc. The Committee will actively reach out to engage user communities and organizations (e.g. UNEP, IUCN, etc.). In addition, a key aspect of the update will be coordination and cooperation between the various economic statistics, environmental statistics and classifications expert groups to ensure that the updated SEEA CF is aligned with existing standards, as appropriate. Formal collaboration agreements may be established with groups such as the Government Finance Statistics Advisory Committee, the UN Committee of Experts on International

Statistical Classifications and the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. It is expected that this coordination will also leverage combined research, update and consultative processes.

6. A list of issues will be identified for the update of the SEEA CF. The criteria for selecting these issues will include the policy impact and urgency with which those issues should be addressed in order to provide policy-relevant data; conceptual impact for the SEEA CF and its alignment with other statistical standards; the complexity of the conceptual issue and the extent to which it can be resolved within the current framework, or requires changes to the conceptual framework; and the time required to make progress on these issues internationally.
7. Dedicated task teams will be established to undertake the technical research and draft guidance notes for the list of issues. The guidance notes will clearly outline the issues, assess implications for other statistical domains to ensure the overall consistency and coherence of measurement, and assess the feasibility of implementing the proposed conceptual solutions. For overlapping issues in the research agenda of the SEEA CF and other international standards/manuals, joint task teams may be established. The deliverables of these joint task teams would subsequently be submitted to the relevant committees of experts.
8. To facilitate outreach and ensure country involvement, all documents for consultation or discussion in meetings will be made publicly available through the SEEA website, which is maintained by UNSD.

Timeline of the SEEA CF update process and deliberation of issues

9. The ultimate output of the update process is an updated SEEA CF to be submitted for approval by the UNSC at its 59th session. During the update process, intermediate outputs will be prepared consisting of the following:
 - a. A number of standalone guidance notes to resolve key issues from the update issue list reflecting the latest advances in methodology; and
 - b. Consecutive drafts of the updated SEEA CF chapters.
10. The work plan of the SEEA Central Framework update is envisaged as follows:

Activity	Timeline	Agency/country responsible
List of issues and preliminary work		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify sources of funding 	Q1-Q3 2024	Bureau, Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement on the updated list of issues and prioritization by the Bureau and broader UNCEEA 	Q1-Q2 2024	SEEA CF TC, Bureau, UNCEEA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion at UNSC 	Q1 2024	UNCEEA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of task team leads, authors of topic papers 	Q1-Q2 2024	SEEA CF TC, Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement on project management framework by UNCEEA 	Q2 2024	UNCEEA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global consultation on list of issues 	Q2-Q3 2024	Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence work on high priority issues which can begin already 	Q2-Q4 2024	SEEA CF TC, London Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize list of issues for presentation to UNSC, taking into account resources secured 	Q4 2024	SEEA CF TC, Bureau, UNCEEA
Issue papers		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of all issue papers by task teams 	2025	SEEA CF TC, London Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staggered global consultation on the issue papers 	Q1 2025 – Q2 2026	Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision of issue papers 	Q4 2025 - Q3 2026	SEEA CF TC
Updating SEEA CF text		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting relevant text to replace the text in the SEEA CF 	Q2 2026 - Q3 2027	Editor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global consultation on the chapters 	Q2-Q4 2027	Secretariat
Adoption of the SEEA CF	Q1 2028	UN Statistical Commission

Governance arrangements for the update process

11. Overall, the update process will be carried out by the UNCEEA. However, specific roles and responsibilities are envisaged for the update process as follows:

- **UNCEEA:** The UNCEEA provides the overall vision, coordination, prioritization and direction on the governance of the SEEA. The UNCEEA will oversee and coordinate the SEEA CF update process at a high level.
- **UNCEEA Bureau:** The UNCEEA Bureau will provide regular oversight and guidance to the SEEA CF TC. The Bureau will also take a leading role in securing funding for the update.
- **SEEA CF Technical Committee:** The SEEA CF TC, with UNSD as Secretariat, will carry out the update of the SEEA CF through the establishment of task teams to advance the technical discussions on the issue list.

- **Task teams:** The task teams will be established under the TC CF to address the issues and prepare guidance notes. The task teams will be the primary technical bodies driving forward the revision and making progress on the revision issues. The task teams, with appropriate expert representation from different communities and will coordinate with the London Group and task teams of relevant revision processes. It is envisaged that there will be four task teams, each tackling a group of issues from the issue list. The four task teams are: 1) overarching topics, including alignment with the updated SNA; 2) physical flow accounts (chapter 3); 3) environmental activity and related flows (chapter 4); and 4) asset accounts (chapter 5). A lead for each of the task teams will be selected, who will also be part of the SEEA CF TC. The task teams will be responsible for undertaking technical research and drafting guidance notes to address the issues identified and propose solutions for the updated SEEA CF. In particular, the task teams will identify an issue lead amongst its members to draft each guidance note and move things forward. The task teams will report to the SEEA CF TC and be supported by UNSD and the editor of the SEEA CF.
- **Editorial Board:** As the drafting of the updated SEEA CF takes shape, the Editorial Board will be established to oversee the drafting of the SEEA CF. The Editorial Board will be composed of the SEEA CF TC and copublishing agencies.
- **London Group on Environmental Accounting:** The London Group will conduct research into selected SEEA CF update issues and draft position papers. This effort to facilitate the methodological discussion and support the SEEA CF update process is reflected in the London Group's work programme and the agenda for its annual meeting.
- **Editor:** The editor for the SEEA CF update will be responsible for the drafting of the updated SEEA CF. In particular, the editor will be responsible for:
 - Supporting the task teams, in particular coordinating the technical input, ensuring consistency and adequacy of their work to satisfy the requirements of statistical rigour needed for the SEEA CF;
 - As appropriate, drafting a select number of substantive discussion papers to feed into the outputs of the task teams, participating in technical meetings and supporting external review by experts;
 - Ensuring coherence, the editor will participate in each task team and be involved in the development of the issues papers, thus providing a single set of eyes over the discussions; and
 - Preparing documents for the expert and global consultation of the papers, including final drafts of the SEEA CF which incorporate the comments received.
- In addition, pending resource availability, supporting consultants are responsible for preparing some of the guidance notes and providing textual input for the updated SEEA CF.

Decision-making process

12. The Bureau of the UNCEEA, which includes all copublishing agencies, will provide overall oversight and coordination for the update process, which is executed by the SEEA CF TC/Editorial

Board. The Bureau, which is also taking a leading role in securing funding, will determine the ultimate list of issues for the update of the SEEA CF, taking into consideration the resources secured, and with the input of the SEEA CF TC and broader UNCEEA.

13. With regards to the decision-making process for specific issues, the SEEA CF TC/Editorial Board and relevant experts/stakeholders will review the feedback received during global consultation of these issues and arrive at a group decision on how to address the feedback. In some cases, multiple rounds of global consultation on specific issues may be needed to ensure satisfactory resolution of issues. To ensure transparency and keep the UNCEEA informed, the Secretariat, in consultation with the SEEA CF TC/Editorial Board, will prepare reports on the feedback received from the global consultations and indicate how the issues have been resolved.

Meetings related to the SEEA CF update

14. The SEEA CF update requires a set of meetings to support both the technical input and outreach activities. The main meetings are:
 - Technical meetings (i.e. SEEA CF TC, task team leads and copublishing agencies, Editorial Board) to advance the SEEA CF update issues
 - A global user forum and five regional user forums to receive input from the user community and advance the SEEA CF update issues
 - Meetings of the London Group on Environmental Accounting

Project support

15. UNSD, as Secretariat of the UNCEEA, is the main source of logistical and administrative support for the project. Among the tasks that the Secretariat undertakes are the following:
 - a. Preparation of project correspondence with the Statistical Commission and national statistical offices
 - b. Logistics and other support to the SEEA CF TC/Editorial Board, task teams and editor
 - c. Organization of global consultations
 - d. Organization of in-person Editorial Board meetings and user forums
 - e. Maintenance of the project website

Funding

16. The update process will be funded partly from in-kind contributions and direct funding of activities by countries and international organizations, and partly from a multi-donor trust fund managed by UNSD. Countries and organizations are encouraged to contribute, whether through in-kind contributions, contributions to the trust fund or direct funding of activities.

17. Activities to be funded include aspects of the experimentation and testing of the guidance notes for feasibility of implementation, particularly in countries with limited statistical capacity; the services of the editor for the updated SEEA CF; the participation of experts from developing countries in the meetings of the Editorial Board; global and regional user forums; consultancy services; and the editing, typesetting and printing of the updated SEEA CF.
18. Further details are expected to become available after firming up the requirements, the cost of those requirements and the availability of financial resources and in-kind support.