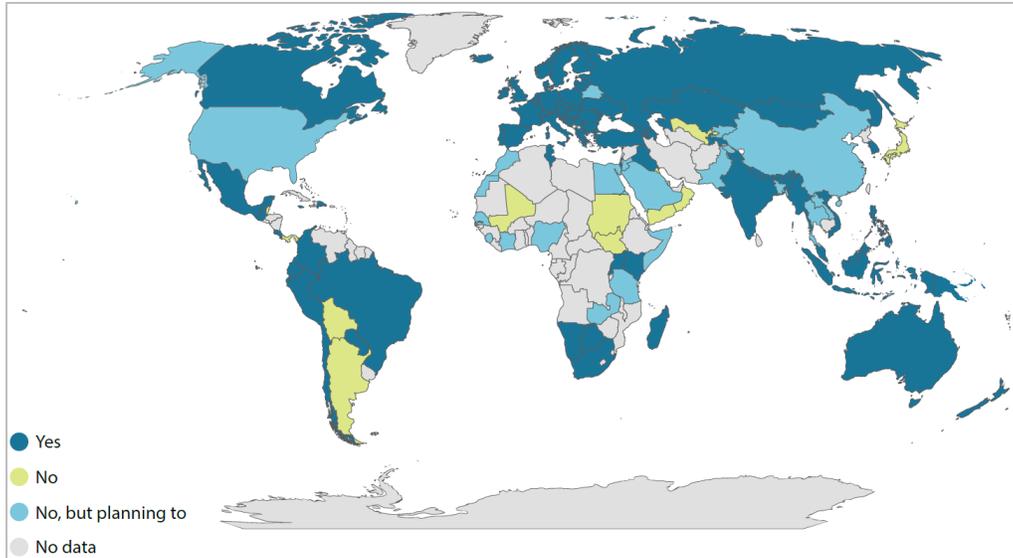


# SEEA IMPLEMENTATION AND THE 2020 GLOBAL ASSESSMENT (AREA D)

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## Current status of SEEA implementation

- Information collected by the United Nations from 137 countries, through both the 2017 Global Assessment (sent to national statistical offices) and according to informal consultation with Area D members (regional commissions, international agencies) and countries
  - 47 developed countries and 90 developing countries
  - Most represented regions: Western Asia (15 countries), Southern Europe (12 countries), Eastern Africa (11 countries)
  - Current status as per May 2019
    - **86** (63%) countries have compiled and/or published accounts; **32** (23%) are planning to compile accounts; **19** (14%) haven't compiled accounts.
    - **41** (87%) developed countries and **45** (50%) developing countries have compiled and/or published accounts
    - Of those countries that have compiled and/or published accounts, **67** (78%) have compiled and published accounts, **16** (18%) have only compiled, and the status is unclear for **3** (3%) countries.
    - Of those countries that have compiled and/or published accounts, **57** (66%) have some sort of funding in place and **13** (15%) have no funding. The funding status for **16** (19%) countries is unknown.



- With 86 countries having compiled and/or published accounts, there is a shortfall of 14 countries to achieve 100 countries compiling and/or publishing SEEA CF accounts.
- However, this changes if we look at if countries that have funding and have published accounts. In this case, only 45 countries have compiled and published SEEA CF accounts and have regular funding. If we include periodic funding, this number goes up to 52.
- SEEA EEA implementation has been more difficult to measure, particularly since line ministries are often responsible for compiling the accounts. However, according to consultations with regional commissions and experts active in the SEEA EEA, approximately 29 countries have compiled accounts and additional 12 countries are in the process of compiling their first accounts.

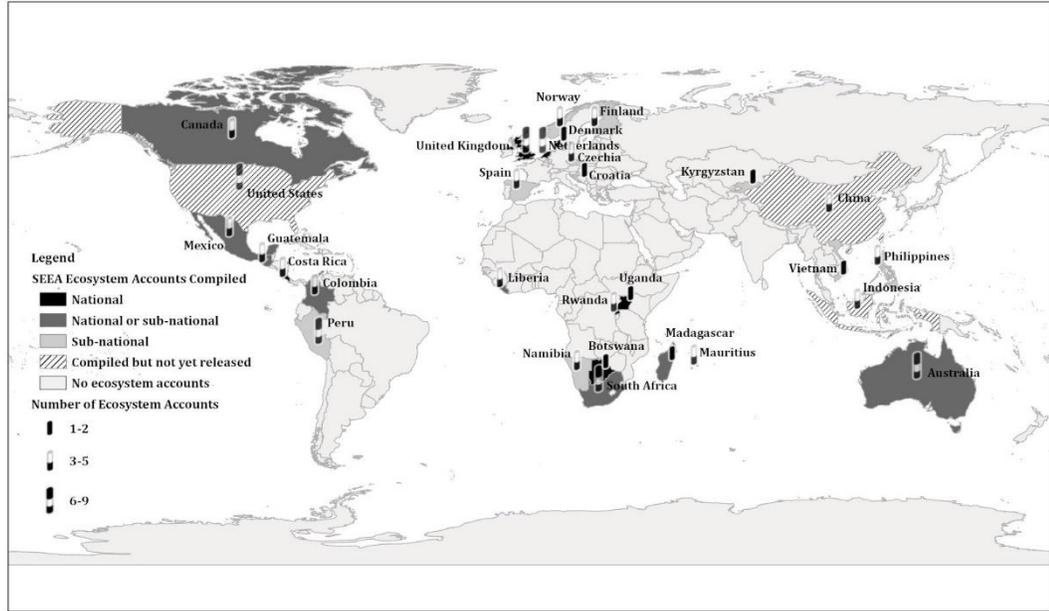


Figure from a draft manuscript submitted to Nature (Hein et al., 2019).

- The International Coordination Survey was conducted in late 2018, targeting international and regional agencies. Each agency was asked to provide information on the countries they had assisted with SEEA-related work in 2018, in terms of technical assistance, national work programmes, workshops, training, etc. Several global and regional initiatives and workshops were held/ongoing in 2018, and 30 countries received capacity building and/or technical support on an individual basis. The 2018 International Coordination Survey can be found in the Annex.

## Meeting the 2020 Targets

More must be done if the UNCEEA is to reach the 2020 implementation targets. The below provides some potential areas of focus, which the UNCEEA is requested to reflect upon.

- Looking at the map of overall/SEEA CF implementation, there is room for greater implementation in Africa and Western Asia in particular. In terms of SEEA EEA implementation, there is room for greater implementation Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia in particular.
- In recent years, South-South collaboration has increasingly been used to strengthen implementation. For example, South Africa has played a leading role in hosting regional workshops under the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project, which help to increase technical capacity of countries in

the region. Greater South-South collaboration could harness synergies between countries facing similar compilation and implementation issues.

- More targeted technical assistance specifically directed to those 32 countries who are planning to implement the accounts could greatly help reach the 2020 targets. In particular, projects in these countries could help jump-start the accounts and pave the way for regular programmes.
- Better coordination by international and regional agencies and regional commissions could help ensure that countries receive the technical support they need. In particular, open channels of communication with regards to workshops and trainings could help agencies match country needs with potential opportunities.
- Better coordination by international and regional agencies and regional commissions to provide a consistent message in terms of best practices for establishing a programme of work on the SEEA and implementation of the accounts.

## Lessons learnt from the 2017 Global Assessment

Based on the experience gained from the 2017 Global Assessment, the following recommendations were made to improve the 2020 Global Assessment:

- The 2017 questionnaire targeted most NSOs. As previously mentioned, in some countries the NSOs are unaware of work done by other line ministries and organisations. To measure implementation in a better way, the 2020 questionnaire should target all players involved in the SEEA space.
- There were concerns over definitions used in the questionnaire. These concerns should be addressed for the 2020 Global Assessment.
- An additional question should be added to the 2020 questionnaire, asking respondents if there are national policies that draw on the published data.
- A number of countries have the data but have not yet compiled accounts. The 2020 questionnaire should ask these countries why they have not yet analysed and published the data. Do they have staffing or funding issues?
- The 2020 questionnaire should ask respondents where they obtain their funding from.

## Moving forward to the 2020 Global Assessment, including dissemination and use of SEEA focal points

In order to move towards the successful compilation and dissemination of 2020 Global Assessment, a quarterly timeline of task is presented below. The timeline begins at quarter 3 2019 ending in quarter 4 of 2020. These discussions will be held at the Area D group meetings for each quarter.

- Timeline
  - 2019 Q3 to 2019 Q4
    - Develop a list of focal points/respondent list.
    - Discuss the 2020 Global Assessment questionnaire including structure, amendments to questions of the questionnaire, and definitions and terms.
    - Discuss how to best engage regional commissions to ensure high response rates.
  - 2020 Q1
    - Finalisation of the 2020 Global Assessment questionnaire.
    - Finalisation of focal points/ respondent list.
  - 2020 Q2
    - 2020 Global Assessment questionnaire to be sent out to all identified focal points/respondents.
  - 2020 Q3
    - Follow up with non-responders to ensure high response rate
    - Validate data and follow-up on issues
    - Clean data and begin data analysis
  - 2020 Q4
    - Finalise data analysis
    - Develop report (to be presented as a background document for the 2021 UN Statistical Commission).

## Questions

The UNCEEA is asked to consider:

- How can we increase our efforts to make sure we reach the 2020 targets? Do you agree with some of the potential areas of focus identified above? What else can be done?
- How do we intend to measure implementation?
- What is the best way to ensure that the Global Assessment reaches all ministries involved in SEEA compilation?
- Focal points / respondent list
  - Should we use the 2020 Global Assessment to identify focal points/ respondent list, or do we finalise the focal points before the survey is run?
  - Do we make this list publicly available?

## Annexure

2018 International Coordination Survey: The full survey can be found [here](#). A short summary is provided below.

- Responses were received from:
  - **ESTAT:** Provided support to countries in the European Union and also to other European countries (Norway, Iceland) and to candidate countries to the EU (Turkey, Balkan countries).
  - **OECD:** Provided support to Kazakhstan, as well as to the EECCA region, OECD member countries and other UN members.
  - **ESCAP:** Provided support to over 30 countries.
  - **UNECA:** Provided support to 17 countries in Africa.
  - **WAVES:** Provided support to 10 countries and the Western African region.
  - **EEA:** Provided support to six countries.
  - **ESCWA:** Provided support to one country, Lebanon.
  - **UNSD:** Provided support to five countries as part of the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services ([NCAVES](#)) project