

CURRENT AND RECENT CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES OF UNCEEA, AREA D

ESCAP

ESCAP provides technical assistance to countries in Asia and the Pacific to increase institutional and technical capacity to produce, disseminate and communicate SEEA CF and ecosystem accounts to inform nationally-specific priorities and environmental goals, targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During 2016-2020 ESCAP has provided technical assistance and advice to 25 countries in the region covering topics and accounts of national importance including but not limited to water, land, energy, solid waste, forest, air emissions and ecosystems.

Since 2018, ESCAP has provided capacity development support on ocean data and statistics integration through (1) partnerships (2) statistical guidance on ocean accounting and (3) in-country technical assistance on production and use of ocean accounts. In 2019, ESCAP and the University of New South Wales, Australia established the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) to provide an international coordination and communication structure for the development, maintenance, and use of ocean account. ESCAP continues to provide technical assistance to countries wishing to test the emerging technical guidance on ocean accounting through pilot studies on ocean accounting.

ESCAP continuously develops tools and self-learning materials to support and supplement in-country technical assistance, including on SEEA CF, SEEA EEA, and SEEA AAF. These and more are available on the ESCAP Resource Platform on Environment Statistics: <http://communities.unescap.org/environment-statistics>.

ESCWA

SEEA and Sustainable Consumption and Production in the SDGs context will be discussed in the upcoming Expert Group Meeting on “Resource Efficiency in the Arab Region, Monitoring Progress of SDG 12 and Building Back Better after COVID-19”. UN House, Beirut, 6-8 October 2020. Since 2008, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) collaborate with the League of Arab States (LAS) and UN Environment (UNE) to support regional work on sustainable consumption and production (SCP). From the statistical side, there has not been standalone work on SCP statistics and indicators in the Arab Region, therefore, ESCWA, UNSD and partners will provide statistical capacity building along the overall environmental dimension of the SDG indicators in the context of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting, Central framework (SEEA-CF), and specifically, the sub-accounts on material flow (MFA) and energy and water accounts that have a direct link to SCP.

For Domestic Material Consumption 12.2.2, ESCWA received requests from several Arab countries to support on measuring this indicator. Many developing countries don't have Material Flow Accounts (MFA). Technical assistance is needed on the use of simplified MFA, and SUTs to monitor the indicator. Also, Material Footprint, the Global Footprint Network will assist on the material footprint indicators 12.2.1.

-As part of the DA Programme on Data and Statistics, Pillar 2 on environment, ESCWA continued the implementation of several activities in 2020 on SDGs and environment-related indicators as well as providing Arabic Translation to important guidelines and training material on environment statistics, (FDES), and environmental accounts. In addition to the [Arabic version of the E-learning course on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 - Central Framework \(SEEA CF\)](#) that ESCWA added to the e-learning platform on SEEA, ESCWA is currently preparing the learning material on energy accounts and water account in Arabic. An on-line training on energy accounts is of high interest to the Arab countries, and it will be delivered collaboration with UNSD and partners towards the fourth quarter this year.

OECD

The OECD collaborates closely with other international organizations to support programmes for implementation of SEEA by national statistical agencies, especially by providing advisory services and technical assistance at workshops. OECD also organized a project to provide assistance to Russia, Costa Rica, and Kazakhstan with production of Environmentally Related Tax Revenue (ERTR) Accounts. The project strategy involved facilitating exchanges via ‘twinning’ between relatively experienced cases with pilot countries compiling accounts for the first time. The project has demonstrated feasibility for implementation of the ETRR accounts based on OECD guidelines in practice, despite the different starting points of data readiness across pilot countries. The OECD is also currently engaged in a partnership with UNDP Kazakhstan on implementation of SEEA in the Republic of Kazakhstan by providing support from international experts and organisation of two workshops.

SIAP

SIAP recently finished administering the SEEA-CF e-learning with over 500 participants. The SEEA-Energy e-learning course will be run in 2020 Q3. In addition, SIAP is developing courses on the link between the SEEA and policy, focusing on disaster statistics and other policy arenas. It is planned that these courses will launch in 2020 Q4.

UNECE

UNECE has different workstream supporting directly and indirectly implementation of SEEA in countries of the region. This includes:

- The annual organisation of the “Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on SEEA implementation” in collaboration with an Organising Committee of experts from several NSOs and international organisations (including also Eurostat and UNSD). The main objectives of the seminars are to provide a platform for exchange of knowledge and experience, and addresses all countries of the UNECE and OECD regions.
- Annual meetings of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (JTFEI), in close collaboration between UNECE Environment Division and UNECE Statistical Division together with the European Environment Agency. JTFEI has its focus on supporting capacity development for producing environmental indicators, environmental statistics, SEEA and sharing of environmental information in countries of South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.
- Capacity development activities carried out under UN Development Account Programme on Statistics and Data – 10th tranche. From 2017-2020 various training workshops, advisory missions on supporting capacity development for production and use of environmental statistics and accounts have been carried out to countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

This has been done in close collaboration with other partners (e.g. ESCAP, UNSD, IEA, UNEP, UNDP).

- Russian Federation has provided funding to UNECE Statistical Division for supporting CIS countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to provide high quality statistics and indicators to monitor progress towards SDGs. Parts of these activities, to be implemented by end of 2021, will also address support in SEEA implementation.

UN Environment

The SEEA is highly relevant for measuring the SDGs under UNEP custodianship. UNEP has been promoting the use of the SEEA for SDG monitoring in national, regional and global trainings. The SEEA Central Framework directly relates to UNEP's work on measuring SDG Goal 12. Particularly, the Material Flow Accounts in 12.2.1 and 12.2.2 as well as the waste indicators (12.4.2 and 12.5.1) and fossil fuel subsidies (12.c.1).

UNEP also actively works to promote ecosystem accounting (or natural capital accounting), including through The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB). The UNEP-TEEB Office, via the EU-funded and UNSD-led project entitled Natural Capital Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES), leads work on valuation and policy mainstreaming in the five project countries (Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and South Africa) and also the development of Guidelines on (i) Scenario Analysis under SEEA-EEA and (ii) valuation under SEEA-EEA. UNEP-WCMC is also leading the Indicators work in the NCAVES project. UNEP also leads activities related to the SDG indicators under UNEP custodianships on water, oceans and biodiversity (Goal 6, 14 and 15) which links to the following accounts: land accounts (SDG 6.6.1); ecosystem accounts (SDG 6.3.2, 6.6.1, 14.1.1, 15.9.1); environmental protection expenditure accounts (15.a.1 and 15.b.1) and water Accounts (SDG 6.3.2 and 6.6.1).

UNSD

Over the past year, UNSD has led several capacity building events. As part of the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) project, UNSD (along with UN Environment, the World Bank and UN regional commissions) have held ecosystem accounting workshops and seminars as part of the project, including: an international seminar in [Beijing in November 2019](#); an African Regional Natural Capital Accounting Policy Forum in [Kampala in November 2019](#); a regional training workshop for African countries in [South Africa in October](#); a national forum in [South Africa in July 2019](#); during the sidelines of the Forum of Experts on Ecosystem Accounting in [June 2019](#); and in [Mexico City in June 2019](#).

In addition, UNSD has recently contributed to several capacity building events on the SEEA-CF. Together with UNECE, UNESCAP and IEA, UNSD organized a workshop on the production and use of SEEA-Energy accounts for policy in [Kazakhstan in December 2019](#) for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. UNSD also presented remotely on SEEA-Energy during an IMF workshop on non-renewable natural resources in national accounts in Mexico in November 2019. Remote presentations on SEEA-Energy were provided for a similar IMF workshop that took place in Saudi Arabia in February 2020.

In terms of upcoming initiatives, UNSD will implement a UN Development Account 12th tranche project, "Supporting Member States in the implementation and advancement of the SEEA in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," which begins this year. UNSD will work with the UN Regional

Commissions and other partners to advance SEEA implementation and use of the accounts for the SDGs in 4-6 countries in Africa and Asia.

Finally, UNSD is developing e-Learning courses on the uses of the SEEA for policy under the BMZ-funded project, “Enhance Natural Capital Accounting Policy Uptake and Relevance.” This course has a module on the overall policy applications of the SEEA and more specialized modules on biodiversity, climate change and macro-economic applications. This non-technical course will be geared towards policy makers and analysts.

WORLD BANK

The Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) and its successor Global Program for Sustainability (GPS) at the World Bank is currently supporting seven countries as Core Implementing Countries (CIC). Indonesia, Zambia and Uganda are wrapping up their programs by December 2020. Egypt and Morocco were signed up as CICs in 2019. The CIC programs involve both trainings and learning-by-doing. In addition, WAVES are engaging in countries, supporting them to develop local/partial ecosystem accounts and valuation of ecosystem services. These projects include orientation workshops to government staff. In addition, WAVES/GPS took the initiative to form the NCA Community of Practice for Africa, which focuses on learning, knowledge exchange and promoting policy uses of accounts, and has funded a number of activities under this umbrella.