



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION  
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**Seventeenth Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on  
Environmental-Economic Accounting  
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**Biodiversity and the SEEA**

Paper prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division

*(for discussion)*

# Biodiversity and the SEEA

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## Background papers and resources

- [Recommendation adopted by SBSTTA on the proposed monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#)
- [Compilation of available metadata for the proposed headline indicators of the draft monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#)
- [Venue and date for part two of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of COP](#)

## 1. [SEEA and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

The UNCEEA community has been actively engaged in the process of developing the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which is expected to be adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) now scheduled to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 5-7 December 2022<sup>1</sup>.

In the lead-up to the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), at its twenty-fourth meeting, *“recognizes the value of aligning national monitoring with the United Nations Systems of Environmental-Economic Accounting statistical standard in order to mainstream biodiversity in national statistical systems and to strengthen national monitoring systems and reporting”*. It further invites the United Nations Statistical Commission the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other relevant organizations to support the operationalization of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework<sup>2</sup>.

The recognition of the role of the SEEA as an important statistical framework in support of the monitoring framework and the indicators therein, as well as the role of the national statistical offices in developing and implementing the framework, provides a unique opportunity for the SEEA community to help to shape the monitoring framework and develop nationally owned statistical information that is mainstreamed into the national statistical system. SEEA is now being proposed as the methodological basis for the following headline indicators in the provisional monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

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<sup>1</sup> [Venue and date for part two of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of COP](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Recommendation adopted by SBSTTA on the proposed monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#)

- Goal A: Extent of selected natural and modified ecosystem by type (e.g. forest, savannahs and grasslands, wetlands, mangroves, saltmarshes, coral reef, seagrass, macroalgae and intertidal habitats)
- Goal B: National environmental economic accounts of ecosystem services
- Target 9: National environmental-economic accounts of benefits from the use of wild species
- Target 11: National environmental-economic accounts of regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events for all people, from ecosystems
- Target 14: Integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
- Target 19: Public expenditure and private expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

The SEEA Ecosystem Accounting Indicator Working Group is tasked with the development of metadata sheets on the above-mentioned indicators using the template developed through the CBD process<sup>3</sup>.

## 2. [Ad-hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators \(AHTEG\) for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

The SBSTTA at its recent meeting in March 2022 *decides to establish an ad hoc technical expert group, with a time-bound mandate until the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to advise on the further operationalization of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework* and agrees with the term of reference for the AHTEG. The AHTEG will work to identify detailed metadata for the indicators, to provide technical advice and develop guidance on addressing gaps in the monitoring framework, to provide technical advice on remaining and unresolved issues related to the monitoring framework and guidance to CBD Parties on ways to fill temporal and spatial data gaps, and to provide advice on the existing capacity, gaps and needs in terms of capacity development. The group will take into account of the statistical standards and development under the United Nations Statistical Commission including the SEEA<sup>4</sup>.

The Committee's possible participation in AHTEG provides an important opportunity to promote the use of common standards related to data and methods, in particular on the monitoring of goals and targets for which the SEEA is recognized as the underlying methodological basis for the compilation of headline indicators. More broadly, the Committee's participation will play a role in building greater collaboration between national statistical offices, line ministries and the scientific community.

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<sup>3</sup> [Compilation of available metadata for the proposed headline indicators of the draft monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Recommendation adopted by SBSTTA on the proposed monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#)

### 3. Questions to the Committee

The Committee is invited to consider:

- 1) How it can facilitate the statistical community's participation in COP-15 and ensure that the statistical community is represented in the AHTEG
- 2) How the statistical community can be involved in the development/review of the indicator metadata and operationalization of the monitoring framework
- 3) How the UNCEEA community can strengthen the operationalization of the SEEA framework at the national level for monitoring the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework