



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Regional Training Workshops on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Asia Pacific

**14 - 17 April, 2015
Jakarta, Indonesia**

Concept Note

Background

1. The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework was adopted as the international statistical standard on environmental-economic accounts by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 43rd session in March 2012. It provides the related concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting system and methodology to guide the data collection, compilation, and analysis for the measurement and a better understanding of environmental-economic interactions. The SEEA Central Framework is complemented by the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 -Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting). SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting offers a synthesis of the current knowledge in ecosystem accounting and serves as a platform for its development at national and sub-national levels. It provides a common set of terms, concepts, classifications, and an integrated accounting structure for measuring ecosystem services and ecosystem condition in both physical and monetary terms. The SEEA has been identified as one of the useful frameworks for the purpose of monitoring and reporting for the UN post-2015 development agenda in support of an inclusive and people-centred sustainable development.
2. In 2014, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of Convention of Biological Diversity (SCBD) launched a project to advance the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. The project, supported by funding from the Government of Norway, aims at assisting pilot countries to make an assessment of policy priorities and data availability and developing a programme of work on the testing of selected modules of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting through building capacity and establishing inter-institutional cooperation in seven pilot countries (Bhutan, Chile Indonesia, Mauritius, Mexico, South Africa, Vietnam).
3. Adoption and implementation of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Asia Pacific will require significant capacity building efforts, including training of staff in the National Statistical Offices, Ministry of Environment or other line

ministries dealing with forest, biodiversity or other environment-related issues. As part of the project on “Advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Pilot Countries, the United Nations Statistics Division in collaboration with BPS Statistics Indonesia, United Nations Environment Programme, Secretariat of Conventional of Biological Diversity and the Government of Norway” are launching a regional training workshop on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting for countries in Asia Pacific to meet these needs and demands.

Objective

4. The objective of the workshop is to improve the capacity of participants in the implementation of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Asia Pacific. The workshop aims (i) to help participants acquire knowledge and skills to deepen their understanding of the accounting principles and basic data needs for SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting; (ii) to facilitate experience sharing among countries in Asia Pacific; and (iii) to support countries to set up a strategy and work plan for the implementation of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.
5. Advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting will require collaboration and coordination between a range of governmental ministries (e.g., national statistics offices, environmental, planning and finance ministries), international agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and academic institutions. The workshop will provide a forum for these various stakeholders to understand the Global Strategy in advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting as well as to discuss ideas for and examples of implementation and its application. Participants will have opportunity to share their experiences in setting up the institutional framework for SEEA; develop a programme of work including preparation of common tools to assist in the implementation of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, such as the self-assessment tool, training materials, and policy applications for the accounts; and discuss cooperation with the broader research and academic community.

Participants

6. Participants from the National Statistical Office and the line ministry involved in compiling environment and ecosystem accounts and supporting statistics and policy-making on environmental issues (such as the ministry of environment, ministry of planning and other relevant government agencies) will be invited.
7. Nominated participants should ideally have experience in SEEA and its implementation or advisory experience in fields related to environmental-economic and ecosystem accounts such as national accounts, environment statistics or ecosystem services assessment. The training is targeted at officials who are likely to be engaged in advising and supporting the implementation of the SEEA in their country.

Structure

8. The workshop will consist of a series of presentations, discussions and exercises for 3.5 days, covering key issues related to the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. The following topics will be covered:
 - Introduction to SEEA Central Framework and Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
 - Global Strategy for the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework and advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
 - Key concepts in ecosystem accounting
 - Spatial units, scale and aggregation
 - Classification and data sources
 - Ecosystem assets and conditions
 - Selected accounts in carbon, water or biodiversity
 - Ecosystem services accounts
 - Policy application of ecosystem accounting

9. It is hoped that participating countries would take follow up actions after the training program, such as (i) formulating a national strategy and work plan for the implementation of SEEA; and (ii) if needed, requesting further technical assistance from the training organizers for the implementation of SEEA.

Organizers

10. The workshop will be organized by organized by the United Nations Statistics Division in collaboration with BPS Statistics Indonesia, United Nations Environment Programme, Secretariat of Conventional of Biological Diversity and the Government of Norway as part of the project on “Advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Pilot Countries”.