

WORKSHOP ON THE SEEA CENTRAL FRAMEWORK

ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY IN AFRICA AND ASIA

31 OCTOBER TO 3 NOVEMBER 2023, THIMPHU

Background

The project “Environmental-Economic Accounting for Evidence-Based Policy in Africa and Asia” is a collaborative effort between the National Statistics Bureau of Bhutan (NSB) and the UN Statistics Division (UNSD). The project aims to address the technical and institutional barriers to the establishment of routinely produced national environmental-economic accounts by NSB in collaboration with other National Statistical System (NSS) institutions. In particular, the project aims to approach implementation of the SEEA in a flexible and modular approach, and using good practices as outlined in the SEEA global implementation strategy.

Project activities will focus on: building the institutional framework in support of SEEA implementation, taking into consideration policy priorities and existing initiatives and activities; building capacity in Bhutan to compile selected accounts on a regular basis; fostering inter-institutional relationships to promote collaboration and data-sharing in producing the accounts; and promoting the effective communication and use of the accounts in supporting evidence-based policy and the SDGs.

In Bhutan, the project will include the development of a national plan for advancing environmental-economic accounting, the compilation of physical energy flow accounts and training activities. The launch of the national plan will provide an opportunity to gather stakeholders together in support of SEEA implementation in Bhutan. The capacity building workshop on the SEEA Central Framework will provide training for NSB and line ministries in Bhutan on the priority accounts identified in the national plan.

Objectives

The objective of the capacity building workshop is to:

- Build technical capacity within NSB and line ministries in Bhutan on the compilation and use of SEEA Central Framework accounts, with a focus on the priority accounts of energy/minerals, forests/timber and water;
- Provide an opportunity for NSB to showcase existing SEEA accounts;
- Make progress in the design of priority accounts, as laid out in the national plan; and
- Determine next steps for the compilation of priority accounts.

Target participants

The capacity building workshop will be hands-on, technical and interactive. Thus, it is suggested that no more than a total of 25 participants attend the workshop.

Programme

TUESDAY, 31 October	
Time	Activity
Morning	9:00-9:30 Registration, arrival 9:30-10:00 Session 1: Opening and ice breaker 10:00-11:00 Session 2: Introduction to the SEEA Central Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General overview of conceptual framework and policy applications (SIAP) 11:00-11:30 Coffee break 11:30-12:00 Session 2 continued <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of the SEEA in Bhutan (NSB) 12:00-12:45 Session 3: Energy and mineral asset accounts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to energy/mineral asset accounts (UNSD)
12:45 – 2:00 Lunch	
Afternoon	2:00-3:45 Session 3 continued <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation on energy and mineral data sources• Exercise on energy asset accounts (UNSD) 3:45-4:15 Coffee break 4:15-5:00 Session 4: Forest and Timber <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accounting for forests and timber resources (SIAP)
WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER	
Time	Activity
Morning	9:00-9:30 Recap of Day 1 9:30-10:45 Session 5: Land accounts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accounting for land, with a focus on land cover (UNSD)• Exercise on land cover accounts (UNSD)

	<p>11:00-11:30 Coffee break</p> <p>11:30-12:30 Session 7: Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of water accounts (SIAP)
12:30 – 1:45 Lunch	
Afternoon	<p>1:45-3:45 Session 7, continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise on physical water flow accounts (SIAP) <p>3:45-4:15 Coffee break</p> <p>4:15-5:00 Session 8: Physical energy flow accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of physical energy flow accounts (UNSD)
THURSDAY, 2 NOVEMBER	
Time	Activity
Morning	<p>9:00-9:30 Recap of Day 2</p> <p>9:30-10:30 Session 8, continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise on physical energy flow accounts (UNSD) <p>10:30-11:00 Coffee break</p> <p>11:00-11:30 Session 8, continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise on physical energy flow accounts, continued (UNSD) <p>11:30-12:30 Session 9: Design of accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout groups to work on design of different priority accounts; analysis of data gaps and how to address them (SIAP)
12:30-1:45 Lunch	
Afternoon	<p>1:45-2:30 Session 9, continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout groups to work on design of different priority accounts; analysis of data gaps and how to address them (SIAP) <p>2:30-3:00 Session 10: Closing</p>