System of Environmental Economic Accounting

Training Workshop on an Accounting Approach to Climate Change and Biodiversity in Central Asia

9-12 September 2024

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Concept note and provisional agenda

ESCAP | UNITED NATIONS SIAP Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics

1 BACKGROUND

The System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) provides the agreed upon statistical framework for measuring the relationship between the environment and the economy. It is comprised of two complimentary international statistical standards: the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF) and the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA). The SEEA CF takes a resource-based approach to measuring the supply and use of environmental resources and availability of environmental assets. The SEEA EA takes a more holistic approach in providing a spatially explicit approach to compiling accounts on ecosystems. The SEEA can be flexibly implemented by countries prioritizing accounts based on availability of information and policy priorities. The accounts are designed to respond to data needs for multiple policy initiatives including global initiatives on sustainable development, on mitigating and adapting to climate change and biodiversity.

High quality, consistent data on the environment-economy nexus is needed to inform effective pathways for addressing climate change, biodiversity losses and related issues. National statistical offices (NSOs) in the Central Asia region have expressed strong interest to compiling various SEEA accounts, including taking steps towards compiling energy and air emission accounts which are among the most relevant accounts for informing climate change. With the recent adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), demand by users for ecosystem accounts will increase as the SEEA EA is the methodological base for several headline indicators of the GBF. Ecosystem accounts inform biodiversity as well as climate change related issues. There is a need to strengthen the capacities of NSOs to produce and disseminate SEEA accounts to better meet the needs of users for high quality integrated data on climate change, biodiversity and the economy.

The workshop, organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), with the support of the Office of the Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Policy, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of the Government of Japan, and in collaboration with the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic aims to further build capacities in the Central Asia region for the compilation of SEEA accounts relevant to climate change and biodiversity.

2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the training workshop are to:
a) help participants acquire knowledge and skills to deepen their understanding of energy, air emission and carbon accounts;
b) introduce participants to the SEEA CF and SEEA EA accounts that can be utilized to support climate change and biodiversity policies;
c) develop good practices for the dissemination of the SEEA accounts and resulting indicators;
d) facilitate experience sharing among countries; and

e) support countries to set up a strategy and work plan for the implementation and further development of SEEA accounts in support of climate change and biodiversity related policies.

3   LANGUAGE

The course will be offered in English with Russian interpretation.

4   TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Target participants are staff of national statistical offices and other agencies that:
1) are compiling or planning to start the compilation of the SEEA, particularly those working on energy, air emission, carbon accounts and/or ecosystem accounts, and/or
2) are responsible for the production of climate change and/or biodiversity monitoring information.

5   ORGANIZATION

The 4-day workshop will take place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. During the workshop, participants will discuss technical issues related to the compilation of energy and air emission accounts and other SEEA accounts closely related to climate change. Ecosystem accounts will be introduced along with relevant applications to climate change and biodiversity. Participants will also learn about good practices in setting up institutional mechanisms and developing dissemination strategies.

Besides technical issues, participants are expected to share their experiences on producing and disseminating accounts. The workshop will consist of presentations, practical exercises and the sharing of experiences among countries both in plenary and breakout group discussions.

6   CONTACT PERSONS

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Day 1
- Opening and introductions
- Introduction to SEEA CF, SEEA EA and policy demands
- Country presentations

Day 2
- Energy and air emission accounts
- Carbon stocks
- Other climate change related accounts

Day 3
- Ecosystem extent
- Ecosystem conditions
- Ecosystem services
- SEEA EA and the Global Biodiversity Framework

Day 4
- Institutional mechanisms
- Dissemination practices
- Way forward