

Terms of Reference

Consultancy for Aligning Sustainable Consumption and Production Indicators with the SEEA

Background and objectives:

In the context of the post-2015 Development Agenda, the Open Working Group (OWG) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) put forward in July 2014 a proposal comprising 17 goals and 169 targets. The proposal makes achieving sustainable consumption and production (SCP) an integral component of the SDGs. SCP is reflected in a stand-alone goal (Goal 12 on “ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns”) and as a crosscutting enabler for the achievement a number of other Sustainable Development Goals. Achieving the SDGs, and in particular the SCP component of the SDGs, will require a set of indicators to monitor the interface between the economy, environment and society, as well as the resource use and waste flows that result from consumption and production activities. In this regard the UNEP discussion paper on ‘Sustainable Consumption and Production Indicators for the Future SDGs’¹ aimed to identify a set of SDG indicators for sustainable consumption and production.

Moving forward, it is important that these indicators are fully consistent with the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). The SEEA Central Framework was adopted an international statistical standard by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 43rd session in March 2012. The SEEA Central Framework represents the first statistical standard for measuring the environment and its relationship with the economy, including the measurement of flows between the environment and the economy. In addition, the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting has been recognized as an important framework for measuring ecosystems condition, ecosystem services and ecosystem degradation with countries being encouraged to experiment with the framework.

Basing SCP indicators on the SEEA standard will both ensure that; a) the statistical underpinnings of the SCP indicators are based on an integrated accounting approach to ensure methodological soundness, and b) the SCP indicators are in line with international standards of best practice to promote quality and comparability.

The objective of the work is to develop an implementation strategy for SCP indicators based on a systems approach. The implementation strategy will present in a language familiar with the SCP community the need for developing an information system on SCP which fits within the broader context of the development of integrated statistical systems in countries. It will discuss the policy needs for integrated information and the institutional environment. It will also highlight the need for capacity building on the relevant policy applications of the SEEA as well as on data development required given the objective of shifting towards SCP patterns which these indicators will measure. It will then define suggested indicators according to the SEEA standard. To assist countries

¹ UNEP Discussion Paper, 23 March 2015

to compile and report on SEEA compliant indicators, the paper will develop a short term strategy to compile SEEA compliant indicators using existing data, models and estimation. The paper will also offer an outline of a medium term strategy to develop the relevant data on a sustainable basis and mainstream it as part of official statistics.

The work will be undertaken under the auspices of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) and the Secretariat of the 10YFP, and will serve as input to the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG SDG).

The services of two consultants are required. The first consultant will develop the strategy paper on the capacity development for SEEA compliant SDG indicators for monitoring SCP. The second consultant will undertake the technical work on defining the indicators aligned with the SEEA and analysing data sources that can be used in the short term to develop baselines and which in the medium term can be mainstreamed in the national statistical system to ensure the SCP indicators proposed are aligned with the statistical standard of the SEEA.

Work assignment:

The consultant would undertake the following tasks:

1. Starting from the proposed SCP indicators in UNEP 2015 report mentioned above, for a selection of SCP-related targets including specifically the targets in SDG 12, but also SCP related targets in other goals, see Annex 1, propose indicators that are aligned with the SEEA concepts, definitions and classifications. They should also have a sound ontological basis to ensure consistency and coherence with the overall set of SDG indicators.
2. Look into possible data sources for the indicators, analyse their compliance with the SEEA concepts definitions and classifications and suggest a short and medium term strategy for compiling baselines for SCP indicators which are SEEA compliant. The basis for this analysis will be the document: Sustainable Consumption and Production Indicators for the Future SDG https://www.iisd.org/sites/default/files/publications/sustainable-consumption-production-indicators-future-sdgs_0.pdf

Duration: 5 - 6 months over the period of 1 July 2015 - 30 December 2015

Duty station or Location of Assignment: Consultant will work from home country.

Travel: One visit to NY may be required as the consultant should work closely with colleagues at the United Nations Statistics Division.

Expected Outputs:

The consultants are expected to produce the following outputs:

- Propose a revised set of SCP indicators, with detailed definitions and clarification of terms, for the UNEP discussion paper on ‘Sustainable Consumption and

Production Indicators for the Future SDGs' which are fully aligned with the SEEA where applicable. The starting point will include the indicators listed in annex 1 of this ToR. The starting point will include the indicators listed in annex 1 of this ToR and then move more broadly to thematic indicators for SCP for which the SEEA can inform. [To be done by Statistics Sweden]

- Provide an analysis of data sources that can be used for the compilation of the SDG indicators and suggest ways to make these data sets SEEA compliant in the short and medium term. This approach focuses on both collection at the country level and reporting at the global level. [To be done by Statistics Sweden]
- The report will discuss setting up the statistical system to derive indicators by national statistical offices and where modelling may be required. Short, medium and long term strategies will be outlined. [
- Contribute text to the preparation of a document summarizing the indicators proposed and data sources. [To be done by Statistics Sweden]
- Provide the draft paper on the capacity development for SEEA compliant SDG indicators for monitoring the shift SCP patterns. [To be done by Rodrigo Pizarro]

Delivery dates of outputs:

- Provide preliminary drafts of the revised SCP indicators for comment T+2 months after the project start
- Provide final versions of the revised SCP indicators T+6 months after the project start

Annex 1: Proposed headline indicators under the SDGs for SCP.

Table 1: Proposed headline indicators and relationship to targets under the SDGs

Domain	Indicators	Related targets
Scale of resource use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) – absolute and per-capita values Material footprint (MF) – absolute and per-capita values 	Target 12.2
Decoupling economic activity from resource use and environmental impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National material efficiency –material productivity (GDP per unit of material use). Production side: Material use measured through Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) Consumption side: material use measured through Material footprint (MF) National energy efficiency – Energy productivity (GDP per unit of energy use). 	Targets 8.4, 12.2 Targets 7.3, 8.4, 12.2
Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contaminants in air, water, and soil from industrial sources, agriculture, transport and wastewater and waste treatment plants. Number of persons killed or injured by a natural and technological disaster and economic losses in USD. Ocean health – Ocean Health Index 	Targets 2.4, 3.9, 6.3, 12.4 Targets 1.5, 3.9, 11.5, 12.4 Targets 14.7, 12.b
Technology and lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sectoral material and energy efficiency Market share of goods and services certified by independently verified sustainability labelling schemes 	Targets 7.3, 8.4, 12.2 Targets 4.7, 12.6, 12.8
Financing and investing to transform the economy to SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of R&D spending on environmentally sound technologies Amount of fossil fuel subsidies, per unit of GDP (production and consumption), and as proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels 	Targets 12.a (impact on 12.1, 12.2, 8.4) Target 12.c (impact on 12.2, 7.2)
Policy support for SCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of countries with SCP National Actions Plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority into national policies, poverty reduction strategies and sustainable development strategies. Number of countries with inter-ministerial coordination and multi-stakeholder mechanisms supporting the shift to SCP. 	Targets, 12.1, 12.7, 11.b, 17.16 (impact on 2.4, 4.7, 8.4, 8.9, 9.a, 12.2, 12.3, 12.8, 12.a, 12.b) Target 12.1, 12.4, 12.6

UNEP discussion paper March 2015 “SCP Indicators for the future SDGs”.