**SDG Indicators and the SEEA**

- The Statistical Commission “recognized SEEA as an important statistical framework for the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals indicators” in 2014.

- The SNA and SEEA are statistical standards that can be used to monitor a number of environmental-economic **SDG Indicators in an integrated way**.
Need for an integrated approach:

National statistical system operating in silos:
- Stove-piping of institutions, policy frameworks and monitoring at the national level
- Causes lack of integrated information for policy-making

Legacy Framework of International Organizations:
- Stove-piping of institutions, policy frameworks and reporting initiatives at the international level
- Results in multiple and distinct thematic monitoring initiatives
Towards a more integrated approach:

**Integrated Policy:** The SDGs represent important moves towards an integrated policy agenda.

Statistics will require integration of:

- **National Statistical Systems** for an integrated information system to inform sustainable development based on a consistent conceptual framework.
- **Global Reporting Mechanisms** to reduce overlap and streamline international reporting initiatives based on a consistent conceptual framework.
Streamlined reporting

Methodological Consistency resulting from implementation of the SEEA reduces reporting burden of national ministries/agencies:

- Single Data System to Inform Indicators
- Data Compiled Once for Many Purposes
- Reduced need for countries to make arduous data adjustments for international reporting

Facilitates streamlined reporting process for global SDG Indicators

- Consistent definitions, classifications and spatial units at national and international level allows for direct transmission of information
Indicators based on standards

- Higher quality
- International comparability
- Comprehensive basis for (dis)aggregation
- Standards for Statistics
  - Aligned Definitions and Classifications
  - Improved capacity to compare and/or combine statistics from different sectors
  - Basis for coherent and comprehensive data sets
Integrated architecture for SDGs

Integrated monitoring for the SDGs requires methodological consistency.

The SEEA can be the basis for:

1. The development of coherent environmental-economic SDG indicators
2. The disaggregation of SDG indicators to inform national policy (spatial, sectoral, etc.)
## A common conceptual approach across goals

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<td>1. How do we define efficiency? How do we define productivity?</td>
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<td>2. How do we measure efficiency/productivity in the use of natural resources?</td>
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<td>3. How do we disaggregate and compare across sectors?</td>
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<td>4. How do we juxtapose environmental and economic information to derive these indicators?</td>
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<td>Waste Minimization and Treatment</td>
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<td>5. When is something considered waste? How is this defined?</td>
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<td>6. How do we define reuse and recycling? How do we define ‘regular collection’, ‘safe treatment’ and ‘good waste management’?</td>
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<td>7. How do we disaggregate and compare this across sectors?</td>
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<td>Sustainability and Management of Resources</td>
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<td>8. How do we define and compare economic uses of natural resources to their availability?</td>
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<td>9. How do we classify and monitor management of those resources?</td>
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<td>10. How do we use tools such as GIS and land accounting to inform this?</td>
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<td>Monetary Indicators</td>
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<td>11. How do we measure and classify expenditure, taxes and subsidies on the management for different environmental issues?</td>
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> The answers to these questions should be consistent across indicators. Aligning indicators to the SEEA and SNA helps build this consistency.
## SDG indicators and SEEA EEA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.6.1</td>
<td>Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time</td>
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<td>14.5</td>
<td>Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas</td>
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<td>15.1.1</td>
<td>Forest area as a proportion of total land area</td>
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<td>15.1.2</td>
<td>Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity</td>
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<td>that are covered by protected areas by ecosystem type</td>
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<td>15.3.1</td>
<td>Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area</td>
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<td>-   Land cover</td>
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<td>-   Organic soil carbon</td>
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<td>-   Primary productivity</td>
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<td>15.4.1</td>
<td>Coverage by protected areas of sites for mountain biodiversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.5.1</td>
<td>Red List Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.a.1</td>
<td>ODA and public expenditure on biodiversity</td>
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</table>
The SEEA and the SDG framework

• UN Statistical Commission recognized the SEEA as a useful framework for measuring the SDG related to environment-economy
• Almost all indicators on ecosystems and biodiversity are Tier 3 indicators
• Methodology for the compilation of the SDG indicators is being aligned with the SEEA so as to move the indicator to Tier 2
• Global databases will be developed unless national data exists
Countries working on the SEEA

*Country list based on Global Assessment on Environmental Accounting (2014) ([http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc15/BG-UNCEEA.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc15/BG-UNCEEA.pdf)), UNCEEA survey of where assistance is being provided (UNCEEA/BK/5(2) at [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/meetings/eleventh_meeting/lod11.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/meetings/eleventh_meeting/lod11.htm)), and other current knowledge of technical assistance programmes. Some countries may be only just embarking on a project related to SEEA.*
Status of SEEA Implementation

• Global Assessment on Environmental Economic Accounting 2014
• 84 countries responded
• 54 currently have an SEEA programme
• Accounts most commonly compiled;
  ➢ Air Emissions, Material Flows, Energy
• Priorities accounts going forward;
  ➢ Developed Countries: Energy, EPEA and EGSS
  ➢ Developing Countries: Energy, Water and Environmental Taxes and Subsidies
The UNCEEA is the umbrella body for coordinating efforts in environmental-economic accounting.

A **Work Programme 2017-2020** was developed by the Bureau of the UNCEEA and takes a 5-pronged approach to global implementation.

For each area of work, different **area leads** are responsible for: a) acting as a champion and providing leadership, b) developing more detailed work plans and strategies, and c) coordinating with other members of the UNCEEA.

### Areas of Work

1. **Coordination and promotion**  
   *(Statistics Canada)*

2. **Methodological development**  
   *(Statistics Netherlands & Eurostat)*

3. **Development of databases**  
   *(OECD)*

4. **Implementation and statistical capacity building**  
   *(Statistics South Africa)*

5. **Formulation of a statistical response to emerging policy issues**  
   *(Australia Bureau of Statistics & INEGI Mexico)*
Questions

• How do better coordinate out activities?
• What are the more pressing capacity needs?
• How do we influence the broader discussion on the statistical framework development?
THANK YOU

seea@un.org
Silo approach → Integrated statistics

Accounts to integrate statistics:

• Address institutional arrangements
• Integrate statistical production process and services
• Ensure consistency between basic data, accounts and indicators
SEEA: A conceptual framework

1. **Fragmented Environment Data**: Data collection dispersed across agencies using different methodologies

2. **“Harmonizing Basic Data”**: Application of statistical standards to reconcile divergent methodologies

3. **“Seeing the overall picture and how things fit together in detail”**: Organizing data into accounts for ‘systems level’ understanding of the environment

4. **“Getting an Overview of the Picture”**: Headline indicators derived from SEEA-aligned Information for an indication of developments in environmental issues
SEEA: Statistical Architecture

**Agriculture**
- IT processes etc.
- Dissemination
- Analysis
- Processing
- Surveys and Admin sources
- Registers and frames
- Meta-Data and Standards

**Water**
- IT processes etc.
- Dissemination
- Analysis
- Processing
- Surveys and Admin sources
- Registers and frames
- Meta-Data and Standards

**Energy**
- IT processes etc.
- Dissemination
- Analysis
- Processing
- Surveys and Admin sources
- Registers and frames
- Meta-Data and Standards

**SNA and SEEA Accounts**
- Agriculture Statistics
- Water Statistics
- Energy Statistics

**Specialized corporate services**
- Data Integration
- Data Processing
- Data Collection

**Statistical Infrastructure**
- Standards and Methods: SEEA and SNA

SEEA
SEEA: Producing High Quality Indicators

Statistical Frameworks and Indicator Frameworks are distinct but complementary:

- **Statistical Frameworks (i.e. SNA and SEEA):** Guide the whole production process through a systems approach to collecting, harmonizing, organizing, vetting and presenting statistical information
  - Standard definitions, classifications and related methods for compiling statistics
  - Lends rigor to the calculation of indicators without suggesting any in particular
  - Value proposition is ensuring indicators are defined and compiled in a methodologically coherent way, through an efficient production process

  → The **FDES** can further support the SEEA by providing a list of environment statistics by thematic areas to support and guide countries in initial data collection activities

- **Indicator Frameworks (e.g. CES Recommendations):** Provide organizing principles to facilitate the choice of indicators for different thematic aspects of sustainable development