System of Environmental Economic Accounting
SEEA FRAMEWORK, REVISION PROCESS AND RESEARCH AGENDA

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System of Environmental-Economic Accounting - Context
SEEA and other initiatives

- BIOFIN
- PAGE
- TEEB
- Aichi Targets
- WAVES
- SDGs
Sustainable Development Policy

Evidence Based

Integrated

Integrated Information System

Applies a uniform standard approach

Integrates environmental, economic and social information

Captures synergies and trade-offs
The System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)

Two standards, one approach:

- The **SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF)** was adopted as an international statistical standard by the UN Statistical Commission in 2012 to measure the environment and its relation with the economy.

- The **SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA)** complements the Central Framework and represents international efforts toward coherent ecosystem accounting.
Two Different Perspectives

SEEA Central Framework:
Individual environmental assets/ resources
Timber
Water
Soil
Fish

SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounts:
Ecosystem assets (spatially based)
Forests
Lakes
Agricultural areas

Ecosystem Assets are environmental assets viewed from a systems perspective
The Need for an Accounting Framework

Assessments or Statistics
- Often developed to answer one particular question or problem
- Not always easy to see the whole picture, or how it relates to other things

Accounts
- Help to make sense of the larger picture
- Can make connections to other statistics - especially economic statistics

[Diagram showing the transformation from Sectoral Data to Integrated information]
Silo approach → Integration

Accounts to integrate statistics:

- Address institutional arrangements
- Integrate statistical production process and services
- Ensure consistency between basic data, accounts and indicators
Results of 2017 Global Assessment
Global Assessment 2017: Summary of results

- Sent to national statistical offices of 193 Member States and 22 territories
- 109 respondents
- Results indicate 69 countries with a programme, 45 with regular funding
- A further 22 countries currently planning a programme
- Water and energy are priorities in both developed and developing countries
- In developed countries, accounts compiled appear to be driven by legislation

28% increase in number of countries with a programme
Global Assessment 2017: Summary of results
SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
- Revision by 2020
Revision of the SEEA EEA

• **Mandate:** Forty-eighth UN Statistical Commission (2017) supported efforts of UNCEEA to revise SEEA EEA by 2020
  > In June 2017 UNCEEA determined to initiate the process of revision

• **Base for revision:** The revision will be based on the two main publications
  > SEEA 2012–Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (published in 2014)
  > Technical Recommendations in support of the SEEA EEA (published in 2017)

• **Scope:** Revision process will draw upon experience of ecosystem accounting initiatives and projects

• **Involvement:** We seek for broad involvement of partners and experts in the process, as well as for financial and in-kind contributions.

• **Oversight** will be provided by the SEEA EEA Technical Committee (established by UNCEEA) and the Bureau of UNCEEA with broad involvement of experts in the field.
Research agenda for the revision

- Revision structured around **four research areas**:
  - **Spatial areas**: Classification of ecosystem types
  - **Ecosystem condition**: Characteristics and indicators of ecosystem condition
  - **Ecosystem services**: The description and classification of ecosystem services
  - **Accounting treatments and valuation**:
    - Valuation concepts for ecosystem services and ecosystem assets
    - Valuation methods for key ecosystem services
    - Accounting for ecosystem capacity, degradation and enhancement
  - There is also a number of **crosscutting domains**, such as oceans and marine ecosystems, freshwater ecosystems, urban ecosystems, etc..
  - Testing and experimentation of specific topics (e.g. SDG indicator 6.6.1 on freshwater extent and 6.3.1 on land degradation, etc.)
Revision process: keystones & timeline

- **January 2018**: Broad consultation of the revision issues

- **March 2018**: Establishment of four Working Groups according to the research issues

- **June 2018**: Working Group leads discuss initial set of issues and work plans at the Forum of Experts

- **April 2019**: Working groups work on the research issues supported by an Editor

- **May 2019**: Working group papers and SEEA EEA draft is discussed at the Forum of Experts

- **May 2019**: Alternative structure adopted with a focus on coherence

- **December 2019**: New groups work on finalization of SEEA EEA

- **2020**: SEEA EEA is prepared for global consultations and finalized
THANK YOU

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