UNCEEA QUARTERLY UPDATE

ISSUE NO. 2 | OCTOBER 2025

Hello UNCEEA members! This is the second issue of the UNCEEA Quarterly Update, designed to keep members of the UNCEEA informed about the work of its technical committees and working groups and relevant happenings related to the UNCEEA.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MEETING OF THE SEEA CF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE, UNHQ, 17-21 NOVEMBER 2025

MEETING OF THE STEERING GROUP, VIRTUAL, 27 OCTOBER 2025

In the Spotlight

Highlights from the Secretariat of the UNCEEA

Jacqui Vitas (Australian Bureau of Statistics) and **Piedad Urdinola (DANE, Colombia)** have officially stepped into their roles as Co-Chairs of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA), following their election at the 20th UNCEEA Meeting in June 2025. We extend a warm welcome to Jacqui and Piedad as they begin this important leadership journey!

They have already been actively working together with the Bureau on the preparation for the first virtual meeting of the **UNCEEA Steering Group**, scheduled for **Monday, 27 October 2025** from **7:00–8:00 AM** (New York time). This meeting will provide a key opportunity to connect with heads of statistical offices and international organizations of the UNCEEA Bureau members, to receive strategic guidance on the programme of work and activities, strengthen high-level engagement, and build better linkages to related areas of work and priorities within statistical offices.

The deadline for the reports to the UN Statistical Commission is coming up. The report of the UNCEEA is currently being prepared. As in the past years, the full draft will be reviewed by the UNCEEA Bureau and then circulated to the UNCEEA in the middle of November.

Since the UNCEEA meeting in June 2025, the UNCEEA members were informed about several global consultation processes on related areas such as the Global Consultation on the Standard International Energy Product Classification, Version 2.0 and the Global Disaster-Related Statistics Framework (G-DRSF) by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics (IAEG-DRS). Also a consultation with UNCEEA members took place on the "Discussion Note on Future Update of the International Statistical Standards" which contains a proposal for maintaining and updating macroeconomic international statistical standards in a more coordinated and agile manner building the recent revision of the SNA and BPM. The consultation was a dedicated consultation with the governing bodies of the macro standards currently in the scope of the proposal, such as SNA, BPM, SEEA, GFS, etc. While welcoming the initiative to improve coherence across macroeconomic and environmental-economic standards, some concerns were raised and were discussed at the last UNCEEA Bureau meeting. Feedback from this dedicated consultation will be closely reviewed and addressed in a revised paper. Further consultation will take place in 2026 with the relevant governing bodies first and then with the broader statistical community with the aim to finalize the paper for the UN Statistical Commission in 2027.

UNCEEA Working groups updates

Area A – Coordination and communication

This Working Group continues to focus its work on the identification of opportunities for better coordination with ongoing global initiatives and strengthen communication around environmental accounts. Some of the initiatives that the Working Group has established linkages with include the Sprint on Net Zero Initiative, organized by the Network of Economic Statisticians (NES) and chaired by Jacqui Vitas. A Net Zero Storybook is being planned by the NES and the UNCEEA was invited to contribute. Also, the Working Group is exploring synergies with the Expert Group on Wellbeing Measurement (EGWM) to support the Beyond GDP initiative and was invited to contribute to the Task Team on Environment that is being established by the EGWM. The Working Group is also working closely with Area B1 in order to identify ways in which communication for the global consultations of the update of the SEEA CF can be tailored to better engage specific user communities and encourage their participation.

Area B1 - Technical Committee on the SEEA Central Framework

The update of the SEEA CF remains the primary focus of the Technical Committee on the SEEA CF (SEEA CF Technical Committee). Since the UNCEEA meeting significant progress has been made by the four Task Teams established under the Technical Committee to address the 29 issues identified for the update. The Task Teams have finalized Scoping Notes for all the issues for the SEEA CF update issues and have begun drafting Guidance Notes.

Scoping Notes for the issues under Task Teams A, B, and D were finalized by the SEEA CF Technical Committee after consultation with the broader UNCEEA. Overall, there was great support for the research questions identified in the Scoping Notes. Several additional comments were provided, and they will contribute to the preparation of Guidance notes. The draft Scoping Notes for the issues under Task Team C were circulated for review in September. The comments are being reviewed, and it is expected that they will be finalized this month. The final Scoping Notes are made available online at: https://seea.un.org/content/seea-central-framework-update-scoping-notes.

Work on the preparation of the Guidance notes has started with particular focus on the issues identified for the first tranche of Global consultation in early 2026. These issues include, but not limited to, the harmonization with the 2025 SNA (Issue A9); treatment of losses (Issue B2); extending the scope of environmental accounts (Issue C3), etc.. Work has also started other rest of the issues planned for the 2nd and 3rd tranche of global consultation planned for May and September 2026.

The SEEA CF Technical Committee is closely coordinating the discussion with the London Group on Environmental Accounting. The 31st meeting of the London Group took place from 22-25 September 2025 in Tallinn, Estonia. It covered several issues from the update process of the SEEA CF and the feedback from the London Group will contribute to the further discussion. Please refer to the event page in the SEEA website: https://seea.un.org/events/london-group-environmental-accounting-31st-meeting

A physical meeting of the SEEA CF Technical Committee will take place in New York from 17-21 November 2025. The meeting will focus on the review and finalization of the guidance notes that are planned for global consultation in the 1st quarter of 2026 and review of progress of work for the other issues. More details will be available soon on the SEEA website at https://seea.un.org/events/meeting-technical-committee-seea-central-framework-update-seea-central-framework

Finally, the SEEA CF Technical Committee is coordinating closely the update of the SEEA CF with the update of the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) and the revision of COFOG. For the issues that are relevant across statistical standards, joint drafting teams are being established to ensure consistency and coherence across frameworks.

A webpage for the update of the SEEA Central Framework has been set up and will contain information on the update process. Please see https://seea.un.org/content/update-seea-central-framework,

Area B2 - Technical Committee on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting

The Technical Committee on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA Technical Committee) has focused its activities on links with the SEEA Central Framework revision process and supporting the UNSD project, funded by the EU, on the SEEA-related indicators for the CBD's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). At recent meetings of SEEA EA Technical Committee, the technical issues for the SEEA CF update that have strong links to ecosystem accounting were discussed. It is expected that consultation with the SEEA EA Technical Committee will continue as the Guidance Notes are prepared on these issues,

The project on SEEA-related indicators for the GBF will be an important focus for SEEA EA Technical Committee over the coming year to support and provide technical guidance on the development of compilation guidelines for GBF headline indicators A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems and B.1 Services provided by ecosystems, both of which are based on SEEA ecosystem accounts. The project will also build global capacity to compile these indicators as well as tools to support countries in their national reporting to the CBD on these indicators. The development of the compilation guidelines will be supported by a Task Team convened under the SEEA EA Technical Committee.

The SEEA EA Technical Committee also discussed the Ecosystem Services Accounting Compatibility Assessment Tool (ESA-CAT) which is being developed by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) to provide an online tool for compilers and users to assess the compatibility of ecosystem services measurement with ecosystem accounts. Other initiatives related to ecosystem accounting to which the SEEA EA Technical Committee contributed to include the publication of Guidelines for classifying agricultural and plantation forestry ecosystems in the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology, and Standards, methods and guidelines for cross-referencing ecosystem classifications and maps to the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology.

Area C - Development of databases

Following the 20th UNCEEA meeting in June, Area C has begun work on the newly identified priority accounts for global database development. In its meeting in September, Area C started addressing the current status of compilation of Environmental Tax Accounts, Environmental Protection Expenditure accounts and mitigation expenditures with a view to formulate a plan to assess their feasibility of implementation and policy relevance and develop a proposal for consideration by the UNCEEA.

Area C continues to monitor and support the ongoing data collection efforts for Physical Energy Flow Accounts (PEFA), Air Emission Accounts (AEA) and Material Flow Accounts (MFA), which are currently undergoing and are planned to be released in the first quarter of 2026. The group also continued to closely coordinate with the IMF Data Gap Initiative Phase 3.

Area D - Implementation and statistical capacity-building

Area D continues to discuss and coordinate capacity building activities on environmental accounts and related statistics among its members with a view to identify opportunities of collaboration/coordination and better meet capacity building needs. The 2025 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics was sent out to countries on 24 September 2025. Responses are expected to be received by 20 October 2025. The report on the Global assessment will be prepared and submitted as a background document to the UN Statistical Commission and will guide the work of the UNCEEA and Area C on future activities on environmental accounts. Area C also is exploring opportunities for further collaboration with the other working groups of the UNCEEA in order to build synergies and ensure alignment of priorities.

The UNCEEA Quarterly Update is prepared with contributions by the area leads of the UNCEEA Working Groups and Technical Committees

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact UNSD at seea@un.org