

UNCEEA WORKING GROUP ON SEEA IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING (AREA D)

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Outline

1. Overview
2. Coordination of capacity building and Implementation Initiatives
3. Update the SEEA Implementation Guide and Diagnostic tool
4. Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics

Overview

- The UNCEEA at its meeting in June 2021 recognized the role of the Regional Commissions in delivering capacity building and helping countries build programmes on SEEA implementation.
- Area D members include regional commissions and international agencies providing technical assistance on the SEEA implementation
- Since April 2022, Christine Magu of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and Sokol Vako of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific / Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP/SIAP) serve as co-chairs of Area D.
- The working group met on 12th May 2022.
- The meeting was very fruitful and the group committed to hold quarterly meetings to assess progress. The next meetings are set for August and November 2022.

Overview Cont'd

- The primary purpose of Area D is to coordinate capacity development and implementation activities at the global and regional levels, as well as ensure lessons learned from these activities are shared widely.
- Strong interest in focusing on capacity building and advancing the SEEA implementation, particularly of the newly adopted SEEA EA
- . Demand also remains high from countries for support in implementing SEEA CF

Goal: To have at least 60 countries implement at least one account of the SEEA EA by 2025

Current Status from the 2021 Global Assessment Lite:

- 37 countries compiling at least one SEEA-EA account
- 88 countries compiling at least one SEEA-CF account

Overview Cont'd

Communities of Practice (COPs)

Recent years have seen the continued interest for regional Communities of Practice (COPs) for the SEEA / NCA, bringing together practitioners and users from different areas and similar countries in their respective regions.

- Important for sharing experiences within regions and with regional and international partners.
- Various modalities, including webinars, newsletters, WhatsApp/Telegram groups, have shown to be extremely useful for knowledge and information sharing.

PRIORITIES

Priority 1: Coordination of capacity building and implementation activities

- **Flow of information on capacity building and implementation activities is crucial for successful coordination at both regional and global levels.**
- **To this end, Area D has agreed to:**
 - schedule regular quarterly meetings of members of Area D with the objective of members providing regular and timely updates on their activities and other initiatives they may be aware of;
 - develop and regularly update (at least quarterly):
 - an online spreadsheet outlining the capacity building and training priorities, focus countries and requests for technical assistance received, and list of project and activities undertaken;
 - maintain regularly updated lists related to the status of SEEA implementation in countries,
 - an updated list of SEEA focal points for every country and a spreadsheet with the
 - current state of SEEA implementation in countries, initially based on the Global Assessment; and
 - develop and maintain a list of consultants with SEEA implementation experiences

Priority 2: Update of the SEEA Implementation Guide and Diagnostic Tool

- The current SEEA Implementation Guide and Diagnostic Tool was developed in 2014 and was mostly focused on the implementation of SEEA CF.
- Developments since then
 - Adoption of the SEEA-EA Framework
 - Use of global data and earth observation methodologies; ARIES for SEEA
 - Lessons learnt in implementation
- Members have agreed to update the tool
- It is to be presented to the UNCEEA for review and endorsement at its 2023 meeting

Priority 3: Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics

- Before 2021, the Global Assessment was administered every 3 to 4 years in a comprehensive format. It provide adequate and timely information on the current state of implementation, which serves as a useful tool to develop and design capacity building and implementation activities in countries and regions.
- The need to monitor SEEA-EA and SEEA-CF implementation more frequently bore the Global Assessment “Light” which is shorter version of the initial Global Assessment.
 - Conducted annually
- First administered in November 2021 for countries compiling SEEA accounts
 - Assessment indicates: the current accounts being compiled by countries (CF and EA)
 - Results published on the SEEA website
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- Global Assessment “Light” planned in November 2022
 - Assessment to be administered by UNSD with the support of Area D
 - Results to be presented to the Statistical Commission in March 2023

Questions to the Committee

The Committee is requested to provide its views on:

1. Priorities for the workplan of Area D as outlined above.
2. Tasks for priority 1, namely regular quarterly meetings and development of spreadsheets and other documents helping the partners to better coordinate capacity development and implementation activities?
3. Proposed task for priority 2 to update the SEEA Implementation Guide and Diagnostic Tool by 2023?
4. Proposed task for priority 3 to undertake the Global Assessment light in 2022 in a similar way as for 2021?
5. What are the capacity building and implementation areas of particular interest for countries that the Area D should focus on?

Thank you!

