



United Nations Environment
Programme



Statistics Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations

Global Economy Wide Material Flow Accounting Manual

Global Consultation Comment Form

Deadline for responses: **1 March 2019**

Please send responses to: seea@un.org

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To submit responses please save this document and send it as an attachment to the following e-mail address: seea@un.org.

The comment form has been designed to facilitate the analysis of comments. In Part I general comments on the general style, structure, content and coverage of the chapter are sought. In Part II any technical and other comments should be included.

Relevant documents

Relevant documents are available on the SEEA website at:

<https://seea.un.org/content/global-consultation-global-economy-wide-material-flow-accounting-manual>. The documents provided include:

- A cover note on the global consultation
- Draft manual and accompanying questionnaire
- Copy of comment form

1 GENERAL COMMENTS

In this section please provide general comments on the draft. You may like to consider providing comments on the style and tone, the structure and organisation, the content and coverage, and the general accessibility of the material.

In relation to SDG compliance, in the case of Mexico, the data obtained from the Material Flow Accounting has allowed us to meet and follow SDG 8.4 and SDG 12.2.

In particular, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT, by its acronym in Spanish) is the institution appointed in the country as the authority responsible for monitoring these indicators based on the information generated in the framework of the Material Flow Accounting made by INEGI.

In this sense, the work done to generate this Manual is of paramount importance because it contributes to the improvement of new recommendations that enable to establish a unified methodology for the generation of the statistics on material flows, and as a result of this, provide recent elements with the best practices of international experts.

One point that we highlight is the importance of making efforts to develop national and/or regional coefficients to improve country estimates; we also believe that it is necessary to continue the discussion on the use of the coefficients for imported and exported products, since the register in the countries of origin-destination may be different, which may result in the foreign trade balances not being comparable.

Additionally, we want to stand out that, in the case of the results of the Material Flows Accounting of Mexico, these have been presented like a table of supply and use, where it is possible to see by the side of the origin the volume of the domestic extraction, imports, wastes used and hidden flows; and by the way of the use it is possible to identify exports, waste returned to the environment (emissions to the air, water and soil), dissipated uses and losses, and the related wastes.

Likewise, in the attached Excel file we send the results of the Material Flow Accounting generated by Mexico, published in November 2018 with the series 2003

to 2017, this in order to be able to see the way in which the obtained results are disseminated. It is worth highlighting that this information is updated annually.

Finally, the questionnaire is also sent in an Excel file, where additional comments have been placed.

2 TECHNICAL AND OTHER COMMENTS

In the box below please supply any additional comments including those of a more technical nature. Please reference your responses with the relevant paragraph numbers or section numbers.

1.2 Structure and coverage of the global EW-MFA manual

In relation to the sixth module, which focuses on measuring the material flows between the different specific industries, in Mexico a diagram has been developed as part of the Water Accounting, in which the resource flow can be seen in all sectors of the economy: from how the water of the environment is captured, how it goes to be used in the different production processes (for example, the manufactures, the generation of electric energy, among others), including the water consumed by households; and then, it shows how the resource is discarded by measuring how much of this water is returned to the drain or goes through a water treatment or even, how much of that water is sent directly to the environment without any treatment. We think that with this approach of the handbook, a similar scheme can be addressed to see how all materials and waste circulate within the economy, so that material transactions can be seen between economic sectors and finally how waste or emissions come to the environment.

2.1.3.2 - A.1.1 Crops

In relation to the calculation of agricultural biomass, we point out that in the case of Mexico the calculation is made by type of crop, however, in the diffusion of results these are presented based on the Industrial classification system for North America Industry Classification System (NAICS), this according to the dissemination of statistics of the Mexican System of National Accounts.

This comment seems important to us due to the fact that information compilers of the Material Flow Accounting should consider that, sometimes, the sources of information do not necessarily adhere to the classifications of the Manual, however, that does not imply that the calculation cannot be done.