



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](mailto:seea@un.org)**

Your name:	Bayron de Jesús Cubillos López
Your country/organization:	Colombia, National Administrative Department of Statistics
Contact (e.g. email address):	<a href="mailto:bjcubillosl@dane.gov.co">bjcubillosl@dane.gov.co</a>

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

It is suggested to carry out a conceptual extension of the categories of materials proposed by the SEEA. (Natural inputs, products, waste).

The manual should have a section for technical concepts and another for existing nomenclatures, for each category of materials. (Biomass, minerals, etc.).

The diagrams, process flows, tables, charts and graphs should have a homogeneous format in terms of font, colour and size.

## 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.

It would be useful to produce an annex to the list of possible sources of information regarding each topic, seeking to direct the technical teams of the National Statistical Offices with searching for potential information. The heterogeneity of sources and topics requires integration of efforts and harmonization of information sources, in this sense the manual could show an annex for the construction and standardization of nomenclatures.

The manual should be guided in the methodological aspects, explaining the implementation of the formulas through a formulated calculation process and / or through a step by step, in order to know how to integrate the process of elaboration and consolidation of the information, starting from the micro data until the final aggregates. In this case, existing examples of the information integration process can be shown.

It is necessary to include a methodology to produce in a standardized way the diagrams and shapes to display the information. (Thematics, balances, classification of economic units, etc.)

The process of generation of the mass balance requires an instructive to know the sources that generally provide data for one of the two sides of the equilibrium.

Although the manual shows consolidated factors by region, it would be useful as well, to know processes for the calculation of those factors, which allow to demonstrate the characteristics of the processes of extraction, production and treatment of the materials in each country, referring to the models of stoichiometry for the balance estimation.

With the above, it should also aim to guide the information processing and obtaining for the flows of materials in the intraconsumptions for each sectors and economic activities. It can be extended for the calculation of factors regarding to the heterogeneity in the styles of agricultural production, letting use the varieties of species among products, size of the production units and technologies implemented.

It would be useful to make evident a method to establish a baseline of existing capital in physical terms.

It is not clear when the manual refers to "technical energy".

The document indicates that wastewater emissions must be accounted in the state they are in, when they are discharged into the environment. The above, would be possible to be measure, but not with all sources of information. For example, measuring the discharge made by households, could not be calculated directly. Regarding the water composition categories proposed in the document, it causes concern, because currently the tools to achieve it are not available. (Nitrogen, phosphorus and organic material).