

**Eighteenth Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on
Environmental-Economic Accounting
New York, 20-21 June 2023**



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

Overall programme of work of the UNCEEA

Paper prepared by the Secretariat

(for discussion)

Introduction

This document brings together the work plans of each of areas of the UNCEEA for the medium-term (12-18 months). The purpose of this document is to provide a birds-eye view of the work programme of the Committee; to see where synergies can be harnessed; and where there may be possible duplication of effort among the different working groups.

Area A – Area lead Statistics Canada

Area A will continue to play a role in its traditional space of fostering communication and coordination by meeting regularly, discussing key initiatives, and identifying emerging issues. The main activities planned include finalization of a landscape assessment of the different groups/initiatives relevant to the Committee’s work and the initiation of a webinar series on policy-related applications of the SEEA. The landscape assessment will serve as an input in identifying existing activities and foster synergies. Further the webinar series will focus on particular policy domains and will have the objective to bring together different stakeholders. The specific activities and a tentative timeline are below.

	Activity	Timeline	Agency/country responsible
A.1	Landscape assessment	End 2023	Statistics Canada with support from the Secretariat and input from members
	Consult stakeholders to make sure the assessment is comprehensive	Q3 2023	Statistics Canada with support from Secretariat
	Finalize the landscape visualization and establish mechanism for updates	Q4 2023	Statistics Canada with support from Secretariat
A.2	Webinar Series	2024	
	Gather information from stakeholders	Q3 2023	Statistics Canada with support from Secretariat
	Create a tentative calendar for webinars	Q4 2023	Statistics Canada with support from Secretariat
	Begin webinar series	Q4 2024	Statistics Canada with support from Secretariat

In addition, pending the Committee’s views on incorporating Area E on business accounting into Area A, the working group will re-evaluate its programme of work.

Area B1 – Area lead Statistics Netherlands

At its sixteenth meeting, held in 2021, the Committee recommended that a discussion begin on a possible update of the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF), to take place during the Committee's eighteenth meeting, in 2023 in the light of the update of the System of National Accounts 2008, the adoption of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting and the progress of the research agenda of the SEEA Central Framework. Pending on the outcome of the discussion, the main activity for Area B1 for the medium term is to set up a work programme and identification of the funding mechanism for the in-principle update of the SEEA CF. The proposed specific activities and a tentative timeline are below.

	Activity	Timeline	Agency/country responsible
B1.1	Update of the SEEA Central Framework	2023-28	UNCEEA and TC on the SEEA CF
	Preparatory work leading to the update of the SEEA CF	Q4 2023	UNCEEA Bureau
	Identify sources of funding	Q4 2023	UNCEEA Bureau
	Agree on priority issues and identify possible contributors	Q4 2023	TC SEEA CF
	Finalize preliminary issue list in consultation with stakeholders	Q2 2024	TC SEEA CF
	Global consultation on the issue list	Q3 2024	Secretariat
	Establish working groups and issue lead	Q4 2024	Secretariat and TC SEEA CF
	Global consultation on the issue papers	2026	Secretariat
	Drafting relevant text to replace the text in the SEEA CF	2026-27	Editor
	Global consultation on the chapters	2027	Secretariat
	Adoption of the SEEA CF	2028	UN Statistical Commission
B1.2	Contribute to the update of the SNA	2023-2024	TC SEEA CF
	Review guidance notes	2023-2024	TC SEEA CF
	Review draft Chapters	2023-2024	TC SEEA CF
B1.3	Contribute to international statistical classifications, including ISIC, CPC, COFOG, CEF, SIEC	2023-2025	TC SEEA CF
B1.4	Contribute to the advancement of methodologies for the DGI Recommendations 1, 3, 6 and 7	2023-2024	TC SEEA CF
B1.4	Review the environment chapter of Measuring Sustainability of Tourism	Q3 2023	TC SEEA CF
	Submit for global consultation	Q4 2024	Secretariat
B1.5	Contribute to the guidelines on the circular economy	2023-24	TC SEEA CF

Area B2 – Area lead South Africa

The Technical Committee is aiming to continue the work of supporting the implementation of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, including providing technical guidance on various aspects. An important focus will be supporting the use of ecosystem accounts for relevant indicators in the Global Biodiversity Framework. The Technical Committee has reviewed its terms of reference and is considering expanding its membership to better reflects the needs to support the development of methodologies for the implementation of the SEEA EA. A detailed programme of work is being developed, and what is presented below is a preliminary draft. The committee will continue to meet every two months to discuss specific technical issues with the objective of developing guidance notes for supporting the implementation in countries.

	Activity	Timeline	Agency/country responsible
B2.1	Support the development of metadata for the indicators in Goals A and B of the monitoring framework agreed as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and contribute to the Ad-hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) established under the auspices of the CBD	2023-24	TC SEEA EA
B2.2	Develop guidance notes on the compilation of ecosystem accounts	Q4 2023	TC SEEA EA
	Develop guidance note on ecosystem extent accounts		
	Develop guidance note on the measurement of climate regulation services (sequestration and storage) in physical and monetary terms	Q4 2023	TC SEEA EA
	Develop guidance notes on measuring selected ecosystem services accounts in physical and possibly monetary terms	2024	TC SEEA EA
B2.3	Engage with the various initiatives establishing tools and maps related to ecosystem extent (e.g. ESA, GEO, CEOS, GEOBON, etc.)	2023-2024	TC SEEA EA
B2.4	Advance the work of the Working Group on Forest Ecosystem Accounts	2023-2024	Working group on forest ecosystem accounts
	Develop a technical note on the definition of forest ecosystems	2023-2024	Working group on forest ecosystem accounts
	Develop guidance note(s) on the measurement of carbon and condition in forest ecosystems	2023-2024	Working group on forest ecosystem accounts
B2.5	Advance the work of the ocean accounts working group	2023	Working group on ocean accounts

Area C – Area lead OECD

The objective of Area C is to establish a set of global SEEA core databases to provide users with SEEA compliant data sets for integrated policy development and analysis, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over the medium term, Area C will continue to work on a variety of SEEA accounts. Specific activities, especially those related to the priority accounts of energy, land, water, air emission and material flow, are highlighted below. In addition, area C may consider additional data collection activities, in particular linked to the DGI Recommendations 6 and 7 on climate mitigation and adaptation expenditures and subsidies.

	Activity	Timeline	Agency/country responsible
C.1	Energy and air emission accounts	2023-24	UNSD/OECD
	Continue data collection and validation of official accounts, in addition to Eurostat’s ongoing data collection/dissemination	Q3-Q4 2023	UNSD/OECD
	Exchange of data between international organizations; dissemination of global databases	2023	OECD
	Release of experimental estimates for maritime CO2 emissions	Q4 2023	OECD
C.2	Material flow accounts	2023-2024	UNEP
	Continue data collection, maintain and further develop of global databases	2023-2024	
C.3	Land accounts		FAO/UNSD (with reduced focus)
	Review the data template prepared by UNSD and develop a programme of work	2023-2024	
C.4	Water accounts	2023-2024	
	Test the use of country responses to the OECD/Eurostat water statistics questionnaire	2023-20	Eurostat/OECD

Area D – Area leads Kenya Bureau of Statistics and UNSIAP

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. In order to realize this priority, Area D members will continue to meet regularly over 2023-2024 to ensure coordination of capacity building and implementation activities at the regional and global levels. The working group has structured its work programme around three areas, as detailed below.

	Activity	Timeline	Agency/country responsible
D.1	Coordination of capacity building and implementation activities	Quarterly	Area D members
D.2	Revitalize the SEEA Focal Point network		
	Review TOR for the focal points	Q3 2023	Area D members
	Update current membership of the group, hold discussion on how to energize the group to become more active	Q4 2023	Area D members
D.3	Global Assessment of Environmental Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics		
	Finalize questionnaire	Q3 2023	UNSD with support of Area D members
	Administer questionnaire and conduct quality assurance	Q4 2023	UNSD with support of Area D members
	Draft and finalize report in time for the UN Statistical Commission	Q1 2024	UNSD with support from Area D members
	Provide Global Assessment data for SDG indicator 15.9.1b	Q2-Q3 2024	UNSD with support from Area D members

Questions for the Committee

Noting that some groups are still discussing the programme of work, the UNCEEA is asked to:

- Provide feedback and agree in principle on the overall programme of work, including any areas where working groups can/should collaborate further, as well as any areas where there may be duplications of effort or any areas that are missing, but should be considered by the Committee