

SEEA Technical Notes

Status update

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Content

- Background
- Status of the technical notes
- Core tables
- Starting point for data collection.....



Background

- The United Nations Statistical Commission at its 44th session in March 2013 adopted the implementation strategy for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)
- Part of the implementation strategy: the development of technical notes and core tables
- In 2012 and 2013 some initial work was done on the development of the technical notes.
- In 2014 /2015 the editor (Art Ridgeway) has prepared drafts of several technical notes

Nature of the technical notes

- The **general purpose** of the technical notes : To assist the SEEA implementation process.
- The technical notes, for a given topic, a range of relevant features and considerations within a limited number of pages (e.g. 10-15) to support countries in the implementation of the SEEA.
- Focus on **policy relevance** of the accounts and tables, addressing key policy issues
- The technical notes complement the SEEA implementation Guide

Template of SEEA Technical Notes

- 1. Introduction and general description**
- 2. SEEA-CF accounts**
- 3. Core tables and relevant aggregates / indicators**
- 4. Compilation of the accounts**
- 5. Extensions and links**
- 6. References**
- 7. Annex**

→ Section on data quality was moved to the overarching note

Workprocess: Responsibilities

- **SEEA technical committee** will provide overall technical guidance to the process by providing general guidelines, checking and reviewing the technical content of the draft SEEA technical notes and core tables
- **London group topic leaders** will collect all relevant material for the topic of their technical note and submit this material to the editor. They will assist the editor when additional questions arise.
- **The editor** collects all relevant material and is responsible for drafting the technical notes and core tables, including revising old drafts based on comments received.

Current status

Priority notes already underway	
0) Overarching note	Final draft
1) Land	Near final draft
2) Water	Near final draft
3) Energy	Near final draft
4) Air emission	first draft available
5) Environmental goods and services	Final draft
6) Environmental protection expenditures	first draft available
Additional notes listed as priority by UNCEEA	
7) MFA and waste	work still has to start
8) Forest	work still has to start
9) Environmental taxes and subsidies	work still has to start
Notes not mentioned as priorities	
10) Minerals	
11) Aquatic resources	
12) Tourism	
13) Agriculture	
14) Nutrient and phosphorous balances	
15) Carbon accounting	
16) Biodiversity accounting	

What are core tables and accounts?

- The **main function** of the core tables and accounts is to assist countries in the implementation of the SEEA by making clear to compilers what data is included in the core tables and accounts and what key information can be derived.
- **The (core) accounts** are the key accounts from SEEA CF that are relevant for the topic of the technical note. In the technical notes these core accounts should be described with regard to the key concepts, structure, accounting identities and classification without going into much detail.
- **The core tables** provide an aggregated set of data which provides enough information to derive relevant indicators. The data in the core tables directly comes from the core accounts, but is combined with other relevant data sources such as the national accounts and labour statistics.



General principles for constructing the core tables

- **Number of core tables.** The aim is to provide one or two core tables for each technical note.
- **Physical and monetary data.** Where relevant, the core table combines both physical and monetary data.
- **Keep it simple.** The SEEA core tables must be kept relatively simple, as they primarily aim to assist new compilers and non-statistical users of the data.
- **Indicators.** Indicators and useful aggregates that can be derived from the core table are to be described in the section directly following the description of the core tables and accounts.

Starting point for data collection (?)

- Core Tables provide key information from the SEEA-CF accounts
- Important indicators can be directly derived from these tables
- Issue : Still too complex ?
- Issue: level of disaggregation (ISIC, product groups, etc.)

Thank you for your attention!

