The UNECE initial of set climate change indicators: the issue of dual measurement

Thirteenth meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA)

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 Provided the starting point for developing the set of indicators





Task Force on a set of key Climate Change-related Statistics using SEEA

Goal: to develop an internationally comparable set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators derived from the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) to the extent possible



taking into account:

- □ SDGs
- Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction
- □ UNFCCC (COP21)









UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 Sendai Japan





NSOs, Ministries and International Organizations

- Chair: Italy (Angelica Tudini)
- Vice-Chair: Luxembourg (Olivier Thunus)
- Countries: Canada, Finland, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkey
- Organizations: EEA, Eurostat, FAO, IEA, OECD, UNEP,UNFCCC, UNSD
- Secretariat: UNECE (Michael Nagy)





Initial set of key climate change-related indicators

- A well-aligned set of 39 indicators with definitions and sources was developed by the Task Force:
 - 75% linked with the Framework for Development of Environment Statistics
 - Over 50% can be produced from the System of Environmental Economic Accounting
 - 25% are SDG indicators
 - 10% are Sendai Framework indicators
- Covers the scope of climate change-related statistics:
 - Drivers: 8 indicators
 - Emissions: 7 indicators
 - Impacts: 13 indicators
 - Mitigation: 6 indicators
 - Adaptation: 5 indicators
- Adopted by the CES in June 2017
- Main criteria: relevance, methodological soundness and data availability





Initial set of key climate change-related indicators

| DOMAIN | SUB DOMAIN | INDICATOR |
|-----------|--|---|
| DRIVERS | National total | Total primary energy supply (TPES) Share of fossil fuels in total primary energy supply (TPES) Losses of land covered by (semi-) natural vegetation Total support for fossil fuels / GDP |
| | Production | Total energy intensity of production activities CO2 intensity of energy for the economy Emission intensity of agricultural commodities |
| | Consumption | 8. Energy consumption by households / capita |
| EMISSIONS | National total | Total GHG emissions 10. CO2 emissions from fuel combustion 11. GHG emissions from land use |
| | Production | Total GHG emissions of production activities GHG emission intensity of production activities |
| | Consumption | 14. Direct GHG emissions from households 15. Carbon footprint |
| IMPACTS | Physical Conditions | Annual average surface temperature Percentage of land area suffering from unusual wet or dry conditions (Standard Precipitation Index) |
| | Water resources | 18. Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources |
| | Land, Land Cover, Ecosystems and Biodiversity | 19. Cumulative number of alien species 20. Carbon stock in soil 21. Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area |
| | Extreme Events and Disasters | Number of deaths and missing persons attributed to hydro-meteorological disasters, per 100,000 population Occurrence of extreme weather events Direct economic loss attributed to hydro-meteorological disasters in relation to GDP Number of people whose destroyed dwellings were attributed to hydro-meteorological disasters |
| | Human settlements and human health | 26. Distribution of cases of vector-borne diseases 27. Heat-related mortality |
| | Agriculture, forestry and fishery | 28. Direct agricultural loss attributed to hydro-meteorological disasters |





Initial set of key climate change-related indicators

| DOMAIN | SUB DOMAIN | INDICATOR |
|------------|---|---|
| MITIGATION | Energy resources | 29. Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption |
| | Expenditures | 30. Share of climate change mitigation expenditure relative to GDP |
| | Environmental Governance and Regulation | 31. Share of energy and transport related taxes as percentage of total taxes and social contributions 32. Total climate change related subsidies and similar transfers / GDP 33. Average carbon price 34. Mobilized amount of USD per year starting in 2020 accountable towards the USD 100 billion commitment |
| | Expenditures | 35. Share of government adaptation expenditure to GDP |
| | Water resources | 36. Change in water use efficiency over time |
| ADAPTATION | Human settlements and human health | 37. Proportion of population living in dwellings with air conditioners or air conditioning |
| | Agriculture, forestry and fishery | Progress towards sustainable forest management Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture |





Dual indicators

How to choose between the residence principle and the territory principle?

Relevant issue especially for indicators related to air emissions and energy

Also on the basis of input from UNCEEA in 2016, the Task Force adopted a dual approach:

for all indicators that can be derived also from other sources than SEEA, a dual measurement should be foreseen in the short term.

Approach consistent with alignment of SDG indicators with SEEA





Dual indicators

| N. in indicator list | Indicator name |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Total primary energy supply (TPES) |
| 2 | Share of fossil fuels in total primary energy supply (TPES) |
| 3 | Losses of land covered by (semi-) natural vegetation |
| 5 | Total energy intensity of production activities |
| 6 | CO2 intensity of energy for the economy |
| 7 | Emission intensity of agricultural commodities |
| 8 | Energy consumption by households / capita |
| 9 | Total GHG emissions |
| 10 | CO2 emissions from fuel combustion |
| 11 | GHG emissions from land use |
| 14 | Direct GHG emissions from households |
| 15 | Carbon footprint |
| 18 | Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of |
| | available freshwater resources |
| 21 | Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area |
| 29 | Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption |





 Pilot survey was conducted in the second half of 2017 - results available for 10 volunteer countries and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

 \rightarrow dual indicators need further clarification

- Based on the outcomes of the pilot testing, the Conference extended the mandate of the Task Force to refine the initial set of core climate change-related indicators, and to identify further methodologies, data sources and guidance for implementation, in the period 2017-2019
- Interim results will be presented at the Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics, that will take place in Geneva, 2-4 October 2018.





Preliminary TF conclusions:

- a) The SEEA approach is to be prioritized;
- b) 3 indicators (18 Level of water stress, 3 Losses of land, 21 Land degradation) might be defined according to the territory approach only;
- c) All other dual indicators will be split into two indicators, of which one represents the SEEA approach and the other one the territory approach;
- d) The SEEA-related indicators will become part of the core set of climate change-related indicators;
- e) The "other" indicators will become "contextual indicators"; it will be recommended to countries to use them as part of their national set of "core indicators" as long as the underlying SEEA-accounts are not available (proxy indicators);
- f) The report of the Task Force will acknowledge the importance of the alternative (contextual) indicators for specific policy questions.





- Do you agree with the general approach regarding "dual indicators" as proposed in this paper? In particular, what is your opinion regarding the role of indicators derived from GHG inventories?
- 2. Do you have specific comments on some of the indicators?

3. How can we better coordinate to ensure that member states use the SEEA to derive these core indicators?





Thank you very much for your attention!

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