

Presenting SEEA CF and SEEA EEA statistics together: UK experience

Gemma Thomas, Office for National Statistics
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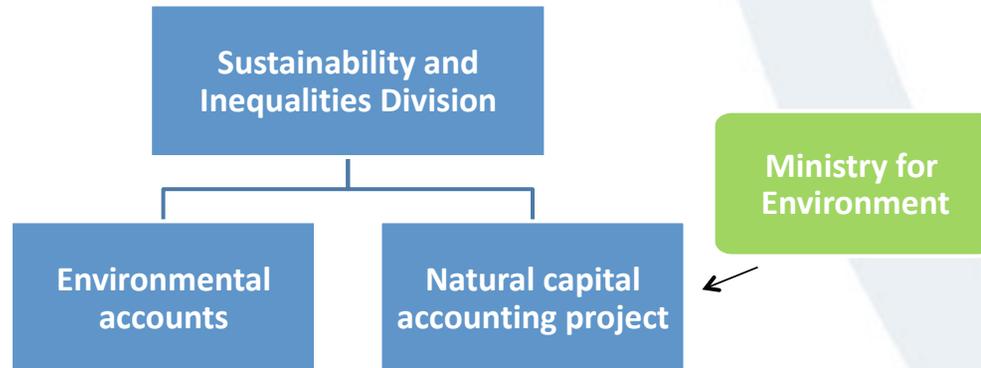
Outline

- **Environmental accounting in the UK**
- **'Grey areas' identified**
- **Benefits and issues of combining the statistics**
- **Lessons learnt**



UK experience

- Two teams in ONS working on environmental and ecosystem accounting



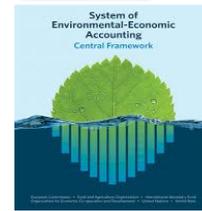
- Both teams work closely but produce independent bulletins and statistics

One team predominantly follows CF, the other EEA



Environmental Accounts

- Air emissions
- Energy
- Material Flows
- Environmental Protection Expenditure (EPE)
- Environmental goods and services sector
- Environmental taxes
- Waste
- Water use



Natural Capital Accounts

- Extent (land cover/use)
- Condition Indicators
- Timber, agricultural biomass, fish, water (provisioning)
- Minerals and energy (abiotic flows)
- Air filtration (regulating)
- Recreation (cultural)
- Restoration cost accounts

Benefit in the two team approach

- Working separately allowed us to make significant progress and produce robust accounts in a number of areas.
- The UK now has a broader range environmental statistics to use for analysis.
 - [environmental accounts](#)
 - [natural capital accounts](#)
- Now developed we are keen to explore the value in presenting the two together, in particular by focusing on certain topic areas.

How we work together – some practical examples

- Representative of Environmental Accounts (CF) sits on PB for Natural Capital
- Regular meetings between branch heads
- Utilising the same data sources/methodology
- Cross branch support during publications

Challenges – grey areas

This distinction between the two frameworks, whilst clear theoretically, is difficult to convey in practice.

- E.g. air quality

Other linked areas between the CF and EEA :

Material flows and provisioning services

Water use and water provisioning

Carbon dioxide emissions and carbon sequestration

Air emissions and air filtration

EPE and restoration cost accounts

Challenges – how to present

- The UK Environmental (Central Framework) accounts are published annually every June/July
- Ecosystem accounts – ad-hoc articles
- How best to present together?
 - one big article?
 - series of interlinked articles?

Challenges – spatial data

- EEA – strong emphasis is placed on spatial detailed ecosystem accounts
- CF – spatial estimates tend to be ‘next step’
- By integrating the two, questions will be asked about different availabilities

Lessons learned

- It is important to have the two frameworks to aid the development of the accounts, however a bridge between the two is needed
- All areas of overlap need identifying and differences in concepts and methods explained.
- Ensure the same assumptions and data sources are used where appropriate and use same approach to analysis and communication with users

Lessons learned (more practical points)

- With a separate team approach, it takes time and dedicated resource to understand how best to combine EEA and CF
- It takes long enough to understand one framework!