



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS
STATISTICS DIVISION



Regional Seminar on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework in the Caribbean

Regional Strategy for the implementation of SEEA: key features and reflections for the Caribbean





Objective

Share the experience of developing a regional strategy for the implementation of SEEA in Latin America along with its key features and reflections for advancing in the Caribbean

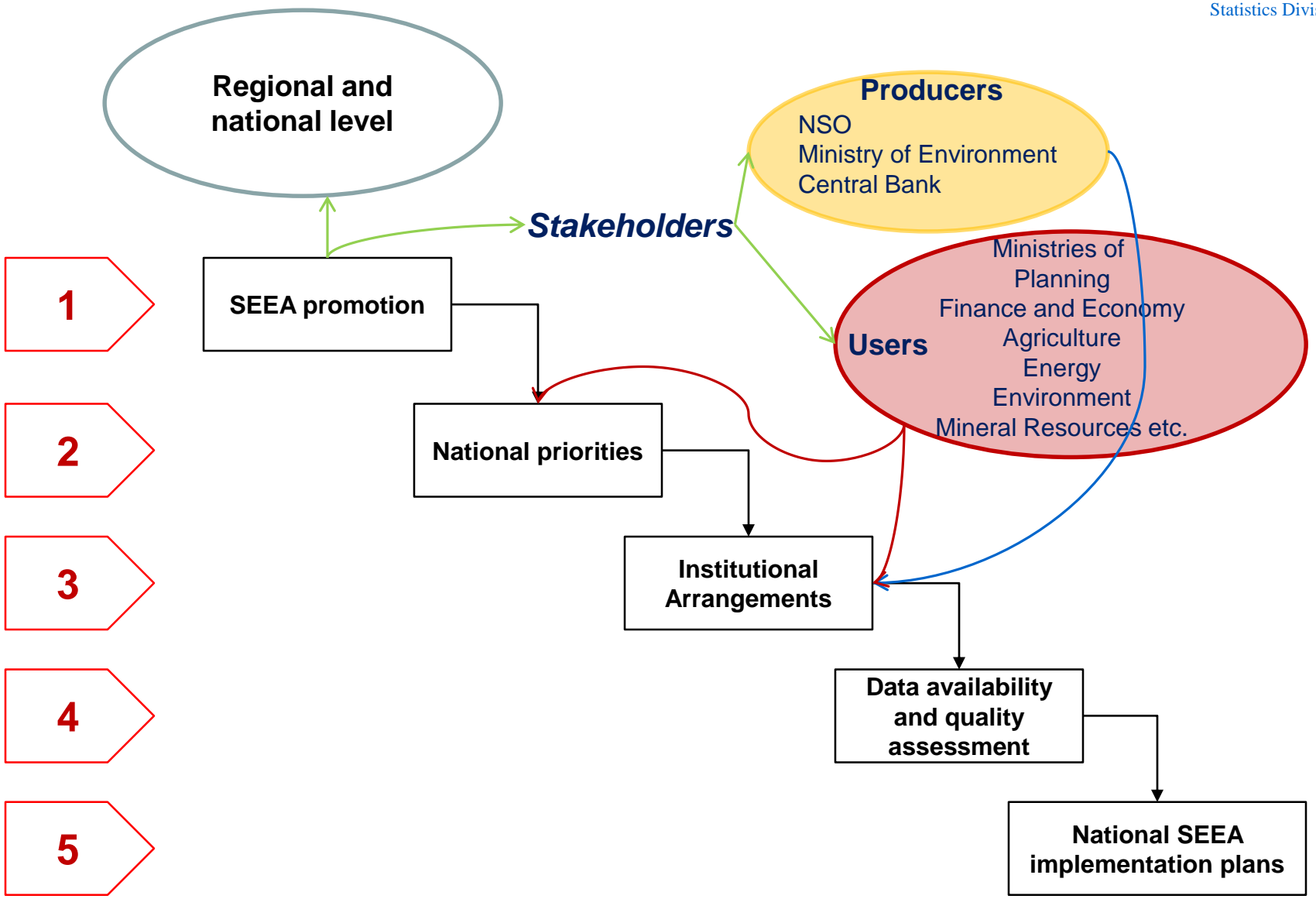


Developing a regional SEEA strategy for Latin America

Main reference: global SEEA strategy

The following elements were taken into consideration:

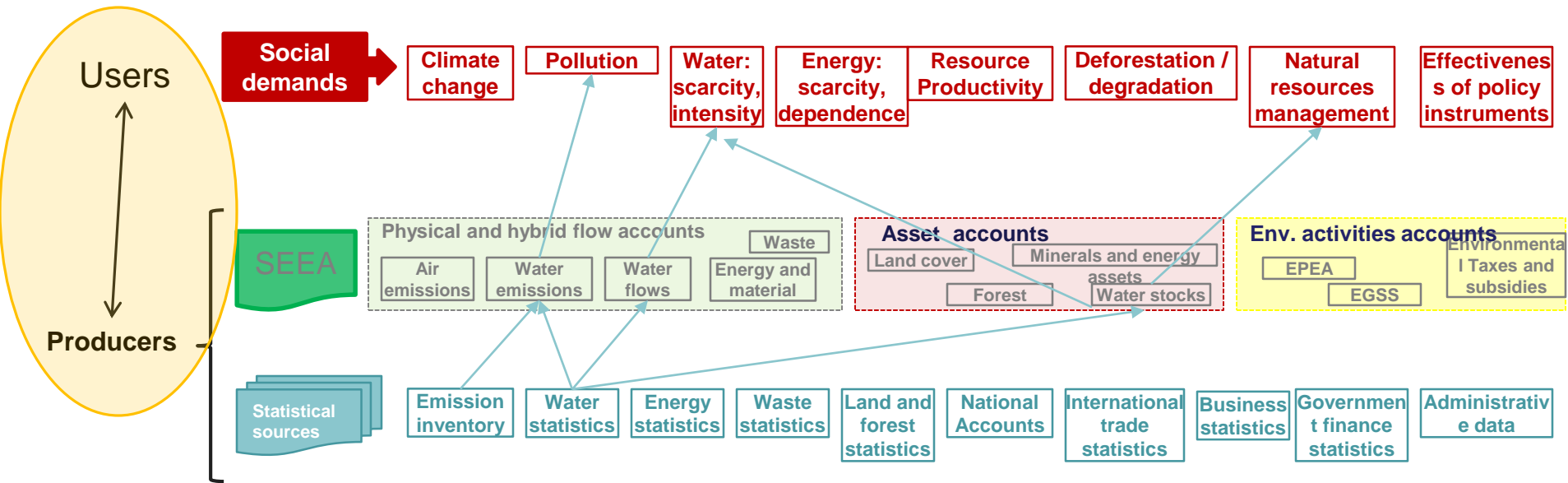
- Degree of development of the System of National Accounts
- Degree of development of basic environmental statistics
- Analysis of institutional frameworks and arrangements of national statistics systems
- Challenges (interviews with experts)
- Willingness of statistical community to adopt the SEEA
- Literature review on the state of the art
- Regional consultation of draft strategy (18 inst from 10 countries)



Setting National priorities:

A national plan of implementation prioritizes the SEEA tables and accounts to be produced in the short to medium term based on most pressing policy demands.

To identify priorities and ensure the relevance and use of the accounts “users” must participate in the process from the beginning.



This interaction between users and producers helps identify the real pressing needs of public policy...

... and makes SEEA essential for measuring environmental sustainability.



National implementation plan

A document that lays out:

- National policy priorities
- Link to NSDS and also national development strategies
- Tables and accounts to be produced
- Commitments and institutional arrangements
- Define roles and responsibilities
 - Who will lead the production of the accounts
 - High level “”sponsor” or “owner” of the process
- Results of the data assessment (identify data gaps)
- Budget and resources needed
- Timeline



Key features of the strategy

- Recognises the heterogeneous statistical development of countries in the region
- Flexible
- Modular and gradual approach
- Demand-driven
- Users play a key role in the process
- Participatory
- Calls for greater coordination at national, regional and global levels
- Promotes south-south cooperation
- Makes provisions for training and capacity building (technical and institutional)



Regional program to advance the implementation of the SEEA strategy

Main components:

- Raise awareness on SEEA 2012 at regional and national levels
- Support countries to elaborate national SEEA implementation plans
- Provide a mechanism of financing, training and technical assistance to countries to implement national plans



Reflections for the Caribbean region

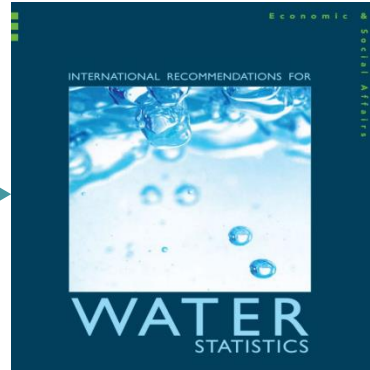
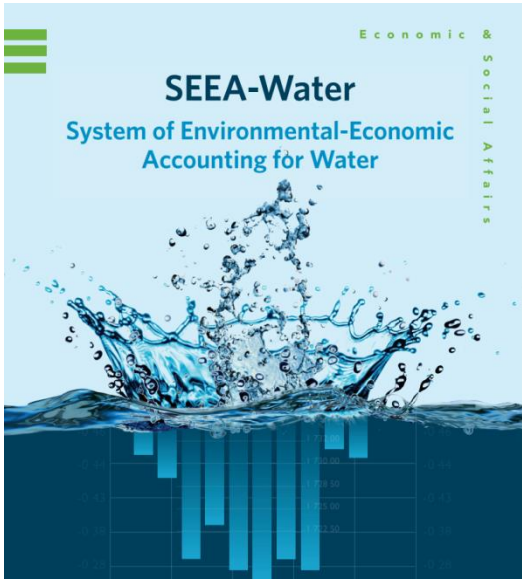
Report of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians noted the following:

- Focus efforts on the basic data series in National Accounts and specifically on the Minimum Required Data Set.
- More work needs to be done to fill data gaps on waste, water, land use and air.
- Workshops on SEEA should be combined with training on basic environmental statistics



Reflections for the Caribbean region

- A regional strategy for the Caribbean must be tailored to the priorities, conditions and statistical development of the countries.
- Advances in the implementation of SNA 2008 and SEEA need to go hand in hand.
- Advancing the SNA 2008 will prepare the ground for SEEA (for example the development of SUTs).
- The SEEA can be used to strengthen basic environmental statistics on important policy issues such as water.



Under development

Guidelines for the compilation of water statistics and accounts

In 2010 the Statistical Commission adopted the IRWS, designed to support countries in the collection, compilation and dissemination of internationally comparable water statistics

Practical material to help countries compile stats and accounts



Opportunities to make progress

- Pilots for implementing the SEEA 2012 (St. Lucia and Jamaica)
- CARICOM's statistical program on SNA and environmental statistics
- Implementation of FDES
- Several initiatives are underway or being set up:
 - Regional Public Goods project on environmental statistics (Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica and Surinam)
 - ECLAC project on advancing the SNA 2008 and SEEA 2012.
 - Several GEF projects on environmental information.
 - UNDP interest in supporting implementation of SEEA
 - Others.....



Way forward

- Create synergies among the different initiatives taking place.
- Strengthen coordination among agencies and countries.
- Important not to lose momentum...
 - Plan follow up (awareness raising, high level involvement in defining policy priorities and political support, review institutional arrangements, get commitments and define responsibilities, in-depth data assessment, national implementation plan.....)



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Thank you

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