ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING IN SUPPORT OF EVIDENCE-BASED POLICIES FOR LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT

Background

Land is a unique asset that delineates the space in which economic activities and environmental processes take place, and within which environmental and economic assets are located. However, poor land management practices and unsustainable land use are growing issues in many countries. As such, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 focuses on protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable management of forests, combatting desertification, and halting and reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss.

The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) is a framework that integrates economic and environmental data to provide a more comprehensive and multipurpose view of the interrelationships between the economy and the environment. The SEEA is a multi-purpose system that generates a wide range of statistics, accounts and indicators with many different potential analytical applications, including those focusing on land use and management.

The SEEA and SEEA land accounts are a focus of the project "Environmental-Economic Accounting for Evidence-Based Policy in Africa and Asia." This project is a three-year project led by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) taking place in Malaysia, Mozambique, the Philippines and Senegal. The project aims to address the technical and institutional barriers to the establishment of routinely produced environmental-economic accounts at the national level by national statistical offices (NSOs). In particular, the project aims to support country implementation of the SEEA using a flexible and modular approach.

Objective

This webinar introduces the SEEA and land accounting to stakeholders in Malaysia and the Philippines and provides the foundation for collaboration in compiling national land accounts. The webinar will introduce the conceptual framework of the SEEA, how land accounts are compiled and the policy applications of land accounts. The webinar will also include country experiences in compiling land accounts and how land accounts can be used for monitoring the SDGs, post-2020 global biodiversity framework and more.

UNSD is collaborating with the Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) and the Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA) in implementing the project in Asia. This webinar is geared towards national stakeholders in Malaysia and the Philippines, including line ministries, mapping agencies, NGOs and academia. The implementation of the SEEA is truly a multi-stakeholder approach and requires cooperation of many national partners and agencies.

Programme

The event will take place virtually on **29 July 2021** between **9:00 and 11:00 AM PHT**.

Time	Activity
9:00 – 9:20	Welcome message *Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahindin, Chief Statistician, Department of Statistics, Malaysia* *Dr. Dennis Mapa, Chief Statistician, Philippine Statistical Authority*
9:20 – 9:50	Introduction to the SEEA and project presentation *Mr. Julian Chow, United Nations Statistics Division* *This session will present a broad overview of the SEEA from a global perspective and the "Environmental-Economic Accounting for Evidence-Based Policy in Africa and Asia" project.*
9:50 – 10:15	SEEA land accounting *Ms. Jessica Ying Chan, United Nations Statistics Division* *An introduction to SEEA land accounts will be provided, including data sources, how they are compiled and their policy applications.*
10:15 – 10:40	Land accounting in the Asia-Pacific *Ms. Etjih Tasriah, Statistics Indonesia* *Mr. Jonathan Khoo, Australian Bureau of Statistics* *Representatives from Indonesia and Australia will share their experiences in developing and applying land accounts.*
10:40 – 11:00	Land accounting tools *Ms. Jessica Ying Chan, United Nations Statistics Division* *This session will focus on tools which can be used to develop land accounts. In particular, the session will present the ARIES for SEEA Explorer, which makes use of artificial intelligence to enable rapid natural capital accounting.*

SEEA