DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

System of Environmental Economic Accounting

SEEA Central Framework 2028 update

Meeting of the SEEA Central Framework Technical Committee on the update of the SEEA CF

Meeting agenda

17-21 November 2025

United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
Room S-1522 (15th Floor of the Secretariat Building)

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Website: https://seea.un.org/events/meeting-technical-committee-seea-central-framework-update-seea-central-framework

DAY 1: Monday, 17 November 2025

9:30 – 9:40	**Welcome and introductions** Opening words: Ilaria Di Matteo (UNSD) and Sjoerd Schenau (Chair TC)
9:40 – 10:30	**General context for the update of the SEEA CF** • Overview of the SEEA CF update and expectations for the TC meeting (Marko Javorsek) • Overview of the finalization of the 2025 SNA and Issues in the research agenda post 2025 SNA (Matthias Reister) • Overview of COFOG revision (Tom Orford, online) • Overview of GFSM update (Foyz Khatun)
10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee break**
11:00 – 12:30	**Issue A9.1: Focus on accounting for natural resources** Moderator: Peter Meadows Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Carl Obst <u>Discussion questions:</u> 1. Do you agree that the SEEA CF should continue to endorse the split asset approach and refine its description to incorporate the developments in the 2025 SNA? 2. Should the definition of depletion in the SEEA CF be aligned with the 2025 SNA? 3. How should the distinction between depletion and degradation be described? 4. Should the distinction between cultivated and non-cultivated biological resources be changed, primarily for timber resources, to align with the 2025 SNA? 5. Does the Guidance Note appropriately present the different options for describing the accounting for timber resources and forest land and associated measurement of depletion? 6. What accounting option should be applied in accounting for timber resources and forest land? 7. Should renewable energy resources be treated as a separate class of environmental assets? To what extent is the decision dependent on the presence of a physical stock? 8. Should the radio spectra be included as a new type of environmental asset?
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch break**
14:00 – 15:30	**Issue A9.3: Focus on classifications, terminology and definitions** Moderator: Peter Meadows Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Carl Obst <u>Discussion questions:</u> 1. Should the term environmental assets be retained in the SEEA CF?

	2. Should the term natural capital be introduced following the SNA as an equivalent term to environmental assets? 3. Should the definition of environmental assets be amended to better reflect the inclusion of cultivated biological resources? 4. Which option for the measurement scope of the term natural resources should be applied? In particular, should cultivated biological resources be excluded from the scope of natural resources? 5. Should the SEEA CF retain its approach to the classification of biological resources? If so, what amendments might be incorporated?
15:30 – 16:00	**Coffee break**
16:00 – 17:30	**Clarification Note on the Definition of Environmental Assets** Moderator: Sjoerd Schenau Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Carl Obst <u>Discussion questions:</u> 1. Should amendments be made to the definition of environmental assets? 2. What is the appropriate approach to explaining that cultivated biological resources are within scope of the definition of environmental assets? The current definition and associated descriptions do not highlight this point. Options include adding/amending words to the definition (e.g. with respect to naturally occurring); adding relevant text to the discussion of the definition; and expanding the classification to better highlight the inclusion of resources such as livestock and crops. 3. Should the phrase "living and non-living components of the Earth" be extended to consider accounting for environmental systems such as the climate system? 4. Are any clarifications required to align the description of the measurement boundaries for each type of individual environmental asset with the general definition and description of environmental assets? 5. Should the SEEA CF expand the classification of environmental assets to explicitly note cultivated biological resources including livestock, orchards and crops?

DAY 2: Tuesday, 18 November 2025

9:00 – 10:30	**Issue C2: Inclusion of the integrated framework for monetary accounts** Moderator: Neil Wilson Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Angelica Tudini (online) <u>Discussion questions:</u> 1. Do you agree on the proposed recommendations for the Integrated framework accounts and definitions? 2. Do you agree on the way comments provided were received/not received?

	3. Could you provide your feedback on the two specific issues presented in slide 10?
10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee break**
11:00 – 12:30	**Issue C3: Extending the scope of environmental activities** Moderator: Neil Wilson Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Isabelle Remond-Tiedrez (online) <u>Discussion questions:</u> 1. Do you agree to integrate PEDS, ECR and env taxes as VARIABLES in the GN C2 (Integrated framework)? Yes/No 2. If No, do you consider that they should be included as TOPICS in the GN C3? 3. If they are, it will be with an approach different from environmental purpose 4. If yes, do you agree to keep the two-layer approach: definition and list of activities/products/taxes? 5. Even though not included in the extension of the scope, do you agree to have sustainable tourism and risk management as relevant topics to be included in ad hoc Annexes?
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch break**
14:00 – 15:30	**Issue C4: Primary and secondary purpose** Moderator: Neil Wilson Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Arturo De La Fuente and Rodrigo Pizarro (online) <u>Discussion questions:</u> 1. Do you agree with the guidance about 'technical nature'? 2. Do you agree operationalisation of purpose with lists of environmental activities and products? 3. Do you agree terminology 'characteristic' and 'non-characteristic'? 4. Which recording and valuation out the 2 proposed? Or both? 5. Any comment about considerations on CEP categories and explanatory notes?
15:30 – 16:00	**Coffee break**
16:00 – 17:30	**Issue C5: Climate mitigation and climate adaptation expenditure** Moderator: Neil Wilson Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Julie Hass (online) <u>Discussion questions:</u> 1. Does C3 expand the SEEA scope adequately to include climate change expenditures? Including adaptation? 2. CC Mitigation expenditure & CC Adaptation expenditure definitions – Any comments? Revisions?

	3. Are CC-Mitigation and CC-Adaptation Expenditures additive or not? Is there overlap (i.e. are some products and activities BOTH mitigation and adaptation). Can a total for Climate Change Expenditures be calculated? 4. Classification of mitigation expenditures – extend the CEP to include these? Or make a new classification by extending the CEP? Or start new? 5. Classification of adaptation expenditures – need to develop – propose to use CC disasters as starting point. Does not yet exist – so what do we do? 6. How should public transport and rail transport be included? In mitigation? In Adaptation? All? None? Only a portion? 7. Any comments to the economic variables proposed? 8. What is the philosophy of inclusion in SEEA? For the SEEA-CF 2012 – only topics we all agreed on were included – the rest went into the applications and EEA-manuals. What is the plan this time? Are both CC-mitigation expenditures and CC-adaptation expenditure accounts 'mature enough' to be included in the SEEA-CF?
18:30 –	**Optional group dinner at Patsy Pizzeria (801 2nd Ave, New York, NY 10017)** **https://patsyspizzamidtown.com/**

DAY 3: Wednesday, 19 November 2025

9:00 – 10:30	**Issue B1/5: Description of PSUTs with relation to EW-MFA** Moderator: Matthew Prescott Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Stephan Moll (online) Discussion questions: The Technical Committee is asked for agreement to the following course of action? Re-organize the structure of SEEA-CF chapter III in a way that distinguishes clearly between theoretical framework for physical flow accounts and applications thereof. The theoretical framework is aligned to SNA principles and serves as a reference point for applications that may inevitably deviate from the former for reasons such as policy relevance and data constraints. The revised SEEA-CF chapter III: - describes in appropriate detail the theoretical framework referring to SNA and linking to other SEEA-CF accounts; - includes a structured presentation of 'means' how applications cope with constraints in applying the theoretical framework (e.g., balancing items, layers of materials, bridging items); - provides an overview of common applications and examples highlighting adjustments employing the afore mentioned 'means'.
10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee break**
11:00 – 12:30	**Issue B2: Further clarifying treatment of losses**

	Moderator: Matthew Prescott Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Stephan Moll (online) <u>Discussion question:</u> Are losses representable with the already existing means of physical flow accounts, namely SEEA-types of physical flows (natural inputs, products, residuals) – as this guidance note concludes? Or, do losses require a separate statistical concept to be included in physical flow accounts?
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch break**
14:00 – 15:30	**Issue B3: Treatment of carbon flows in the SEEA CF** Moderator: Roberto Astolfi Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Sjoerd Schenau <u>Discussion questions:</u> 1. Do you agree with the inclusion of LULUCF related carbon emissions and carbon uptake flows in SEEA CF, and more particularly in the air emission accounts? If yes, what option do you prefer with regard to the inclusion of carbon flows related to LULUCF in the SEEA CF? How does a mix of option 2 and 3 look like? 2. How do we allocate emissions / uptake related to land use change? 3. Do you agree with a more extensive description of a use table for the AEA and the examples identified? Are there other examples here that need to be described for the use table? Should storage of carbon underground be described as a flow within the economy or a flow to the environment? 4. Is there a need to further clarify the definition of the environment - economy boundary, also with regard to economic/ environmental assets?
15:30 – 16:00	**Coffee break**
16:00 – 17:30	**Issue D1: Inclusion of the carbon stock account** Moderator: Sjoerd Schenau Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Carl Obst <u>Discussion questions:</u> 1. Should the carbon stock be treated as an environmental asset in the SEEA CF? If so, what is the appropriate rationale? If not, what is the appropriate rationale? 2. Should the treatment of environmental assets be modified in the SEEA CF to accommodate different categories of assets in recognition of their different attributes but to ensure no double counting? 3. Should the monetary value of the carbon stock be considered in the SEEA CF or the SEEA EA? If so, what is the main motivation for undertaking this valuation? 4. Are there negative consequences of not including the carbon stock as an environmental asset?

	5. Are there negative consequences of not including carbon stock accounts in the SEEA CF?

DAY 4: Thursday, 20 November 2025

9:00 – 10:30	**Discussion on the chapter structure of the updated SEEA CF** Moderator: Sjoerd Schenau Overview presentation: Carl Obst <u>Discussion questions:</u> 1. Should a distinction be made at the chapter level between content which is more general and conceptual in nature compared to content which pertains to specific accounts? Specifically, should current chapters 3, 4 and 5 each be split? (NB: This proposal has only been applied for Chapter 5 in the tables below). 2. Where should content on the links to SEEA Ecosystem Accounting be presented? The primary alternatives are Chapter 2 and Chapter 5. 3. Should the distinction between accounting in physical and monetary terms be made more explicit – for example in current chapters 3 and 5? 4. Is an additional chapter on physical stock accounting – for example to describe accounting for carbon stocks and for produced assets in physical terms – appropriate? If not where should this content be included? Is the title sufficiently different from accounting for environmental assets in physical terms? 5. Should the current order of the chapters remain the same – i.e. physical flow accounting, then environmental activity accounting, and finally environmental asset accounting? 6. Where should content on new SEEA CF topics be incorporated: a. Pressure accounts b. Carbon stock accounts c. Physical accounts for produced assets d. PEDS and tax abatements e. Sustainable finance 7. In current Chapter 5 a. Should a clearer distinction be made between measurement in physical and monetary terms? b. In what order should the environmental assets be presented? 8. What structure should be applied in presenting content on the application of SEEA CF accounts considering the range of issues discussing relevant topics and the role of the SEEA CF?
10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee break**
11:00 – 12:30	**Status of other issues included in Tranches #2 and #3** Moderator: Sjoerd Schenau

	Overview presentation: Carl Obst Open discussion
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch break**
14:00 – 15:30	**Issue A4: How SEEA CF accounts can be made spatially explicit** Moderator: Joe St. Lawrence Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Peter Meadows <u>Discussion questions:</u> 1. What is the general consensus to describe spatial accounting for SEEA using the terms: Fully spatial accounts Partially spatial accounts 2. Should we modify each of the accounts with updates to consistent terminology on spatial accounting with minor changes to chapter 2 or do we develop a section in chapter 2 on spatial accounting? 3. Do we introduce the concept of a SEEA CF basic spatial unit and an Environmental Accounting Area? 4. One known gap is the decision making process for choosing spatial accounts, do we have either as an attachment or a picture in chapter 6 on the decision process via a decision tree (see presentation) or something that looks like the logic chain in Ecosystem Accounts. 5. Is there consensus on recommending a technical note for spatial accounting, with the option of changing the direction of the technical note for land accounts to better reflect spatial accounts? What are some of the problems we should mention if recommending this option to discuss in the GN? 6. (Editorial question) Should we consolidate Issues A4.4 (Roles of tabular and mapping concepts), A4.6 (Discussing the different representations of spatial data) and A4.8 (Establishing the relationship between bottom up and top down) into one issue called: Design and modelling of spatial accounts for SEEA CF 7. Any examples we can use in the guidance note for representation, modelling, compilation, decision to use a spatial accounting approach. 8. Agree on which options to keep as recommendations (based on table in presentation).
15:30 – 16:00	**Coffee break**
16:00 – 17:30	**Issue D4: Consideration of water as a produced asset** Moderator: Sjoerd Schenau Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Carl Obst <u>Discussion questions:</u> 1. Can water be produced?

	• If it is produced, then when does production occur? • If it is produced, can it be stored for future use? 2. To what degree, if any, should the conceptual model be dictated by: • Practical measurement considerations? • The implications for the SNA? • Likelihood of uptake by national accountants? 3. What guidance is needed on: • The definition and delineation of artificial reservoirs • Measurement of stocks and flows 4. How to effectively coordinate issue D4 with other issues in the SEEA-CF update? • Water valuation (D7), links to SEEA EA (A1), treatment of losses (B2), linking stock and flow accounts (A8), SNA consistency (A9), links to policy (A6)

DAY 5: Friday, 21 November 2025

9:00 – 10:30	**Issue C6: Inclusion of potentially environmentally damaging subsidies/related transfers and C7: Elaborating environmental tax abatements** Moderator: Neil Wilson Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Sven Kaumanns Open discussion
10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee break**
11:00 – 12:30	**Issues C2-C5: Integration of updates on environmental activities** Moderator: Sjoerd Schenau Synthesis presentation: Neil Wilson and Carl Obst Open discussion
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch break**
14:00 – 15:30	**Planning and co-ordination of next steps** Moderator: Ilaria Di Matteo Overview presentation: Carl Obst Open discussion