



# Implementation and Diagnostic Tool

Project: Advancing the SEEA  
Experimental Ecosystem Accounting



United Nations



UNEP



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



## Overview

- Background
- Implementation steps
- The Diagnostic Tool (Strategic Planning)
- Group exercise (20min) → Elevator speech

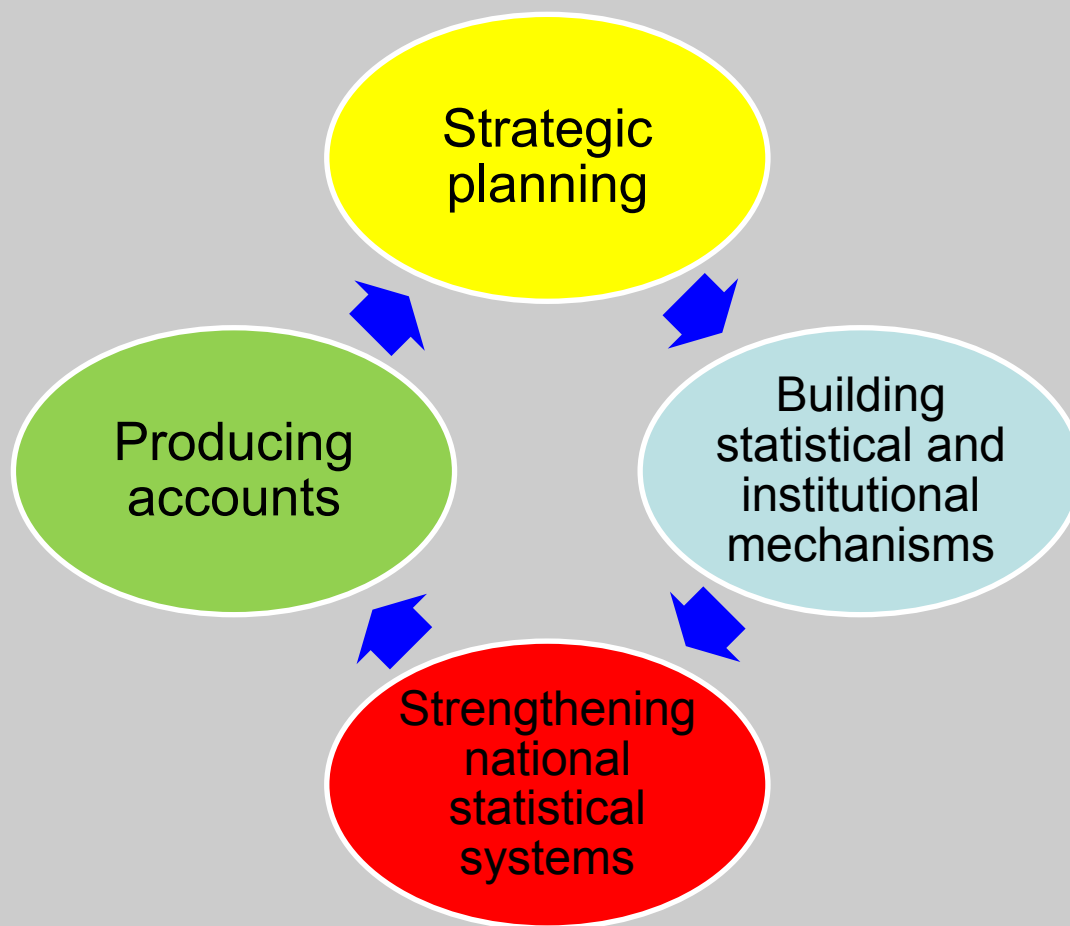


## Background

- Decisions and national visions are becoming more cross-sectoral and complex
  - Sustainable development, green economy, maintaining natural capital to support jobs & economic growth...
- **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020:**
  - [Aichi Target 2](#): by 2020 to integrate biodiversity values into national planning and economic accounting
- **Environmental-economic accounting (SEEA)** provides an integrated, coherent & comprehensive platform for **integrating** environmental statistics and **linking** to economic accounts



# Implementation steps





## Implementation: 1. Strategic Planning

- Identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & constraints
  - Build capacity
  - Develop & integrate data, knowledge
  - Strengthen institutional mechanisms (+collaboration)
- Inform proposals & work plans
- Build on existing capacity, work and initiatives
- Engage partners (data providers, users, supporters)
  
- Link **demand** for integrated information with **supply** (data, capacity)



## Implementation: 2. Building statistical and institutional mechanisms

- Needs leadership and coordination
  - Engage stakeholders, technical experts and financial partners
  - Make resources available
  - Monitor progress and overcome obstacles
  - Develop implementation plan



## Implementation: 3. Strengthening National Statistical Systems

- Integrate statistical production across government:
  - Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)
  - Paris21 – National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)
  - Quality guidelines (DQAF)
  - Statistical standards (SNA, SEEA)
- Collect data once → sharing
- Centralize expertise and processes → efficiency
- Apply same quality guidelines → quality
- Improve primary data → quality
- Identify gaps and collect new data → comprehensiveness



## Implementation: 4. Producing accounts

- Build and maintain capacity of teams
- Develop detailed design specifications
- Establish mechanisms for data inventorying, exchange, collection, quality assessment, improvement
- Revise data, if required to harmonize with SEEA concepts and classifications
- Create or adapt statistical infrastructure and dissemination mechanisms





## First step: Strategic Planning

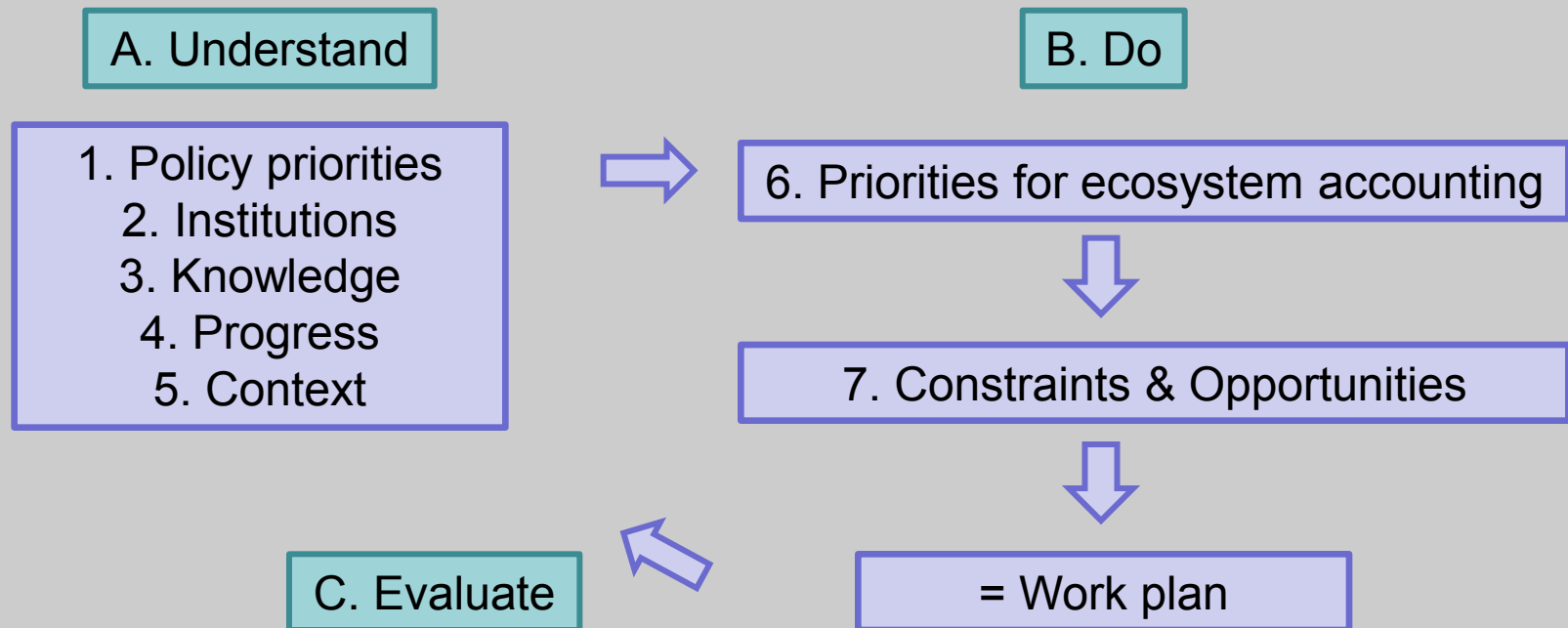
- The **Diagnostic Tool** helps guide a conversation about:
  1. National policy priorities (vision)
  2. Institutions (stakeholders)
  3. Knowledge (information sources)
  4. Progress (status)
  5. Context (other related activities)

To better:

6. Determine priority accounts
7. Understand opportunities and constraints



## Strategic planning...





## First step: Strategic Planning

- **The Diagnostic tool is flexible and iterative:**
  - Repeat the process with new stakeholders
  - Start at any step:
    - May focus on leveraging existing work (Step 4)
    - There may be institutional mechanisms in place with specific priorities (Step 2)
  - Useful for comparing notes with other countries



## Understand: 1. Policy priorities

- What are your **national priorities** related to the environment, sustainability, biodiversity and green economy?
  - Are there immediate concerns about **key ecosystem assets** and flows of ecosystem services from them?
  - Where would you find a statement of these priorities?
- This becomes your **Vision Statement**



## Understand: 1. Policy Priorities

- Policy priority (Examples):
  1. Economic development
  2. Jobs
  3. Food security
  4. Water security
- Ecosystem assets of concern (Examples):
  1. Natural heritage
  2. Biodiversity, habitat, species
  3. Wetlands, freshwater, coastal zones
  4. Forests, soil, protected areas, degraded areas



## Understand: 2. Institutions

- Who are the **stakeholders** in environment, sustainability and green economy?
  - **Producers** of information
  - **Users** of information
  - **Supporters** of improved information and statistical processes
  
- Are there **institutional mechanisms** already in place to make decisions?



## Understand: 2. Institutions

- Stakeholders (Examples):
  1. National statistical offices
  2. Environment & natural resource agencies
  3. Finance & planning departments
  4. Industry, development, business, NGOs
- Institutional mechanisms (Examples):
  1. Sustainable development committees
  2. Reporting to international agencies
  3. Interdepartmental working groups
  4. Commissions...



## Understand: 3. Knowledge

- What are the **key national data sources** that can be used as a basis for SEEA-EEA?
- What are the **key documents and research initiatives** related to these sources?





## Understand: 3. Knowledge

- Key data sources (Examples):
  1. Geospatial data, soil inventory, land use maps
  2. Water supply & quality, forestry, agriculture, fisheries
  3. Environmental quality, species, habitats
  4. Socio-economic statistics
- Documents and research initiatives (Examples):
  1. Ecosystem assessments
  2. State of the Environment Reports
  3. Ecosystem services studies ([www.evri.ca](http://www.evri.ca))
  4. Sustainability indicators...



## Understand: 4. Progress

- What **progress** has already been made in work related to the SEEA?
  - SEEA-CF Environmental-economic accounts
  - SEEA-EEA Ecosystem accounts
  - TEEB studies
  - WAVES studies



## Understand: 3. Progress

- Examples of existing accounts:
  - SEEA-CF accounts:
    - Assets (land, soil, timber, aquatic, water)
    - Supply and use (timber, fish, water, air)
    - Monetary flows (protection expenditures)
  - SEEA-EEA:
    - Ecosystem Extent, Condition and Capacity
    - Carbon
    - Biodiversity
    - Ecosystem Services Supply (physical or monetary)



## Understand: 5. Context

- What related statistical development activities could benefit (and benefit from) SEEA?
  - Statistical standards, quality and process guidelines
  - Spatial data standards
  - Environmental data inventories
  - Biodiversity or ecosystem assessments
  - Reporting on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
  - National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)
  - Green economy studies
- Identify opportunities to build on and work with related initiatives



## Do: 6. Set Priorities for new work

- Now that we understand the:
  1. Priorities
  2. Institutions
  3. Knowledge
  4. Progress and
  5. Context
  
- What does this suggest as **priorities** for future development of SEEA accounts?



## Do: 6. Priorities for new work

- Which accounts (or components) should be developed first? (Examples):
  1. Extent Accounts support many objectives
  2. Water Accounts inform water supply
  3. Ecosystem Condition Account is an opportunity to harmonize environmental quality information and identify gaps
  4. Carbon Accounts can inform climate change
  5. Biodiversity Accounts can prioritize which ecosystems need to be protected



## Do: 7. Consider Opportunities and Constraints

- What are the **opportunities** for immediate actions to address these constraints?  
(Examples)
  - National Plan, SD strategies being developed
  - Need to address SDG indicators
  - Funding available, need a proposal
  - NBSAP: Link biodiversity targets to accounts
  - International initiatives (**REDD+**, **SDGs**, **WAGES**, **IPBES**, **CBD**...)
  - Have much data, need to integrate
  - SEEA training



## Do: 7. Consider Opportunities and Constraints

- What are the **constraints** to achieving these priorities? (Examples)
  - Too little technical capacity
  - Too few people with expertise
  - No platform for integrating spatial data
  - No funding
  - Needs work to prepare national engagement: meetings, mechanisms, prototypes...





## Do: Develop a Work Plan

- Identify a 3-5 year **Work Plan** that
  - Addresses national sustainable development **priorities**
  - Engages **stakeholders**
  - Leverages **knowledge, progress** and current **initiatives**
  - Overcomes **constraints**
  - Takes advantage of **opportunities**
- to develop **priority accounts** within an integrated statistical infrastructure



## Do: Develop a Work Plan

- Immediate next steps (data, institutions, capacity) (Examples):
  - Create a platform for sharing data
  - Engage partners in addressing data needs for international initiatives
  - Initiate national SEEA training program
  - Seek a coalition of partners for funding
  - Develop a prototype (proof of concept)
  - Establish working groups and design a process
  - Develop pilot SEEA accounts



## Questions?

- The next activity is a group exercise to use the Diagnostic Tool to develop a short proposal
- Before we start this, are there any questions?



## Group exercise

### ■ Situation:

- Deputy Minister asks you for a proposal to ensure your country meets its obligations for reporting on Sustainable Development Goals by 2020:

*By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.*

- Funding is available, depending on **work plan**
- Requires a **proposal** by tomorrow to convince other Deputy Ministers to collaborate
- *Hint: **Think** like a Deputy Minister (Achieve goals, Focus on what is required? No need for details...)*



## Group exercise

- **Task:** Give elevator speech (2 minutes) to convince Deputy Minister what is required:
  - Given the national **priority** to \_\_\_\_\_, which requires **collaboration** among \_\_\_\_\_, we propose to integrate **data** on \_\_\_\_\_, to create **accounts** for \_\_\_\_\_, by building on our **experience** in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - There are **opportunities** to support this by \_\_\_\_\_, however the **constraints** that need to be overcome include \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The work plan to \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ will require approximately \_\_\_\_\_ years and \_\_\_\_\_ dollars.
- See handout [20min group work, 2min each to report]



## After this Training Workshop...

- Work through the Diagnostic Tool with:
  - Your directors & DGs
  - Other potential stakeholders
- Use it as a basis for a more refined:
  - Elevator speech
  - One-pager to describe intent to potential collaborators
  - Conduct a more formal assessment using materials developed for this project
- Synthesize it into a proposal for a 3-5 year Work Plan



## What is next for you?

- Individual report:
  - Discuss with colleagues and managers
  - Study policies and related initiatives
  - Study SEEA
  - Find available data
  - Seek more training (on what topic?)



## Evaluation of the training module

- Please complete the online evaluation form for this module: <http://www.tinyurl.com/pbopmy2>
- For this module
  - What did you learn that you could apply in your work?
  - Was the presentation clear and informative?
  - Was it too simple? Too complex?
  - Was there anything you did not understand?
  - What additions or deletions would you suggest (recognizing that the unit is intended for a general audience)?
  - Do you have any suggestions as to how the SEEA-EEA may be improved (concepts, principles) in this area?





## Acknowledgements

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