Applications and Diagnostic Tool

Project: Advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

United Nations
UNEP
Convention on Biological Diversity
NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Overview

- Background: The need for integrated information
- Purpose of the Diagnostic Tool:
  - Strategic planning
- Discussion of:
  1. Policy priorities (national)
  2. Institutions (stakeholders)
  3. Knowledge (sources)
  4. Progress (status)
  5. Context (other activities)
- Next steps: Work plan? Proposals?
  6. Priority accounts
  7. Constraints and opportunities
- Group exercise (15min) → Elevator speech

Background

- Decisions & 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

Why plan strategically?

- Why not? What is the alternative?
- Inform proposals & work plans
- Engage partners (data providers, users, supporters)
- Identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats
  - Build capacity
  - Develop & integrate data, knowledge
  - Strengthen institutional mechanisms (+collaboration)
- Build on existing work and initiatives
- Link **demand** for integrated information with **supply** (data, capacity)

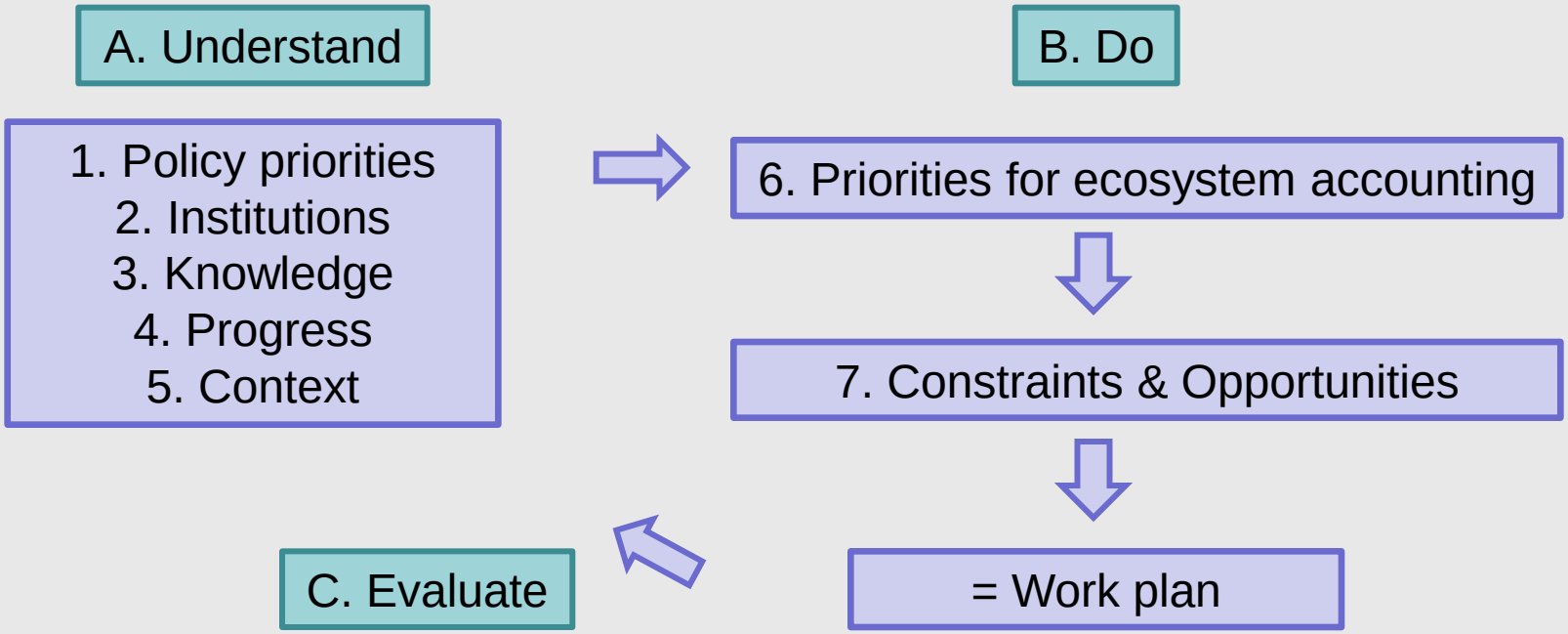
Why plan strategically?

- **You want your data, knowledge and capacity to be used**
- Should this be:
  - **Bottom → Up?:** Build a prototype (proposal…) and shop it around to potential users
  - **Top → Down?:** Ask users what they need and make it for them
  - **Outside → In?**: Decide together what is possible and work together to create it

Purpose of the Diagnostic Tool

- **Strategic planning:**
  - Initiate and guide a conversation about:
    1. National policy priorities (vision)
    2. Institutions (stakeholders)
    3. Knowledge (sources)
    4. Progress (status)
    5. Context (other related activities)
  - Intended to be iterative and flexible
    - Repeat the process with new partners
    - Start at any step: e.g., may focus on leveraging existing work (Step 4)…
  - Useful for comparing notes with other countries

Strategic planning…



Start the conversation…Understand

- Policy priorities:
  - What are your **national priorities** related to the environment, sustainability, biodiversity and green economy
  - 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**

Start the conversation…Understand

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

Start the conversation…Understand

- Institutions:
  - Who are the **stakeholders** including **producers** and **users** of related information (statistics, tools, accounts, etc.), but also other groups that can benefit from improved information?
  - Are there **institutional mechanisms** already in place to make decisions related to the environment, sustainability and green economy?

Start the conversation…Understand

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

Start the conversation…Understand

- 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?

Start the conversation…Understand

- Key data sources (Examples):
  1. Geospatial data, soil, land use
  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)
  4. Sustainability indicators…

Start the conversation…Understand

- Progress:
  - What **progress** has already been made in work related to the SEEA-EEA?
    - Environmental-economic accounts
    - Ecosystem accounts

Start the conversation…Understand

- Progress (accounts) (Examples):
  1. Assets (land, soil, timber, aquatic, water)
  2. Supply and use (timber, fish, water, air)
  3. Monetary flows (protection expenditures)
  4. Ecosystem accounts:
     - Land/ecosystem condition and capacity
     - Carbon
     - Biodiversity
     - Ecosystem services (physical)
     - Ecosystem services (monetary)

Start the conversation…Understand

- Context:
  - What related statistical development activities could benefit SEEA-EEA initiatives?
    - Standards
    - Inventories
    - Biodiversity or ecosystem assessments
    - Quality guidelines

→ Identify opportunities to build on and work with related initiatives

Start the conversation…Understand

- Context (Examples):
  1. Spatial data standards
  2. Statistical quality guidelines (National Statistical System)
  3. Inventory of environmental data
  4. Reporting on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
  5. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

Start the conversation…Do

- Priorities for new work:
  - Now that we understand the priorities, institutions, knowledge, progress and context

→ What does this suggest as **priorities** for future development of SEEA-EEA accounts?

Start the conversation…Understand

- Which accounts (or components) should be developed first? (Examples):
  1. Land accounts support many objectives
  2. Freshwater 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

Start the conversation…Do

- Constraints and opportunities:
  - What are the **opportunities** for immediate actions to address these constraints?
  - What are the **constraints** to achieving these priorities?

Start the conversation…Understand

- **Opportunities (funding, plans, needs) (Examples):**
  1. Have data on land use, need to integrate
  2. Funding opportunity
  3. Link biodiversity targets to accounts
  4. International initiatives (IPBES, CBD…)
- **Constraints (time, funds, expertise, data, institutional mechanisms) (Examples):**
  1. No platform for integrating spatial data
  2. Funding not guaranteed
  3. Needs some work
  4. National buy-in uncertain

Start the conversation…Do

- **Work plan:**
  - Identify a 3-5 year work plan
  - to address **constraints**
  - take advantage of **opportunities**
  - to develop an **integrated statistical infrastructure** to address national sustainable development policy priorities

Start the conversation…Understand

- Next steps (data, institutions, capacity) (Examples):
  1. Create a platform for sharing spatial data
  2. Seek a coalition of partners for funding (discuss with Finance, Treasury, Foreign Affairs…)
  3. Collaborate on linking Biodiversity Targets to accounts
  4. Engage partners in addressing data needs for international initiatives (SDGs, REDD+, IPBES, WAVES…)

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 [30min group work, 2min each to report]

Start the conversation…Evaluate

- Suggestions:
  - Review this discussion 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
    - Formal assessment using materials developed for this project
  - Synthesize it into a proposal for a 3-5 year Work Plan

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