

To: The London Group on environmental accounting

Date: 31 August 2004

UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL (AND SOCIAL) ACCOUNTING FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The Division: National Accounts in Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) is responsible for the compilation of Natural Resource Accounts and Social Accounting Matrices (SAMs) for South Africa. The following paragraphs describe the past and present activities for both social and environmental accounting in Stats SA.

Social Accounting

The final social accounting matrix for the 1998 reference year, constructed according to the recommendations of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA), was published in November 2002. Report No. 04-03-02 (1998) is available on Stats SA's website (<http://www.statssa.gov.za>). The previous SAM was for the 1988 reference year according to the 1968 SNA.

Subsequent to Report No. 04-03-02 (1998), Stats SA published an 'Overview of the 1998 Social Accounting Matrix' in May 2004 (also available on Stats SA's website). The purpose of the report is to provide an analysis of the 1998 SAM with the main focus on final household consumption expenditure and compensation of employees.

Stats SA aims to publish a SAM within 48 months after the reference year. The next SAM for the 2000 reference year will however be published towards the end of 2005 due to the rebasing and benchmarking of SA's national accounts in November 2004.

Current work being done on the SAM:

Project	Due date
Discussion document on 11 countries' experiences in the compilation of a SAM	30 September 2004
Position document on the inclusion of labour accounts the SAM for South Africa	31 January 2005
SAM for the 2000 reference year	November 2005

Environmental Accounting

Stats SA has adopted a 3-phased approach in the development of natural resource accounts i.e.:

- Phase 1: Compilation of a position document. This document aims to establish whether the specific account is feasible for South Africa and is for internal use only.
- Phase 2: Compilation of a discussion document. If it is found that the specific account is feasible it is constructed in a discussion document and published on Stats SA's website. Comments and suggestions on the document are then invited from our stakeholders.
- Phase 3: Compilation of an official report. The comments and suggestions from the stakeholders are included in the discussion document and published as official statistics in paper format as well as on Stats SA's website.

Table 1 shows the status of the accounts for the different natural resources for South Africa.

Table 1 – Natural Resource Accounts for South Africa

Type of resource	Status	Comment	Due date
Water	Official statistics ^{1/}	Contains physical accounts for 19 water management areas for the 2000 reference year.	January 2004
Minerals	Discussion document ^{1/}	Contains physical and monetary accounts for gold, platinum and coal for 1980 to 2000. These accounts, for 1980 to 2001 will be published as official statistics in September 2004.	July 2002
Land	Discussion document	Contains land-use and land-cover accounts for South Africa for 1994/95.	September 2004
Water quality	Position document	Indicated that some aspects of water quality accounts can be compiled for 22 drainage regions in South Africa for 2000.	March 2004
	Discussion document	Contains water quality accounts for 22 drainage regions in South Africa for 2000.	March 2005
Energy use	Position document	Indicated that energy use accounts can be compiled for 8 types of energy in South Africa for 1995 – 2001.	March 2004
	Discussion document	Contains energy supply and use tables for 8 types of energy in South Africa for 1995 – 2001.	March 2005

1/ Available on Stats SA's website

An advisory group for both the SAM and NRAs were established with the aim to advise the division on the priorities of the stakeholders in the specific areas as well as to critique our work. To make sure that we consult with all our stakeholders annual workshops are held in addition to ad hoc presentations.

Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Kind regards

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