

System of Environmental Economic Accounting

Area A: Coordination

The Committee:

- Thanked Bert Kroese of Statistics Netherlands for his leadership during his first term as chair of the UNCEEA and re-elected him for a second term;

Super-calendar

- Welcomed the introduction of the SEEA super-calendar and UNCEEA collaborative work space and noted the potential for the super-calendar to facilitate in-country coordination and a greater UNCEEA presence at SEEA-related events;
- Noted that classification of events on the super-calendar as well as pop-up feature and link to the outlook calendar could further facilitate coordination;

Training materials

- Welcomed the progress made in collecting SEEA training materials from UNCEEA members, international organizations and regional commissions;
- Recommended that the assessment panel for the training materials include relevant UNCEEA Technical Committee members, thematic experts from international organizations and regional commissions;
- Recommended that the training materials be classified taking into account the needs of trainers as well as users beginning initial compilation;
- Recommended that the Secretariat compile a list of experts by thematic area to facilitate the progression of countries from training to compilation.

Area A: Coordination, continued

The Committee:

SDG

- Welcomed the proposal of the Co-chair of the IAEG SDG to establish a subgroup within the IAEG-SDG Working Group on Interlinkages, focusing on the use of the SEEA for the SDGs;
- Recommended that the subgroup explore the potential for SEEA-based indicators for indicators of all tiers, in light of the 2020 and 2025 revision;
- Noted the importance of applying existing international statistical classifications and frameworks for facilitating collaboration within and between countries and international agencies;
- Selected Germany to lead the UNCEEA subgroup and requested to develop TORs for the subgroup in collaboration with the Co-chairs of the subgroups on Interlinkages for review by the IAEG-SDG at its meeting in November 2018;

Area A: Coordination, continued

The Committee:

Climate Change

- Welcomed the proposal for a dual indicator approach developed by the UNECE Task Force for a set of core climate change-related statistics;
- Noted the importance of both residence and territory-based climate change indicators and of providing guidance on the dissemination and uses of these two methodologies.
- Expressed its appreciation of the work ongoing to provide metadata for the indicators and emphasized the importance of future collaboration and engagement between the UNECE Task Force and the UNCEEA in encouraging the use of SEEA for the core indicators.

Big data

- Welcomed the proposal of the Big Data Global Working Group to work together to work together in identifying issues, in particular using Earth observation data for the SEEA and facilitating engagement with private sector providers.

Area B1: Methodology - Central Framework

The Committee:

- Agreed with the proposed process for the finalization of research issues and noted that while there are many research issues of interest, they should be included in the research agenda only if they are of a high or medium priority and/or there is a country/agency willing to take the lead in resolving the issue; noted the importance of topic of losses and asked it to be kept on the research agenda.
- Noted that global consultations of the outcome papers should only be conducted for changes of a fundamental nature as determined by the UNCEEA; requested that the latest advances in methodology on the SEEA should be widely disseminated after endorsement by the UNCEEA through the SEEA newsletter and SEEA website;
- Expressed its appreciation for the work done by Eurostat on the integrated framework; it approved the framework as the state of the art in the area of functional accounts;
- Requested that Statistics Netherlands and UNSD draft an issue paper for the 2019 UNCEEA meeting to examine if there is a need to revise the SEEA CF in light of the ongoing work on the SEEA CF research agenda and the upcoming revision of the SNA.

Area B1: Methodology - Central Framework, continued

The Committee:

SEEA and Tourism Satellite Accounts

- Endorsed the SEEA and TSA technical note
- Noted the importance of measuring assets and the concept of sustainability in the context of tourism
- Requested that it is informed and consulted on the Measuring Sustainable Tourism framework (MST)

MFA

- Welcomed the work done on the Global Manual for MFA
 - Agreed to the following process for finalizing the manual:
 - UNCEEA and SEEA CF TC provide comments on the manual by 31 August; as part of the consultation, the UNCEEA also provides its advice on whether the UNCEEA or the Bureau can determine whether the manual is ready for global consultation (after taking into account comments from the UNCEEA and SEEA CF TC);
 - Global consultation is held during late 2018 with the aim of submitting the manual to the UNSC for consideration at its 2019 session.

Area B2: Methodology – Ecosystem Accounting

The Committee:

Revision process

- Welcomed the progress made on the SEEA EEA Revision and supported the approach taken thus far;
- Noted the importance of linking the SEEA EEA Revision process to the work on the SNA Research Agenda, in particular through the work of the ISWGNA Task Force on the Research Agenda and welcomed the participation of UNCEEA members to the AEG meeting in November;
- Recommended the use of exchange values in the core SEEA EA accounts, expressed concern of including welfare valuation in the core SEEA EA and suggested to possibly include this topic either in an annex or complementary publication on applications and extensions;
- Requested that members of the Committee provide written comments on the revision outline and purpose documents by 15 July 2018;

Area B2: Methodology – Ecosystem Accounting, continued

The Committee:

- Noted the status of the financing of the Revision process and encouraged members to contribute as possible;
- Agreed with the broad engagement of the different communities while managing expectations, clearly communicating that the SEEA EA is a statistical document rooted in the SNA.

Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services

- Welcomed the progress made on the EU-funded Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services Project;
- Recognized the value of the project in creating a space for different stakeholders at the country level to engage and work together bringing together existing data initiatives including for example, Biofin;
- Underlined the importance of exchanging experiences among the project countries, including through in-country visits to advance progress;
- Noted the importance of training, in particular eLearning, in building country capacity for the project.

Area C: Global SEEA databases

The Committee:

- Emphasized the need for transparency in the compilation and publication of global SEEA databases, both in terms of formal endorsement of the methodology by the SEEA Technical Committee and the UNCEEA, as well as communication with countries and obtaining explicit consent before publication (as mandated by the UN Statistical Commission at its 49th session);
- Noted that data dissemination of SEEA global datasets would need to be further investigated, but the SEEA website could be used as a platform to link to the various datasets compiled by the various agencies.

Air emissions

- Endorsed, based on the recommendation of the SEEA-CF TC, the OECD methodology for estimating air emission accounts for UNFCCC Annex 1 countries;
- Noted that the OECD will inform the UNCEEA Bureau of the feedback received from countries regarding the publication of estimated air emission accounts, in particular for non-OECD countries.

Area C: Global SEEA databases – Continued

The Committee:

Land cover

- Noted the publication by FAO of estimated land cover accounts with a global coverage and using the SEEA classification. It highlighted the need to collect official land cover accounts in addition to estimated accounts and to involve UNCCD, the custodian agency for the SDG indicator 15.3.1. on land degradation, in the process;
- Noted that the OECD, FAO and the Chair of the SEEA-CF TC will agree on a list of technical points to be investigated by the Technical Committee regarding land cover accounts and AFOLU emissions.

Energy

- Emphasized the need for better statistics in support of energy accounts and agreed on the process for developing global energy accounts:
 - UNSD will synthesize the results of the testing phase;
 - The Technical Committee will review the tool;
 - UNCEEA will then be asked to endorse the tool (by written consultation, ahead of the 2019 UNSC meeting).

Area C: Global SEEA databases – Continued

The Committee:

Water

- Encouraged the group of International Organisations working on the convergence of water questionnaires and their alignment with the water-related SDG indicators to also consider the alignment with the SEEA;
- Agreed to discuss water accounts in greater detail at its 2019 meeting and requested that a scoping and discussion paper be prepared by the Area lead (OECD) in cooperation with other Area C members (i.e. UNSD, UN Environment, Eurostat), and in consultation with the custodian agencies for water-related SDG indicators (e.g. FAO, WHO, UN-Habitat);
- Noted the importance of spatially disaggregated water data, as well as the possibility to use remote sensing data for the compilation of water accounts and suggested to engage with the Big Data Global Working Group and other groups (e.g. EO4EA).

DSDs

- Thanked the subgroup for the good and fast work in developing the DSDs for the SEEA priority areas, noting that the DSDs are now subject to a public review;
- The UNCEEA urged countries to participate in the review and testing of the SEEA DSDs, which is estimated to take 1-3 working days if the country already uses SDMX for the transmission of national accounts data and therefore has the necessary knowledge and infrastructure in-house.

Area D: Capacity Building

The Committee:

- Welcomed the additional analysis performed on the 2017 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting, in particular to help match countries seeking technical assistance with potential providers;
- Recommended a review of the questions in the Global Assessment before the 2020 data collection to ensure that questions are clearly articulated, in particular for questions on the years of account compilation;
- Emphasized the importance of collecting information on the policy interest in the SEEA, from policy makers, line ministries and the general public, as well as how the SEEA is being used by policy makers;
- Stressed the importance of coordinating technical assistance and capacity building efforts, both at a country, regional and international level; emphasized the need to build upon existing initiatives related to the SEEA to engage relevant stakeholders in planned capacity building activities and ensure efficiency in developing SEEA compliant integrated information system responding to different demands;

Area D: Capacity Building - Continued

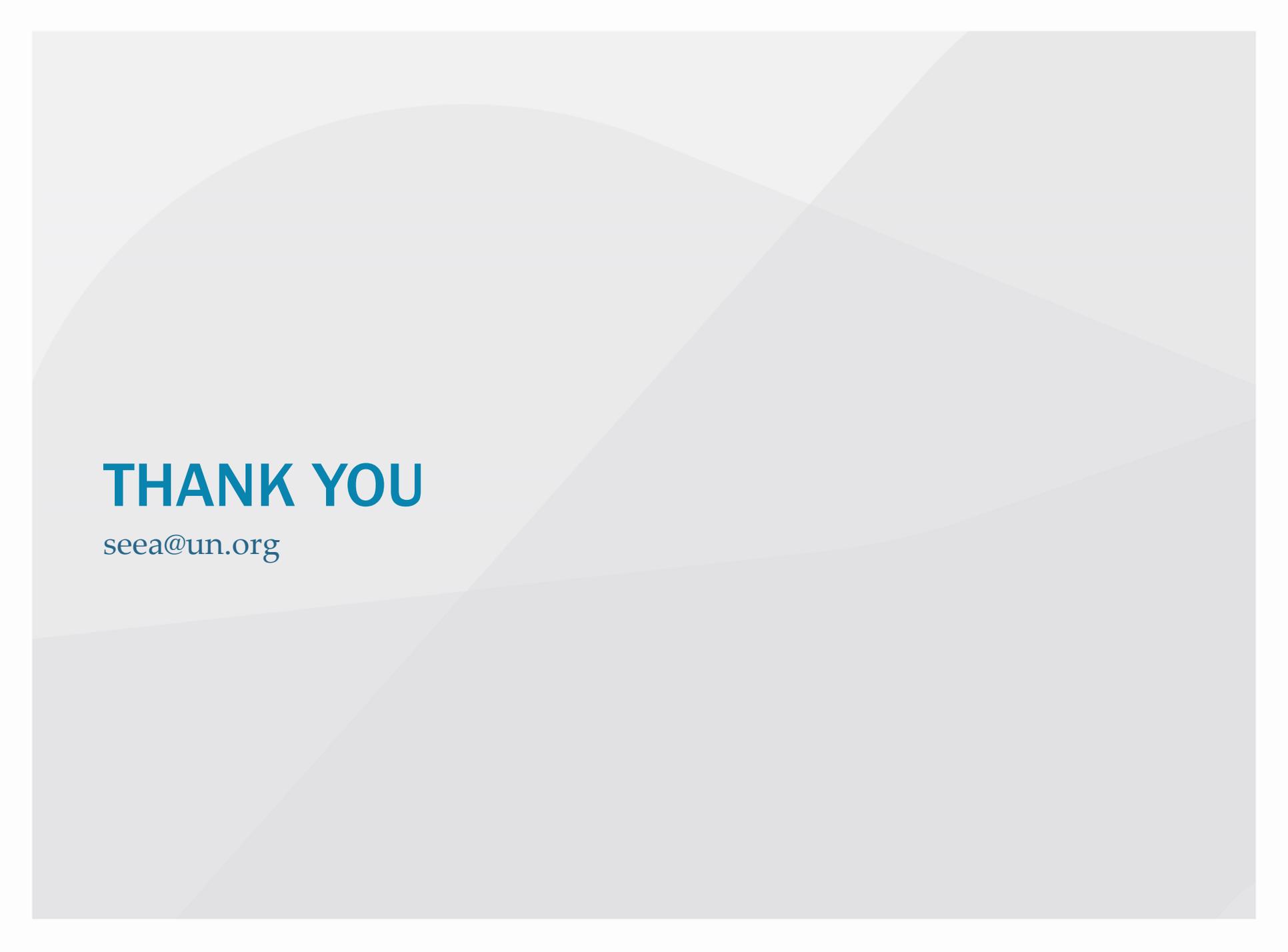
The Committee:

- Recommended the development of a protocol for carrying out country capacity building, particularly for large-scale SEEA projects, to:
 - Outline the roles of providers and receivers of technical assistance, keeping in mind the need for flexibility
 - Ensure coordination and consistency in the implementation of technical assistance
 - Clarify the role of National Statistical Organizations in ensuring that the compilation of SEEA accounts are sustainable;
- Encouraged countries to approach their Global Environment Facility focal person(s) to make the case for new SEEA initiatives and expansion of existing SEEA initiatives and recommended a programmatic approach to ensure a common approach to implementation, including involvement of regional commissions for training;
- Welcomed the plan to create online training focusing on policy uses for the SEEA, with National Statistical Organizations and line ministries alike;
- Welcomed the sharing of experiences in implementing the SEEA by representatives from Bhutan, Brazil, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, South Africa and Uganda.

Area E: Communications

The Committee:

- Took note of the development of the SEEA website;
- Welcomed the development of SEEA News & Notes and underscored the importance of the newsletter in showing the use of the SEEA for policy;
- Welcomed members' progress made in spreading awareness of the SEEA over the past year and increasing demand for SEEA accounts;
- Welcomed the communications examples set forth by Malaysia and Mexico in promoting the SEEA;
- Encouraged members to implement the plans developed during the session to influence the SDG 2020 revision process in their countries and organizations
- Recommended an update to the UNCEEA Communications Strategy based on the results of the session, with the 2020 revision to the SDGs in mind
- Encouraged members to use Twitter to promote the SEEA (#SEEA), taking into consideration their institution's policies



THANK YOU

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