

# AREA B1 - SEEA CENTRAL FRAMEWORK

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

In 2012 the System of Environmental Economic Accounting Central Framework (SEEA CF) was adopted as an international standard by the United Nations Statistical Commission. Since 2012, work has started in various areas based on the issues identified during the drafting of the SEEA and other issues that have arose in subsequent years.

In order to move the SEEA CF research agenda forward, a revised complete list of issues has been developed, which also provides a deeper overview outline of those issues identified. In June 2016, the updated research agenda for the SEEA CF was discussed and approved by the UNCEEA. This resulted in an a new detailed timeline to solve the topics in the SEEA CF research agenda in 2017-2019 (see detailed work plan in SEEA CF research agenda).

This note provides an update of the work on the SEEA CF research agenda done so far and addresses some questions for the UNCEEA.

## 2 PROCESS

As agreed in the UNCEEA in 2016, the SEEA-CF research agenda will be updated when needed. New issues may arise during implementation of the SEEA and other discussions. New topics can also be added based on consultation with and discussion within in SEEA CF Technical Committee. A new topic can only be considered to be added if there is a clear description of the issue and if the issue is of general interest to a number of countries/organisations. Adding new issue involves an explicit decision by the UNCEEA or the UNCEEA bureau. Also the scientific community (universities etc.) will be involved as much as possible to update and contribute to the research agenda. Issues that are solved will be removed from the research agenda.

For each topic lead agencies have been appointed. The role of these lead agencies is to advance the work on a specific research topic. They can either work on the topic themselves or approach others to do this (or work together).

In January of each year the chair of the Technical Committee and the chair of the London group will ask the lead agencies to organize the work on the specific topic (see also table below). Accordingly, the work can be planned and put on the agenda of the next London group meeting or other expert groups meetings.

For each issue a short (ca. 10 pages) issue paper will be written that a) explains the issue and b) proposes a solution / way forward. When the topic is very 'broad', more than one issue paper may be written which will be accompanied by one cover note summarising the main conclusions and proposals.

In the preparation phase, the papers will be presented and discussed during a LG meeting or other expert group meetings depending on the nature of the issue under discussion. An electronic consultation may also be used if found appropriate. Based on these discussions and consultations the issue paper may be revised. Once the paper is finalized it will be submitted to the SEEA CF Technical Committee for its final review en subsequently sent to the UNCEAA (bureau) for a formal decision. The issue paper will then be published on the SEEA website. Possibly, the solution of the issue may need more time and another round of discussions by the London Group or other expert groups. The aim is to limit work on each issue to two years max. For issues with a longer time span, progress reports will be submitted on an annual basis to the UNCEAA (bureau). Experts are encouraged to contact the lead agencies if work is underway or planned locally.

When the issue papers are considered 'finished', they are published as outcome papers on the SEEA website. These outcome papers will serve the basis for a revision of the SEEA Central Framework in due course. A process still has to be developed by the UNCEAA how these solved issues eventually will be disseminated. The soon to be established 'SEEA News and Notes', similar as for the SNA, presents a viable option.

<b>Output</b>	<b>Responsible parties</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
<b>SEEA CF research agenda plus detailed work plan</b>	SEEA CF technical committee	January 2017 (to be updated regularly)
<b>Call for papers</b>	Chair SEEA CF Technical Committee Chair London Group	January of each year
<b>Issue papers</b>	Lead agencies plus other interested parties	September of each year
<b>Review of the issue papers</b>	London Group SEEA CF technical committee Other expert groups	October / November of each year

<b>Outcome papers on SEEA website</b>	Lead agencies plus other interested parties	December of each year
<b>Review of the work done so far and adjustments to the prioritization and work plan</b>	UNCEEA	June of each year

### 3 PRIORITIZATION

Based on the discussion in the UNCEEA meeting in June 2016, the following criteria for prioritization were developed by the technical committee:

- (International) implementation priorities
- Critical for SDG's
- Work already underway

Based on these criteria the topics of the research agenda have been prioritised as follows:

	priority
<b>A: Conceptual issues</b>	
1. Development of classifications	High
2. Development of consistent valuation techniques	High
3. Definition of resource management and structure of the resource management expenditure accounts	High
4. Depletion of natural biological resources	Medium
5. Integrated framework for environmental activity accounts	High
6. Losses	Medium
7. Linkages and overlap between SEEA CF and SEEA EEA	High
8. Fossil fuel subsidies by industry as part of climate statistics	High
<b>B: Implementation issues</b>	
1. Implementation issues related to classifications	High
2. Approaches to the measurement of adapted goods	Medium
3. Economy wide material flow accounts	High
4. Input output techniques	Medium
5. Global DSDs for data exchange for SDMX	High
6. Recording of fishery related activities in the PSUTs and asset accounts	Medium

## 4 PROGRESS MADE SO FAR

The table below show for which items of the research agenda work is under way for 2017 (green) and where this is as yet unclear (yellow). For most of the priorities identified, a (first) issue paper will be written this year to be presented in the London group meeting in Costa Rica in October 2017. For some issues also some work was already done in 2016 (integrated framework etc.). As yet, it is unclear whether a first paper will become available this year for 1) Land classification and 2) Economy wide material flow accounts.

	priority	When
<b>A: Conceptual issues</b>		
1. Development of classifications → Land → Environmental activities  → Residuals	High	Paper in 2017 ??? Eurostat taskforce start in 2017, paper in 2018 2018
2. Development of consistent valuation techniques	High	2018
3. Definition of resource management and structure of the resource management expenditure accounts	High	2018
4. Depletion of natural biological resources	Medium	
5. Integrated framework for environmental activity accounts	High	First papers in 2016 Paper in 2017
6. Losses	Medium	2019
7. Linkages and overlap between SEEA CF and SEEA EEA	High	Papers in 2017
8. Fossil fuel subsidies by industry as part of climate statistics	High	Paper in 2017
<b>B: Implementation issues</b>		
1. Implementation issues related to classifications	High	(see A1)
2. Approaches to the measurement of adapted goods	Medium	First contribution in 2017, paper in 2018
3. Economy wide material flow accounts	High	Paper in 2017 ???
4. Input output techniques	Medium	Paper on RME in 2017
5. Global DSDs for data exchange for SDMX	High	Paper in 2017
6. Recording of fishery related activities in the PSUTs and asset accounts	Medium	First discussion in 2016, paper in 2019

#### Questions for the UNCEEA

- Does the UNCEEA agree that sufficient progress has been made?
- Do we need to make adjustments in the prioritization of the issues ?
- Are there resources within the various institutions involved sufficiently available to solve the issues in the priority list?