

System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Area B1: SEEA CF Update

Sjoerd Schenau, Chair of Area B1

20th Meeting of the UNCEEA
25-26 June 2025



United Nations

Content

- Updates since the last UNCEEA meeting in 2024
- Work of the task teams
- General timeline and prioritization of the Guidance notes
- Coordination and communication
- Funding



Updates since the last UNCEEA meeting in 2024

- **Finalization of the list of issues**
 - > Global consultation from Jul-Sept 2024 (115 responses)
 - > Revised list of issues (29) reviewed by the TC, UNCEEA and was endorsed by the UNSC in March 2025
- **Finalization of the update process**
 - > Endorsed by the UNSC in March 2025
- **Establishment of Four Task Teams (TTs) under Area B1:**
 - > Each TT held several meetings
- **Work on the issues has started:**
 - > Scoping Notes (SNs) drafted and discussed
 - > Many lead authors for Guidance Notes (GNs) have been identified
 - > Drafting of the GNs will begin as soon as SNs are finalized

Four task teams: co-chairs and editor

Task Team	Co-chairs
A: Overarching topics, including consistency with SNA	Peter Meadows (Australian Bureau of Statistics) Joe St Lawrence (IMF)
B: Physical flow accounts	Matthew Prescott (Statistics Canada) Roberto Astolfi (OECD)
C: Environmental activity accounts and related flows	Neil Wilson (ONS UK) Arturo de la Fuente (Eurostat)
D: Asset accounts	Riaan Grobler (Statistics South Africa) Sjoerd Schenau (Statistics Netherlands)

Editor: Carl Obst

TT members

Task Team	Members
A: Overarching topics, including consistency with SNA Co-chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peter Meadows• Joe St Lawrence	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Alessandra Alfieri2. Bram Edens3. Carl Obst4. Etjih Tasriah5. Mandy Driver6. Matthew Kelly7. Nils Brown8. Rebeca Palis9. Scott Wentland10. Sven Kaumanns11. UNSD
B: Physical flow accounts Co-chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matthew Prescott• Roberto Astolfi	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Alessandra Alfieri2. Carl Obst3. Ekaterina Poleshchuk4. Ekkehard Petri5. Renato Marra Campanale6. Giusy Vetrella7. Julie Hass8. Kaia Oras9. Michael Nagy10. Nils Brown11. Ole Gravgård Pedersen12. Roel Delahaye13. Stephan Moll14. UNSD

Task Team	Members
C: Environmental activity accounts and related flows Co-chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neil Wilson• Arturo de la Fuente	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Alessandra Alfieri2. Angelica Tudini3. Carl Obst4. Gerry Brady5. Julie Hass6. Kaia Oras7. Monica Rodriguez8. Philippe Samborski9. Rodrigo Pizarro10. Sven Kaumanns11. Vasili Piperoglou12. Viveka Palm13. UNSD
D: Asset accounts Co-chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Riaan Grobler• Sjoerd Schenau	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Alessandra Alfieri2. Carl Obst3. Eli Fenichel4. Gang Liu5. Heather Keith6. Jonathan Whiteley7. Michael Nagy8. Michael Vardon9. Ria Arinda10. Rob Smith11. Steve May12. UNSD

List of issues

Task team A:
Overarching topics,
including consistency
with SNA

A1*	Providing a broad overview of links between SEEA CF and SEEA EA
A2*	Indicators
A3	Update of existing information on EE-IOT
A4	How SEEA CF accounts can be made spatially explicit
A5*	Harmonization with other international classifications
A6	Introduction of thematic accounts to link to policy
A7	Extension to social domain
A8	Explicitly linking/integrating environmental activity accounts (ch. 4), asset accounts (ch. 5) and flow accounts (ch. 3)
A9*	Consistency with the 2025 SNA

Task team B:
Physical flow accounts, ch. 3

B1	Description of PSUTs
B2	Further clarifying treatment of losses (e.g. energy, water)
B3*	Treatment of carbon flows
B4	Inclusion of text on quarterly accounts
B5*	Differences between PSUTs and EW MFA
B6	Inclusion of residual flows to ecosystem type, i.e. pressure account
B7	Elaboration of waste accounts

* High priority issues

List of issues

Task team C:
Environmental
activity accounts
and related flows,
ch. 4

C1*	Inclusion of the Classification of Environmental Purposes
C2*	Inclusion of the integrated framework for monetary accounts
C3*	Extending the scope of environmental activities
C4*	Primary and secondary purpose
C5*	Climate mitigation and climate adaptation expenditure
C6	Inclusion of potentially environmentally damaging subsidies/related transfers
C7	Elaborating environmental tax abatements
C8	Incorporation of sustainable finance into an accounting framework

Task team D:
Asset accounts, ch. 5

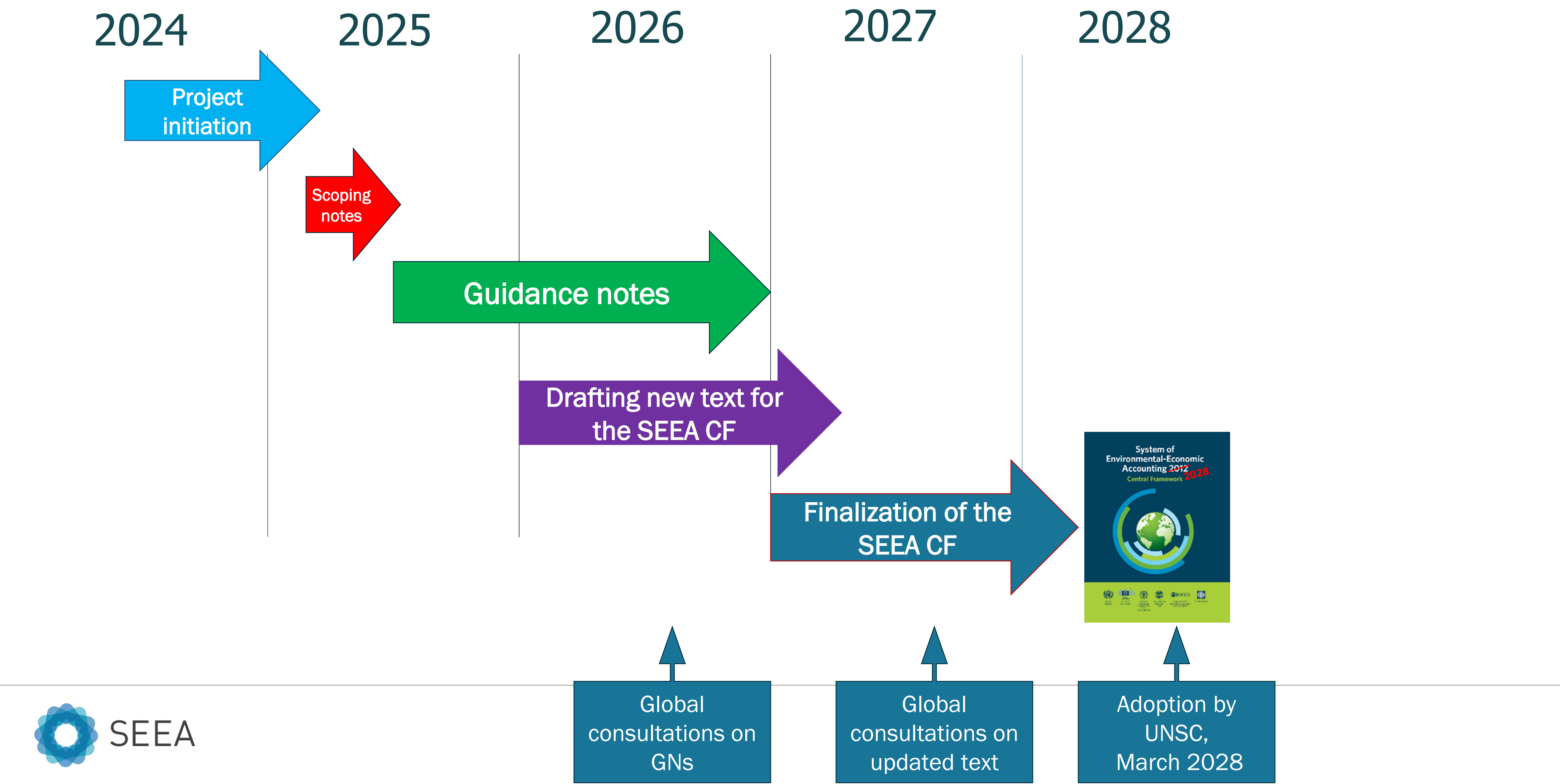
D1	Inclusion of the carbon stock account
D3	Inclusion of accounts for physical produced assets
D4	Consideration of water as a produced asset (e.g. (artificial reservoirs)
D7	Valuation of water
D8	Treatment of the atmosphere as an asset

* High priority issues

Work of the Task teams

- Develop-Scoping notes (SNs) for all the issues
 - *Review by Area B1*
- Draft Guidance notes (GN) (with several iterations as needed)
- Coordinate discussion across Task teams and/or with GFS and COFOG revision processes as relevant
 - *Review of GNs and assessment if suitable for global consultation by Area B1*
 - *Global consultation on GNs*
- Review comments received and update GNs
 - *Final review and approval of GNs by Area B1*
- Support the drafting of the updated SEEA CF

General timeline



Prioritization and timeline for Guidance Notes development

- Prioritization of Guidance Notes (GNs) to make the process efficient for lead authors, TTs and global consultation
- There will be three tranches of global consultation, with each tranche involving around 10 GNs:
 - > Tranche #1 – January – February 2026
 - > Tranche #2 – May – June 2026
 - > Tranche #3 – September – October 2026
- In-person meeting of the SEEA CF Technical Committee is planned for 17-21 November 2025
- Detailed timeline is being developed for the different tranches

Provisional allocation of GNs to Global Consultation tranches

Tranche #1	Tranche #2	Tranche #3
A9 (SNA: Natural resource and Terminology) ³	A2 (Indicators)	A8 (Linking all SEEA CF accounts)
A4 (Making SEEA CF spatially explicit)	A5 (Harmonisation with int. stand.)	A3 (EE-IOT) ⁴
	A1 (Linking SEEA CF & EA)	A6 (Thematic accounts)
	A9 (SNA: Transactions and Other) ³	A7 (Links to the social domain)
B1 (Description of PSUTs) & B5 (PSUTs and EW-MFA) ¹	B6 (Pressure accounts)	B4 (Quarterly accounts)
B2 (Treatment of losses)	B7 (Waste accounts)	
B3 (Carbon flows) ⁴		
C2 (Integrated framework)	C1 (Inclusion of CEP)	C8 (Sust. Finance)
C3 (Scope of env. activities)	C6 (PEDS) ^{2, 4}	
C4 (Primary and secondary purpose)	C7 (Tax abatements) ^{2, 4}	
C5 (Climate expenditures) ⁴		
D1 (Carbon stock)	D3 (Physical produced assets)	D7 (Valuation of water)
D4 (Water as a produced asset) ⁴		D8 (Atmosphere as an asset)
Total GN: 10	Total GN 10	Total GN: 9

Notes:
1: Issues were merged
2: Issues could be merged
3: Issue to be split into two parts each for a separate consultation batch
4: Issue also discussed by the London Group

Coordination and communication

- **Coordination:**
 - > Regular monthly co-ordination meetings between Area B1 chair, TT co-chairs, editor and UNSD
 - > Coordination with London Group
 - > Coordination with COFOG and GFS update
- **Communication:**
 - > A communication strategy for the update of the SEEA CF is being developed by Area A
 - > A website has been set up: <https://seea.un.org/content/update-seea-central-framework>
 - > A wiki space has been set up for the work of the TTs
 - > A Webinar for the Network of SEEA Focal Point was organized by Area D to inform the Focal point on the process

Coordination of SEEA CF, COFOG and GFS update processes

- Regular meetings to coordinate revision processes, timing and discussion of the issues
- Worked on the identification of issues that are relevant across these standards
- Discussion on how to advance the discussion:
 - > Identification of issues that are common across the standards and for which a common GN could be prepared (with Annexes explaining the implications for SEEA CF, GFS or COFOG)
 - > Consultation of relevant draft GNs across Task teams and working groups
 - > Engagement of the three community during the global consultations on GN and final draft manuals
 - > Alignment of the timing of the discussion
- Main objective: ensure consistency of the final recommendations to the extent possible

Funding

- The update of the SEEA Central Framework is carried out thanks to the financial support from Eurostat covering
 - > The overall editor
 - > Selected consultancies on specific issues
 - > The organization of the meeting of the Technical Committee in Q4 2025
- Direct financing by IMF for selected issues
- In-kind contributions from international organizations and countries

Continued and active engagement from experts will be needed throughout the process!

Conclusions

- First phase of SEEA CF update process (almost) finalized
- Broad group of experts from SEEA community engaged in the process
- Second phase (writing guidance notes) about to start
- Close coordination with the revision of COFOG and GFS to ensure consistency of the recommendations to the extent possible
- Engagement with key stakeholders has been set up
- Funding, in-kind and/or financially, will continue to be critical for the successful update process

Questions for the UNCEEA:

The Committee is invited to:

- 1) Express its views on the progress of work for the SEEA Central Framework update
- 2) Provide advice on future activities of Area B1

Thank you!

