



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Issues Raised through development of SEEA Central Framework update Scoping Notes

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United Nations

Task team A: Overarching issues

- Issue A6: Thematic accounts and strengthening the links to policy
 - > Discussion of how to best convey the role of the SEEA CF in the support of policy and analysis considering the style and content of text in the 2025 SNA chapters on well-being and sustainability
- Issue A9: Consistency with the 2025 SNA revision issues
 - > Very big topic. The SN considers the relevant topics emerging from the list of changes to the 2008 SNA (17 potentially relevant issues) and the research agenda (8 potentially relevant issues).
 - > Agreed to break up the discussion into four sub-papers covering
 - Natural resources
 - Environmental transactions
 - Terminology, classifications and definitions (Proposal to establish Glossary)
 - Other issues (recording catastrophes, SUT/IOT, globalization, sustainability data, household electricity, etc)

Task team B: Physical flow accounts

- Issue B1: Description of PSUT & Issue B5: Differences between PSUT and EW-MFA
 - > Discussion highlighted much overlap/connection between these two issues.
 - > Agreed to join these issues and to consider them in a single Guidance Note.
- Issue B6: Pressure accounts
 - > Lots of potential angles and connections that could be made since, at the limit, all human activity may be considered a pressure on the environment.
 - > Agreed to focus on flow of residuals from economic units and the impacts on ecosystems. Even this focus raises many questions.

Task team C: Environmental activity accounts

- The key challenge for this TT is the very close connection between many of the issues including the scope, definition and classification of environmental activities, the treatment of primary and secondary purpose and the integration of accounts concerning environmental activities. Separating and sequencing the GN will be tricky.
- Issue C3: Extending the scope of environmental activities
 - > Much discussion on the appropriate coverage of the GN given the description of the issue which included mention of both extractive activities and PEDS.
 - > Propose to focus on extension to selected themes (e.g. climate), discuss the arguments for treating extractives as environmental and request that the GN on PEDS (Issue C6) consider the link to environmental activities, in particular wrt environmentally damaging subsidies
- Issue C4: Primary and Secondary Purpose
 - > Close link to COFOG envisaged. Discussion revealed that there are some aspects that affect the SEEA CF beyond the requirements for the COFOG process. Consequently, a complementary body of text that is SEEA CF focused will be developed.

Task team C: Environmental activity accounts

- Issue C6: Potentially Environmental Damaging Subsidies & Issue C7: Tax abatements
 - > While two issues have been identified, much discussion focused on how they are connected and the extent to which a single GN might be appropriate. It was agreed to retain separate GN but to ensure they are drafted and discussed in a complementary and co-ordinated way.

Task team D: Environmental assets

- Issue D1: Carbon stock account
 - > Discussion of this issue sought clarity on whether carbon should be considered an environmental asset, whether there is a rationale to value the carbon stock distinctly and whether the content should be left in the SEEA EA. These topics will be discussed in the GN
 - > At the same time, the discussion highlighted that there is need to tackle the question of how the measurement scope of environmental assets is determined while retaining the current definition. (Relevant for describing the links to the 2025 SNA and other topics in TT-D)
- Issue D3: Accounts for physical produced assets
 - > Discussion highlighted two entry points to this issue that will be considered in the GN.
 - i. Accounts for stocks of minerals and other substances present in the economy (e.g. copper) to support circular economy and other discussions
 - ii. Accounts to present data on the characteristics of produced assets (e.g. age, location, size of buildings) to support analysis of economic impacts of environmental change and other discussions.

Task team D: Environmental assets

- Issue D8: Treatment of the atmosphere as an asset
 - > The GN for this issue is needed to frame the wider discussion of the atmosphere in the SEEA and the SNA. This is more of a research task than other SEEA CF issues.
 - > Discussion highlighted in particular the unique characteristics of the atmosphere relative to other environmental assets (and the link to the definition of environmental assets) and the need to describe the links between atmosphere and climate.
 - > Unclear at this stage how the recommendations for the updated SEEA CF will be framed.

Thank you!

