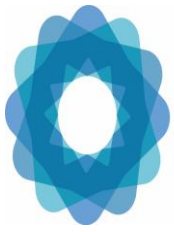


# System of Environmental Economic Accounting



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

# Update from the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting



United Nations

## Area A – Coordination (Lead Statistics Canada)

- Evaluation and dissemination of SEEA training materials on the SEEA website (Statistics Canada)
- Initiative to compare the Terms of Reference of expert groups working on the SEEA and related statistics, including those under the auspices of the Committee, in order to streamline work and harness synergies
- Development of a knowledge base for the SEEA website (UNSD)

### *Sustainable Development Goals*

- Opportunity to provide input to the chapter on the SEEA in the upcoming report of the Interlinkages Working Group of the IAEG-SDGs
- SDG indicator 15.9.1- proposal to include as indicator the number of countries implementing the SEEA

### *Biodiversity*

- Committee submitted two documents to contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and will collaborate with the CBD in particular within the group on mainstreaming

# Area B1: Methodology - Central Framework (Lead CBS)

- A proposal on the revision of the SEEA CF (2025) was discussed, including possible integration with the revised SEEA EEA. Further work is needed.

## *Statistical Framework for Measuring Sustainability of Tourism*

- Update on the finalization of the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (SF-MST)
  - Global consultation in late 2019 and submission to the UNCEEA for endorsement in advance of UNSC in 2020
  - Proposals to use MST for the derivation of SDG indicators 8.9.3 and 12.b, including using the global assessment of SEEA implementation to inform these indicators.

## *London Group*

- Welcomed the work plan for 2019-2021 and the role of the London Group in furthering the SEEA CF, the revision of the SEEA EEA, exploring policy applications and facilitating the exchange of country experiences

# Area B2: Methodology – Ecosystem Accounting (Lead Eurostat)

## *SEEA-EEA revision*

- Extensive progress made; comprehensive, transparent and broad engagement during the revision process
- Work ongoing by four groups on spatial units, condition, services, valuation
- Significant progress at the Forum of Experts and Technical Expert Group in Glen Cove (June 2019)
- Expert review of several working group papers
- Chapters being drafted; extended Technical Committee as the editorial board of the SEEA EEA was established
- Aspiration to drop “experimental” from the title; revised SEEA EEA will go to UNSC in March 2021

## *Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) project*

- Significant progress made by the partner countries on the EU-funded Project
- Drafting methodological documents on biophysical modeling, scenario analysis and valuation

# Area C: Global SEEA databases (Lead OECD)

*Principles for the creation and maintenance of the global SEEA databases on the SEEA website*

- Development of principles for the creation and maintenance of the global SEEA databases on the SEEA website
- Specific procedures for dissemination to follow those established for the global data flows of the SDG indicators (in terms of obtaining countries' consent before dissemination)

*Dissemination of SEEA Global Databases on the SEEA Website*

- Finalization of SEEA DSDs for five priority areas (air emissions, energy, land, material flow, water)
- Dissemination of all SEEA global datasets on SEEA site will provide a “one-stop shop”
- Step-by-step process for disseminating SEEA global databases for the priority areas on the SEEA website, beginning with existing datasets from international organizations
- Future dissemination of estimates, indicators and data visualizations

## Area D: Capacity Building (Lead Statistics South Africa)

- Agreed roadmap to the 2020 Global Assessment, including evaluation of Global Assessment questions
- Establishment of SEEA focal points for all SEEA needs
- Progress made in reaching the 2020 implementation targets
  - Target: 100 countries compiling SEEA-CF accounts / 50 countries compiling SEEA-EEA accounts
  - Currently 91 countries have compiled SEEA-CF accounts
  - And 41 countries have compiled (or are in process of compiling) SEEA-EEA accounts
- Importance of South-South collaboration, with more experienced countries providing guidance and support to less experienced countries in a similar region, as well as the provision of technical assistance by developed countries

# Area E: Communications (Lead Australian Bureau of Statistics)

- Collection of case studies from UNCEEA, which will feed into development of narratives on value added of SEEA
- Lessons learnt presented by the WAVES programme; experiences serve as input to development of common narratives
- Need for compilers to systematically engage with policy makers and other users of the accounts in order to better understand user needs and tailor dissemination;
- Development of SEEA tagline that concisely and accurately communicate the purpose of the SEEA
- GIZ project: development of overview and issue papers for policy makers (climate change, biodiversity, macroeconomic/finance)

# Business Accounting

- Committee agreed it should play a role in aligning business accounting and reporting with the SEEA, which would result in better quality data to feed into the accounts
- Need for the statistical community to better understand the data needs of businesses in terms of decision making, accounting and reporting on the environment
- Roadmap for alignment to be prepared following first business accounting workshop to be held 16-17 October at UNHQ under the E.U.-funded NCAVES project

# Review of UNCEEA Membership

- Agreed on the importance of the Committee playing a leading strategic role in the field of environmental-economic accounting
- Growing need to accommodate new members, ensure regional representation and have a suitable balance between countries and international organizations
- Importance of NSOs in terms of forming the core UNCEEA membership, as well as the need to bring in expertise from non-NSOs for UNCEEA meetings as necessary
- Importance of communicating the conclusions of the Committee to all stakeholders, regardless of whether or not they are a member of the Committee;
- Bureau of the UNCEEA to come up with a proposal on membership and working methods of the UNCEEA, taking into account the increased number of countries implementing the SEEA and the growing relevance of the SEEA EEA



# THANK YOU

[seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org)