Session 3c
Experience from international cooperation projects

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Statistisk sentralbyrå
Statistics Norway
SEEA and the world…
The meaning of «implementation»
«Implementation»
Can mean many things…

• SNA
  Just because it is included in the manual does NOT mean that a country implements everything in it!

• For example, Norway does not currently have balance sheets in national accounts… This does NOT mean that we do not «implement» SNA!
Is one millimeter enough?

• How much needs to be done to claim «implementation»?

• Positive bias in the reporting of «implementation» on surveys from UNSD and Eurostat…
Determining a country’s «baseline»…

- What does the terrain look like?
- How can we describe it?
- Do we have a good foundation upon which we can start building?
Foundation: Environmental-economic accounts are built using good statistics, both environmental and economic statistics.
Without good statistics in the foundation, env-econ accounts can NOT be developed.
Building blocks… Economic statistics / National Accounts

• The more advanced and detailed your national accounts, the more you can do!

• BUT… you can do a fair amount with fairly basic information from your statistical system
Environmental activity accounts

- Finding environmental expenditures, taxes, subsidies in existing statistics.
- Have «Investment» – want investment related to environmental protection and management separated out.
- Have government expenditures – want those for the environment.
Challenges…
Lack of data and/or details

• Not enough detail in the national accounts
• Details lost or not obtained from source data
• Need to implement COFOG and use other relevant classifications when collecting data
• Infrequent business surveys – every 5 years

• «Easy»… Environmental Taxes revenue
  – National Tax list
  – Revenues by tax
  – Identify which taxes are «environmental»
  – Add these environmental taxes revenues together
Need Environment statistics for physical flow and asset accounts

Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics

• Six components
• At the center of the FDES: Environmental conditions and quality
• All of the components relate to each other
• Multi-layered (component, sub-component, topic, individual statistics)
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-component 6.2: Environmental Governance and Regulation</td>
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<td>Sub-Component 6.3: Extreme Event Preparedness and Disaster Management</td>
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<td>Sub-component 6.4: Environmental Information and Awareness</td>
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Component 2: 
Environmental Resources and their Use

Sub-component 2.1: Non-energy Mineral Resources
Sub-component 2.2: Energy Resources
Sub-component 2.3: Land
Sub-component 2.4: Soil Resources
Sub-component 2.5: Biological Resources
Sub-component 2.6: Water Resources

Component 3: 
Residuals

Sub-component 3.1: Emissions to Air
Sub-component 3.2: Generation and Management of Wastewater
Sub-component 3.3: Generation and Management of Waste
Physical flow accounts…PSUTs
Energy, water, residuals, etc.

• Need to get hands dirty with data before you really understand how to do this.
• Difficult to teach in groups when each country’s starting point is different.
• Country challenge…Need to hunt for data – difficult to know how to put the pieces together so they do not overlap.

Can get stuck here! So not making «visible» progress in project.
Combining physical flows and data from national accounts

- Some efficiency / productivity / decoupling types of indicators can be developed with industry level data – rather than for the whole economy
- For example…
  - Total manufacturing,
  - Selected industry groups

Source: Statistics Norway
Asset Accounts

- Data access is limited…
  Either companies do not report or government Ministries do not release data

- Without good information about physical natural resources, nearly impossible to make valuations

- If data available, valuation becomes the challenge. Sensitive to assumptions.
Develop multi-purpose data systems

• Move from many, separate reporting / production systems
to …
• coordinated, linked, multi-purpose data systems
Advantage

• Reduce reporting burden
• Report data one time – use data many times
• Increase consistency
Challenges for integration

- Need to collect the data ‘all’ users need
- Need to be able to connect/combine different data sets from different sources
Summary: International implementation challenges for SEEA

• Weak foundation to build on…
• Difficulties finding building materials…
• Don’t really know what to build or how to build it…
Implementation challenges

- Problems with the foundations…
- Lack of data – economic & environmental
- Lack of detail – not available or not kept from source data into national accounts
Implementation challenges

• Data spread around in many institutions – no coordination, conflicting figures for the same thing, data collected but not edited or developed into «statistics», no data sharing
Implementation challenges

- SEEA-CF is not easy to learn by yourself – current training is too theoretical.
- Need to get dirty with data!
  ...Learning by doing
Make a plan before starting...
Know where you are headed!
Thank you for your attention!

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