



Joint OECD/UNECE Seminars on implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

Report from previous seminar (February 2018) and outlook to next seminar (February 2019)



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Main outcomes of the SEEA Seminar 21-22 February 2018

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Sessions of the Seminar

1. National SEEA implementation plans (Chair: OECD)
2. Guidelines for SEEA implementation and new ways to generate data (Chair: Australia)
3. Coordination of capacity building activities (Chair: Sweden)
4. Policy applications of SEEA (Chair: Netherlands)
5. Conclusions and recommendations for further work (Chair: Canada)

All presentations and the report can be found at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47522>

Session 1: National SEEA implementation plans

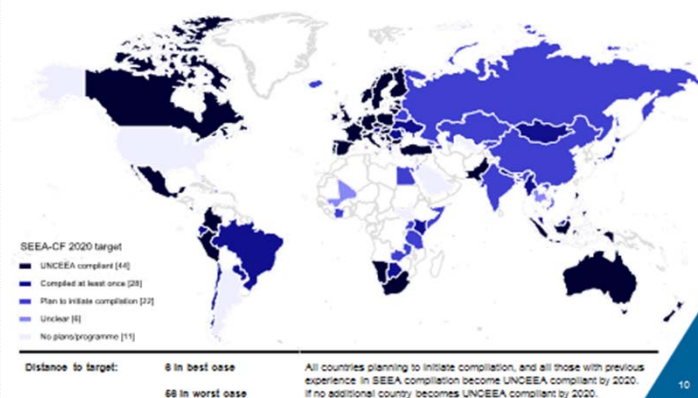
Conclusions and recommendations



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- Regular funding is one of the main obstacles
- Limited access to and the quality of underlying data is a challenge for many NSOs
- Strategic implementation plans, institutional mechanism and effective communication are key
- Leadership by NSOs and Heads of NSOs is crucial
- National Chief Statisticians need to ensure involvement of all stakeholders in development of SEEA implementation plans
- Countries with less experience
 - need to be pragmatic, learn by doing and release results on and experimental basis
 - Take advantage of new policy frameworks (e.g. SDGs)
- SEEA implementation guide provides a good start to prepare national implementation plans

Towards the SEEA-CF 2020 target | on track?



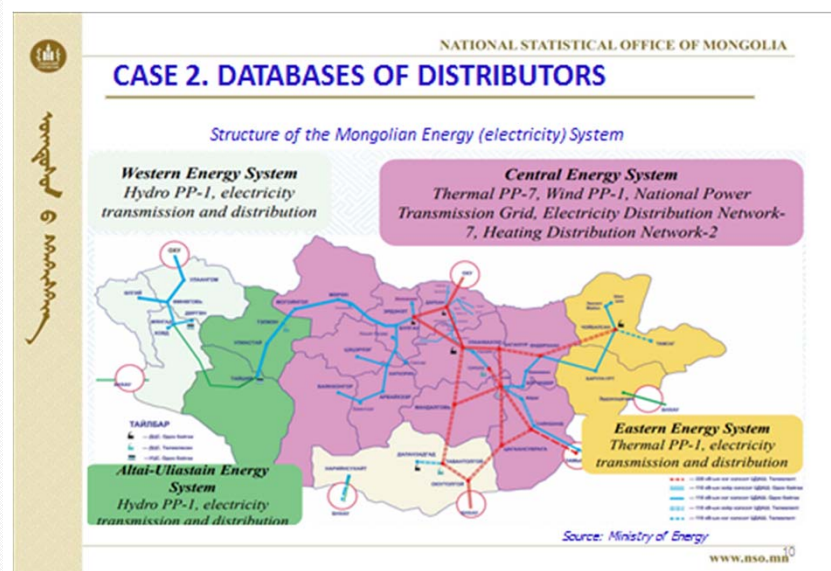
Session 2: Guidelines for SEEA implementation and new ways to generate data

Conclusions and recommendations

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- Frameworks, general guidelines and case examples are important and useful, but the data sources used in each country can be different
- Compilers of accounts need to be flexible and understand the country context
- NSOs should promote the use of statistical standards, classifications and identifiers for administrative data
- Innovations like satellite imagery and the use of sensor data provide new options to answer policy questions, but expertise is needed to convert these data into official statistics



Session 3: Coordination of capacity building activities

Conclusions and recommendations



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- Success factors for capacity development are:
 - Extensive training of staff.
 - Driving forces such as international requirements (e.g. accession to OECD and EU, data collection, etc.).
 - Involvement of ministries and users.
 - Courageous management
 - Cooperation between organisations that 'own' relevant source data and organizations that have the responsibility for compiling SEEA accounts.
- Coordination of work between the international organisations is important to avoid duplication of work and ensure synergies

e-Learning (UNSD), continued

- Blended learning initiatives
 - > UNSD and ECE
 - > Russian SEEA CF modules
 - > In-person phase in January 2018
 - > UNSD and ESCWA
 - > Arabic SEEA CF modules
 - > In-person phase in late March
 - > UNSD and ECA
 - > French SEEA CF modules
 - > In-person phase in 2018 Q3
 - > UNSD
 - > Ecosystem modules as part of Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services Project
 - > In-person phase in August 2018 in Brazil



SEEA

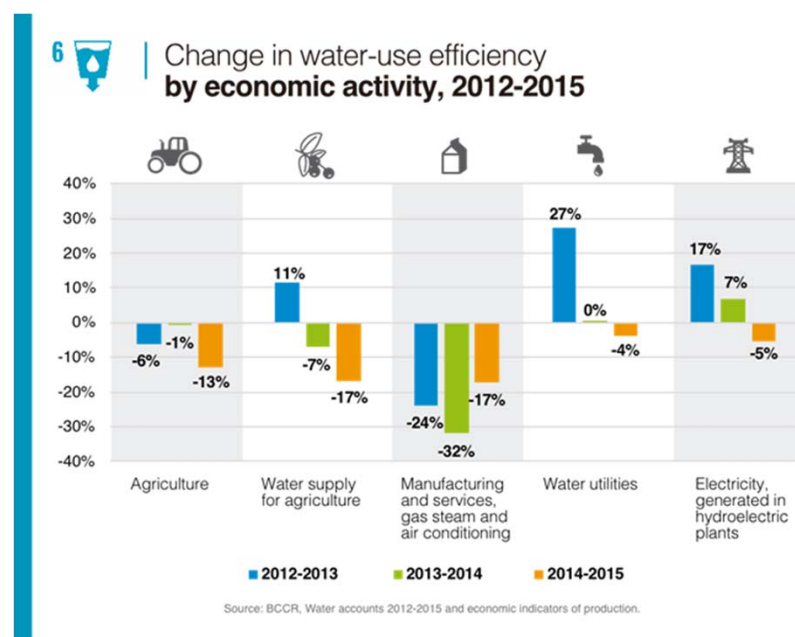
Session 4: Policy applications of SEEA

Conclusions and recommendations

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- Examples were provided from
 - Costa Rica
 - Denmark
 - Netherlands
 - Russian Federation
 - Sweden
 - United Kingdom
 - Australia: UNCEEA communication strategy for the implementation of SEEA
 - World Bank: outcomes of the 2016 and 2017 Fora on Natural Capital Accounting for better policy
- Participants welcomed the discussion on policy applications of SEEA. Showing countries' experiences is useful and should continue in the future.



Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on SEEA implementation 20-21 February 2019

Save the dates!



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Planned sessions:

1. Opening and setting the scene:

- Update on international developments
- SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (EEA) revision process

2. Water accounts

- Policy applications
- Technical implementation
- Panel discussion

3. Environmental Taxes and Subsidies

- Policy applications
- Technical implementation
- Panel discussion

4. SEEA - EEA