Overview on SEEA-related activities of International Organisations (focus on UNECE region)

Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on SEEA Implementation
Geneva, 13-14 February 2020
Organisations contributing to this presentation

- EEA
- Eurostat
- FAO
- ILO
- OECD
- UNECE
- UNEP
- UNESCAP
- UNSD
- World Bank
European Environment Agency

Work on land accounts and ecosystem accounts (focus on extent and condition):


- Ecosystem condition – pilot accounts on spatial nutrient pressures, biodiversity and freshwater condition (based on EU nature and WFD reporting)

- Water quantity accounts and marine fish biomass accounts

- Report “Natural capital accounting in support of policymaking in Europe- a review based on EEA ecosystem accounting work”

- KIP INCA partner & input to SEEA-EEA review process

- ENI SEIS II East project – the EEA sharing knowledge
European Environment Agency

ENI SEIS II East project funded by the European Union

Institutional and methodological capacity development

- Analysis of the state of play: interviews, report & road maps
- Vocational trainings on the SEEA (February 2019 with UNECE), and SEEA land module (September 2019 with CIRAD)
- Production land cover and land change accounts, 2000-2015, uptake land indicator, Copernicus & LEAC
- Vocational trainings on data on land, water, biodiversity, and air for SEEA compilation (.2019..)
- Web tool tracking the SEEA progress in the six eastern countries
- Training materials and tools
Eurostat

Main new initiatives:

- European strategy for environmental accounts 2019-23
- Publications: new energy footprints, more country material footprints
- Methodology:
  - leading global review of SEEA ecosystem accounts
  - European task force revision classifications environmental activities CEPA & CReMA
  - contributing to measurement of fossil fuel subsidies for SDGs
- Very big European Commission policy shift towards environment since Nov 2019

Regular activities:

- SEEA data collections in EU and other European countries
  - 6 mandatory collections: air emissions, environmental taxes, material flows, environmental protection (EPEA), green growth & jobs (EGSS), physical energy flow accounts
  - 2 voluntary collections: forest accounts, environmental subsidies and similar transfers
- Pilot project on ecosystem accounts (INCA) by end 2020
- Available handbooks and guidelines. Upcoming: physical energy flow accounts
- 4 training courses per year, topics rotate. New in 2020: webinars
- Tools available to countries e.g. compile energy accounts from energy statistics
- Co-finance pilot studies and capacity building: EU, EFTA, IPA
FAO

- SEEA AFF Implementation in three countries in collaboration with UNECA (focus on Forest Accounts): Morocco; Senegal; Cameroon.

- Ongoing GEF Project preparation on Natural Capital and Biodiversity (with use of SEEA AFF tables on forest and air emissions) in Afghanistan. Evaluation of possible GEF activities in Sudan, Ghana.

- Data: Completed update to year 2017 of the SEEA AFF compliant FAOSTAT Land Cover Domain. Planned update to 2018 using three different land cover sources (NASA, MODIS, GLOB30). Addition of land cover accounts (matrix), in cooperation with ESA and University of Louvain (in 2020)

- Data: SEEA AFF compliant FAOSTAT Agriculture and land use emissions updated to year 2017; planned update to 2018 (in 2020).

- Printing of SEEA AFF book (in English) in 2020.
Framework:
- **Green jobs** = decent jobs in the environmental sector

19th International Conference of labour Statisticians, Oct.2013

**Integrated policy and technical assistance approach:**
- **Demand driven process**: Supporting policy making for identify job creation and destruction, work quality, occupations and skill needs.
- Work with: Ministry of Finance, Economy, or Planning.
- **Support to NSO**: capacity building for production and integration of data
- **Support to Government and academia**: for use of data and policy analysis -> ensuring buy-in, promoting sustainability of the project.

**Integrated data framework:**
- Integrating SEEA with other sources to produce analytical data frameworks for policy analysis such IOT/SAM and jobs breakdowns.

**Country examples:**
- Earlier green job studies (since 2010) with RM and EP: China, Indonesia, India, Brazil, Mauritius, Tunisia, Uruguay and Philippines.
- Using SEEA -> Zambia (green SUT/IOT/SAM) and ongoing: Barbados, Kyrgyzstan, Guyana.
OECD

• SEEA Implementation to support the OECD Green Growth Strategy, feed into structural policy analysis, and contribute to the development of global SEEA databases at the UN level.

• Recent work on SEEA-CF implementation:
  
  – Air Emission Accounts:
    
    • Estimated GHG emission accounts for countries not compiling these accounts but providing detailed UNFCCC inventories (Japan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, and the US).

    See Working Paper and Database.

    • CO₂ emissions related to air transport, on a territory and a residence basis.

    Forthcoming Working Paper and Database covering 186 countries.


    See Working Paper and Database.

  – Environmentally-Related Tax Revenue (ERTR) Accounts: OECD methodological guidelines complementing the European guidelines: more emphasis on some taxes (e.g. taxes on GHG emissions) and on the alignment between ERTR accounts and the information on tax rates and volumes being taxed (OECD PINE database).

• International coordination: UNCEEA; SEEA-CF and SEEA-EEA Technical Committees; project on SEEA implementation in Kazakhstan; joint seminars with UNECE
UNECE

• Coordination of SEEA-related activities with other IOs: UNECE region

• SEEA seminars (in cooperation with OECD) for all CES member countries

• Consideration of SEEA in methodological work: e.g. climate change, measuring hazardous events and disasters, waste statistics

• Capacity development activities on Environment Statistics, SEEA and Shared Environmental Information Systems for SDGs: In close collaboration with UNEP, UNSD and ESCAP through UN Development Account funding; many trainings, advisory missions, workshops etc. carried out in 2017-2019 in the EECCA region

• Most recent output: Refined set of core climate change related indicators (using SEEA-CF):
  – Discussed by CES Bureau end of February 2020
  – If approved by Bureau, electronic consultation (all CES countries and International Organizations)

• Planning of a joint EFTA/UNECE/UNEP workshop on CC-related statistics in May/June 2020 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)

• Financial support for capacity development received from Russian Federation
United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) (updated at end-2019) and United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) which is under development are global standards for classification and management of all resources. Based on 3 fundamental criteria of:

- Environmental, social and economic viability
- Technical feasibility
- Degree of confidence

UNFC applies to all resources – minerals, petroleum, renewable energy, uranium, and anthropogenic resources and injection projects. Groundwater resources in progress. Applications in:

- Policy formulation
- National resource management
- Corporate resource management
- Financial reporting
- SEEA minerals and energy reporting


Used in European Union, African Union, Russia, China, Mexico, India, Ukraine and beyond

https://www.unece.org/energy/se/reserves.html
UNEP and SEEA

• SEEA highly relevant for UNEP’s work on measuring SDG Goal 12
  • Particularly Material Flow Accounts in 12.2.1 and 12.2.2 which is part of the Central Framework. UNEP recently finalized the development of a Global Material Flow Accounts manual which went through an extensive global review process and will be launched this year.
  • Linkages to Waste Accounts (12.4.2 and 12.5.1)
  • Fossil fuel subsidies (12.c.1)
• Water, Oceans and Biodiversity (Goal 6, 14 and 15)
  • Land accounts (SDG 6.6.1)
  • Ecosystem accounts (SDG 6.3.2, 6.6.1, 14.1.1, 15.9.1)
  • Environmental protection expenditure accounts (15.a.1 and 15.b.1)
  • Water Accounts (SDG 6.3.2 and 6.6.1)
Most countries have data in the UNEP Live Global database.
**SEEA in Asia-Pacific: prioritising user-compiler engagement**

**Looking back in 2019**

- Ocean accounts
  - Global Ocean Accounts Partnership established (membership welcome) [https://www.oceanaccounts.org/](https://www.oceanaccounts.org/)
  - First Global Dialogue on Ocean Accounting held (Sydney, Nov 2019)
  - Technical guidance on ocean accounting drafted (V0.9)
  - Piloted in China, Malaysia, Samoa, Thailand and Viet Nam

- SEEA technical assistance, training, workshops
  - Progress in Fiji, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Samoa, Vanuatu
  - ESCAP-UNSD-ECE-IEA workshops on energy accounts & balance for policy

**Looking ahead to 2020**

- V1.0 of Technical Guidance, 2\(^{nd}\) Global Dialogue (Ottawa, Oct 2020), expanding pilots
- Solid waste accounting workshop
- Continued technical assistance
UNSD

• **SEEA-EEA revision**
  - Over 100 experts drafted 26 discussion papers, reviewed by over 1,000 experts
  - Country testing for the SEEA-EEA revision, particularly on ecosystem classification and condition accounts
  - Forum of Experts to be held in 8-9 July 2020 back-to-back to the UNCEEA
  - IUCN motion to support implementation of revised SEEA EEA [https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/070](https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/070)
  - Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework

• **Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) project**
  - Significant progress made in developing pilot accounts in Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa
  - Drafting methodological documents on biophysical modeling, valuation and scenario analysis
  - Linking global indicator initiatives, the SEEA and SDGs: testing in countries

• **Energy databases**
  - Development of interface for global databases on SEEA website
  - Data transmission between international organizations for energy and air emissions
  - Testing of the excel-based energy balances-to-accounts tool

• **High-level conference**: Communicating the Path to Sustainability through Natural Capital Accounting: 18-20 March 2020 at Yale University
SEEA Around the World

- Yes
- No
- No, but planning to
- No data
World Bank: from WAVES to GPS

WAVES engaged in 20+ countries, where it has supported over 2013-2019:

- development of 30 accounts
- informed 19 development plans and other 30+ policy decisions
- monitoring of 11 SDGs
- 10 country solutions to institutionalize NCA
- initializing a NCA Community of Practice for Africa
- WAVES also supported Global Knowledge Products such as the Changing Wealth of Nations (109,000 file downloads)

As of 2019, the Global Program on Sustainability (GPS) is the new World Bank umbrella program on natural capital and the economics of sustainability, with 3 pillars:

**Pillar 1:** Boosting sustainability in the global debate, through knowledge products and outreach

**Pillar 2:** Support the integration of environmental sustainability at the county and regional level

**Pillar 3:** Support sustainable finance through data and analytics

With GPS, the World Bank will remain an active member of the high-level UN Committee of Experts on Environmental Accounting, supporting the ongoing SEEA revision. One of the main areas of contribution come from lessons learned from its country level experiences in implementing ecosystem accounting.