


System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting


# UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting: Capacity Building

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United Nations

# UNCEEA CAPACITY BUILDING OVERVIEW



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## UNCEEA and Areas of Work

- Provides vision, coordination, prioritization and direction in the field of environmental-economic accounting
- Areas of work
  - > Area A Coordination (Statistics Canada)
  - > Area B Advancement of methodological work
    - Area B1 SEEA Central Framework (Statistics Netherlands)
    - Area B2 SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (Eurostat)
  - > Area C Development of global databases (OECD)
  - > Area D Capacity building (Statistics South Africa)
  - > Area E Statistical response to emerging issues
    - Communication (Australian Bureau of Statistics)
    - SDGs (INEGI, Mexico)

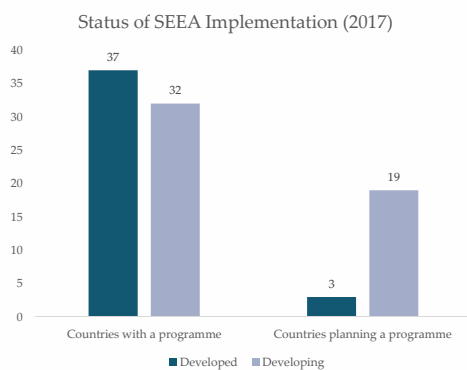


## Implementation of the SEEA

- Implementation strategy (2013) objectives:
  - > Adopt the SEEA as the measurement framework for sustainable development
  - > Mainstream SEEA implementation in countries
    - **Target 100 countries by 2020** for adoption of SEEA Central Framework
    - **Target 50 countries by 2020** for adoption of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
  - > Establish technical capacity for regular reporting
    - Training materials
    - Guidance documents
    - Knowledge platform



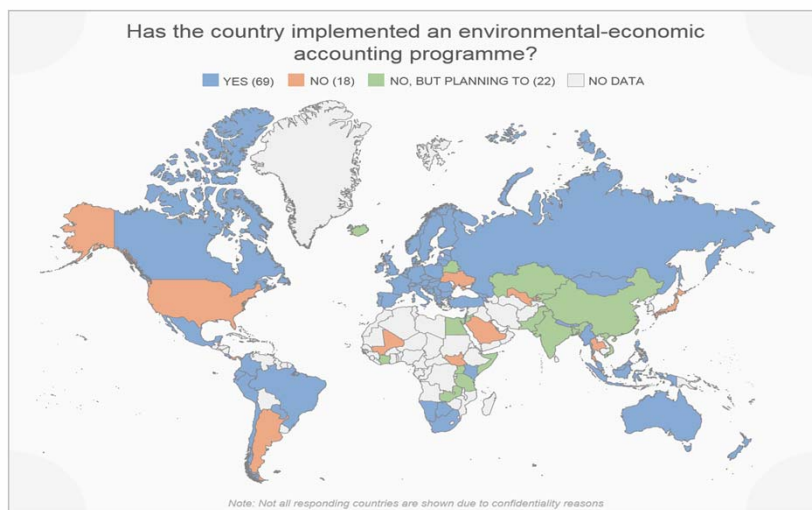
## Status of SEEA implementation



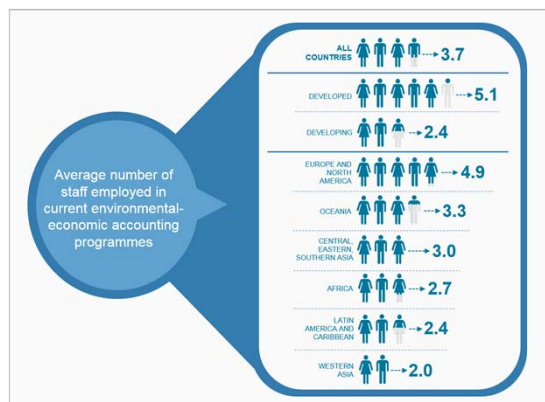
- Global Assessment on Environmental Economic Accounting 2017
  - > 109 countries responded
  - > **69 countries have a programme**
  - > **22 countries are planning a programme**
- 39% increase in number of countries with programmes from 2014-2017
- Choice of accounts in developed countries appears to be shaped by EU legislation
- Water and energy are top priorities in developing countries



## Status of SEEA implementation



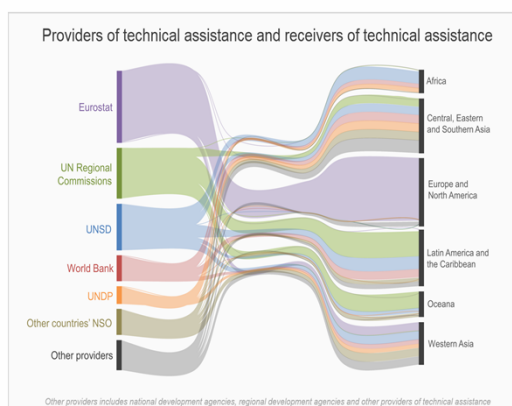
## Status of SEEA implementation



- Average of **3.7 full-time equivalent staff** employed for compilation of accounts
- Developed countries employed **more than twice** the number of full-time equivalent staff than developing countries (5.1 versus 2.4)
- Regionally, **Europe and North America** employed the most staff, at 4.9 full-time equivalent staff



## Status of SEEA implementation



- 65% of countries with programmes received technical assistance
  - > **43% of developed countries received technical assistance**
  - > **91% of developing countries received technical assistance**
- Eurostat provided most countries with assistance (17), followed by United Nations regional commissions (12) and United Nations Statistics Division (11)



## Moving forward

- Almost all countries that are planning programmes anticipate on compiling accounts **in or before 2020**
- “**Gap analysis**” planned for 2018 using results of the Global Assessment
  - > Identify current gaps in implementation (regional, by economic status etc)
  - > Match country needs to providers of technical assistance for the future
  - > Assistance from international organizations
  - > Facilitate country-to-country support



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## PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2018



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## Capacity building activities

- International Coordination Survey, June 2017
- Survey of UNCEEA Area D capacity building group on programme of work for 2018, December 2017
- Focus on programme of work for 2018
- Activities under capacity building:
  - > Compilation guidelines and tools
  - > E-learning (standalone and blended)
  - > Workshops and in-person training
  - > In-country technical and expert assistance
  - > Projects aimed to build capacity for the SEEA



## Compilation guidelines and tools

- **SEEA technical notes**
  - > Air emissions, EGSS, EPEA, land and water accounts
- **Handbooks**
  - > Eurostat handbooks and practical guides on air emissions, EW-MFA, energy flows, water flows, EGSS, EPEA, ReMEA, environmental taxes, environmental subsidies
- **Compilation tools**
  - > Eurostat PEFA Builder for energy flows accounts
    - > includes video tutorial
  - > Eurostat footprint tool (IO modelling for carbon, energy, etc.), material footprint tool (for RME)
  - > Pilot of UNSD energy tool
    - > developing energy accounts from balances (UNSD, IEA)



## e-Learning (UNSD)

- <https://elearning-cms.unstats.un.org/>
- Available courses:
  - > Introduction to the SEEA Central Framework
    - > Arabic, English and Russian available, Spanish
    - > Spanish and French to be added in 2018 Q2
  - > In-depth training on water
- Launch of ecosystem modules in 2018 Q2
- Launch of energy modules in 2018 Q2
- Adaptation of Introduction to the SEEA Central Framework e-Learning by SIAP



## 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



## Technical training, continued

### •ECE in cooperation with UNEP and partly with UNDP

#### >Kazakhstan:

- Training workshop on Environment Statistics and SEEA for SDGs (2017)
- Technical assistance on implementation of air emission accounts and review of existing pilot accounts (planned for 2018)

#### >Kyrgyzstan:

- Training workshop on Environment Statistics and SEEA for SDGs (2017) planned for 2018

#### >Tajikistan:

- Training workshop on water and forest accounts (2017)
- Technical assistance and review of existing pilot accounts (planned for 2018)



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## Technical training, continued

### •ESCAP

- >Technical workshop on ocean accounting, Bangkok (2018, Q1/Q2)
- >Technical workshop on energy statistics and accounts (2018, Q3/Q4)
- >Joint workshop with SIAP on climate-related statistics for Pacific Islands
- >Fiji: Energy, water, solid waste accounts
- >Maldives: Water and solid waste accounts
- >Myanmar and Nepal: Land and forest accounts
- >Philippines: Water accounts
- >Samoa: Energy accounts
- >Vanuatu: Land accounts



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## Technical training, continued

- **Eurostat**
  - > ESTP
    - Energy, material flow, EGSS, EPEA, taxes, subsidies and other transfers
    - Ecosystems
  - > Montenegro: technical assistance on MFA
  - > Serbia: technical assistance on EGSS
  - > Turkey: technical assistance on EGSS and EPEA



## Technical training

- **European Environment Agency**
  - > EU-funded ENI SEIS II East Project to strengthen regular production of environmental indicators and assessments
    - Activity on SEEA is one of several project activities
    - Vocational training on SEEA-EEA as first step towards implementation
    - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
- **OECD**
  - > Technical assistance to Kazakh Committee on Statistics on SNA and SEEA implementation



## Technical training, continued

### •SIAP

- >Week long training for 4-month course on data and statistics for SDGs
- >eLearning “Introduction to SEEA Central Framework” course

### •UN Environment

- >In-depth training on material flows in Latin America (2018 Q2) and Bangkok (2018 Q3)
- >Cameroon: Forest accounts
- >Malawi: Technical assistance for water accounts in April 2018
- >Senegal: SEEA assessment mission planned for April 2018
- >South Africa: Water accounts and links to policy



## Project activities

- Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services Project (UNSD, UN Environment, CBD)
  - > Focus on policy and measurement in physical/monetary terms
  - > Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa
  - > Funded by E.U.
  - > Formalizing inter-agency platforms among stakeholders for data sharing and production of results through national plan
  - > Development of pilot ecosystem accounts, which will contribute to SEEA EEA research agenda
  - > Indicators in the context of SDGs, Aichi Targets, etc.
  - > Contribute to global research agenda in context of SEEA-EEA
  - > Alignment between SEEA and corporate sustainability reporting



## Project activities

- Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services Project (UNSD, UN Environment, CBD), cont.
  - > Forum of Experts in SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, New York, USA 18-20 June 2018
  - > Expert Meeting on Ecosystem Evaluation in the context of Natural Capital Accounting, Bonn, Germany 24-26 April 2018
  - > Workshop on ecosystem accounting (blended learning initiative), Brazil, August 2018



## Project activities, continued

- WB WAVES Project
  - > Focus on policy applications
  - > Guatemala, Indonesia, Rwanda, Zambia
  - > West African countries focus on coastal and marine ecosystems: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mauritania, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, and Togo
  - > Annual Natural Capital Accounting Policy Forum
- Eurostat IPA project
  - > Focus on implementation of SEEA accounts already in place in the European Union
  - > In countries neighbouring the EU (Turkey, Balkan countries etc)



## Questions for the audience

### For countries receiving capacity:

- Are these capacity building activities useful to you?
- Do they meet your needs? How can we improve?

### For countries providing capacity:

- Where are the bottlenecks (financing, time, expertise)?

### For everybody:

- Which are the most effective activities or combinations of activities?
  - > E.g. handbooks + courses; handbooks + compilation tools; etc
- Where are the gaps between supply and demand?
- Which are the priorities?
  - > In terms of domain (water, energy etc)
  - > In terms of capacity building measures (handbooks, e-learning etc)



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**THANK YOU**

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