Overview of the SEEA EEA Revision process

Francois Soulard
Chief, R&D section, Environmental Accounts and Statistics Program
Statistics Canada

Alessandra Alfieri
Chief, Environmental-Economic Accounts Section
United Nations Statistics Division
The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

The SEEA is the statistical framework to measure the environment and its interactions with economy.

- The **SEEA Central Framework** was adopted as an international statistical standard by the UN Statistical Commission in 2012.

- The **SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting** complements the Central Framework and represents international efforts toward coherent ecosystem accounting.
One Environment: Two perspectives

**CENTRAL FRAMEWORK**
Starts with the economy and measures individual environmental *assets* and resources

**ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING**
Starts with ecosystems and links their *services* to economic and human activity

- **Timber**
- **Water**
- **Fish**
- **Forests**
- **Rivers**
- **Corals**

**Services**
The SNA and SEEA: Systems of integrated information

Ocean Accounts

- System of National Accounts 2008
- System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 Central Framework
- System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
- System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 Applications and Extensions
- SEEA-Water
- SEEA-Energy
- SEEA-Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (forthcoming)
- Others (forthcoming)

SEEA
Revision of standards

**SNA**
- 1953
- 1968
- 1993
- 2008
- 2025?

**SEEA-CF**
- 1993
- 2003
- 2012

**SEEA-EEA**
- 2013
- 2021
## Research agendas

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<th>SNA</th>
<th>SEEA CF</th>
<th>SEEA EEA</th>
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| • Valuation of natural resources (NPV) | • Classifications  
  o Residuals  
  o Land use/land covers  
  o Expenditures  
• Integrated framework for environmental activity accounts  
• Losses  
• Natural hazards and the effects of climate change  
• Fossil fuel subsidies  
• Valuation of water  
• Valuation of renewable resources and depletion  
• LULUCF and the SEEA | • Classification of ecosystem types  
• Typology of indicators to measure condition by ecosystem types  
• Classification/list of ecosystem services  
• Ecosystem services vs. benefits  
• Valuation and integration into the accounting framework  
  o Principles of valuation  
  o Valuation of ecosystem assets  
  o Valuation of degradation and integration into the account  
  o Valuation of externalities |
| • Valuation of resources for which there is no real market (e.g. water, )  
• Delineation of natural biological resources  
• Depletion of renewable and non-renewable resources  
• Losses  
• Ecosystem services  
• Valuation of ecosystem assets  
• Ecosystem degradation | |
SEEA

Experimental Ecosystem Accounts (EEA)

Revision Process
Broad steps in ecosystem accounting

a. Physical Accounts

Ecosystem thematic accounts: Land, Carbon, Water, Biodiversity
Supporting information: Socio-economic conditions and activities, ecological production functions
Tools: classifications, spatial units, scaling, aggregation, biophysical modelling
Source: Official statistics, spatial data, remote sensing data

b. Monetary Accounts

Supporting information: SNA accounts, I-O tables
Tools: Valuation techniques
Revision of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

1. Launched in March 2018 with the aim to finish by the end of 2020
   > For endorsement by UN Statistical Commission in March 2021

2. Engagement with various stakeholders – wide engagement of various communities, including ecologists, environmental economists, earth observation, etc.

3. Seek for broad involvement of partners and experts in the process
   > in the first year over 80 experts contributed to drafting of the discussion papers

4. Ambition is to elevate it to an agreed methodological document – international statistical standard

5. Process aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, review of SDGs, etc
Revision Working Groups

**Cross-cutting issues:**
1. Framing of values
2. Aggregation and scaling
3. Degradation and capacity
4. Biodiversity
5. Application of ecosystem accounting principles to specific areas
6. Connections between ecosystem accounts
Revision Working Groups (Cont.)

1. WG1 Spatial units: 3 discussion papers drafted and reviewed by an expert group
2. WG2 Ecosystem condition: 3 discussion papers drafted and reviewed by an expert group
3. WG4 Ecosystem services: 10 discussion papers on key individual ecosystem services covering definitions, biophysical measurement and valuation

4. Events:
   1. 18-20 June 2018 (Glen Cove): Forum of Experts on SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
   2. 28-29 November 2018 (Paris): Expert meeting on Spatial Areas and Ecosystem Condition
   3. 30 November 2018 (Paris): Strategic meeting on accounting for biodiversity and ecosystems with IUCN and selected biodiversity experts
   5. 26-27 June 2019 (Glen Cove): Forum of Experts on SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
   6. 28-29 June 2019 (Glen Cove): Technical Expert Meeting on advancing the SEEA EEA Revision
Current work: July – December 2019

1. Finalization of discussion papers on ecosystem services (WG3) and valuation (WG5) and carry out expert review of the discussion papers

2. Drafting of chapters: editor is drafting chapters in close consultation with the Technical Committee (serving as the Editorial Board)

3. Continue research on remaining specific issues and cross-cutting issues – in small groups

4. Testing of current proposals in particular on:
   > Ecosystem type classifications
   > Ecosystem condition indicators by ecosystem type
   > Ecosystem services modelling and valuation
Planning of work: 2020

1. Jan-Mar: Revision of the chapters
2. Apr-Jun: Global consultation on (grouped) individual chapters
3. June: Report to UNCEEA and discussion at the 2020 Forum of Experts
4. Jul-Sep: Revision of the chapters
5. Oct-Nov: Global consultation on complete document
6. Dec: Submission of draft to UNCEEA and UNSC
Some thoughts on the way forward

1. How can we ensure that progress made on Accounting for Oceans is considered in the current revision process?

2. Are there specific oceans-related classifications and concepts that could be applied to the current SEEA-EEA extent, condition, services and users accounts?

3. Should the Ocean Accounts become a thematic account similar to water, land, carbon and biodiversity?
For more info:

Visit: https://seea.un.org/
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