

# Implementation of Environment Statistics and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) in the UNECE region

Michael Nagy / 26 April 2016

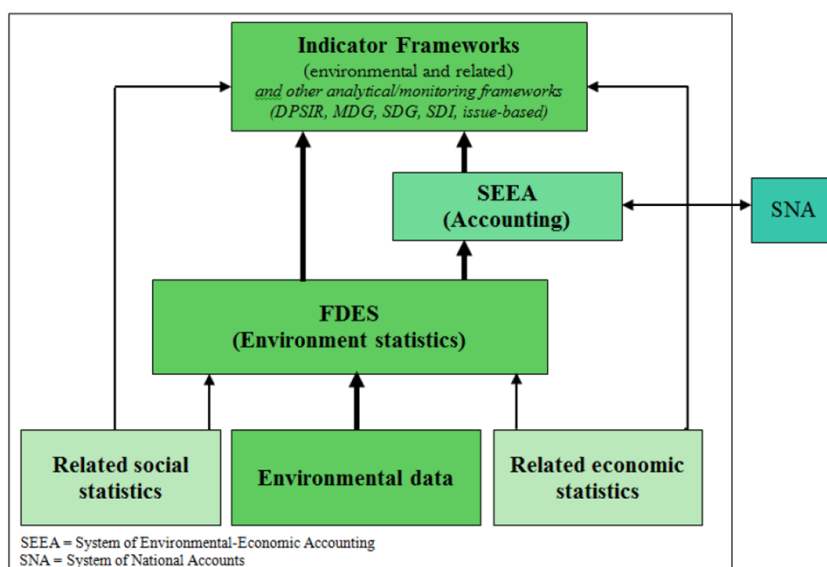


## Presentation Overview

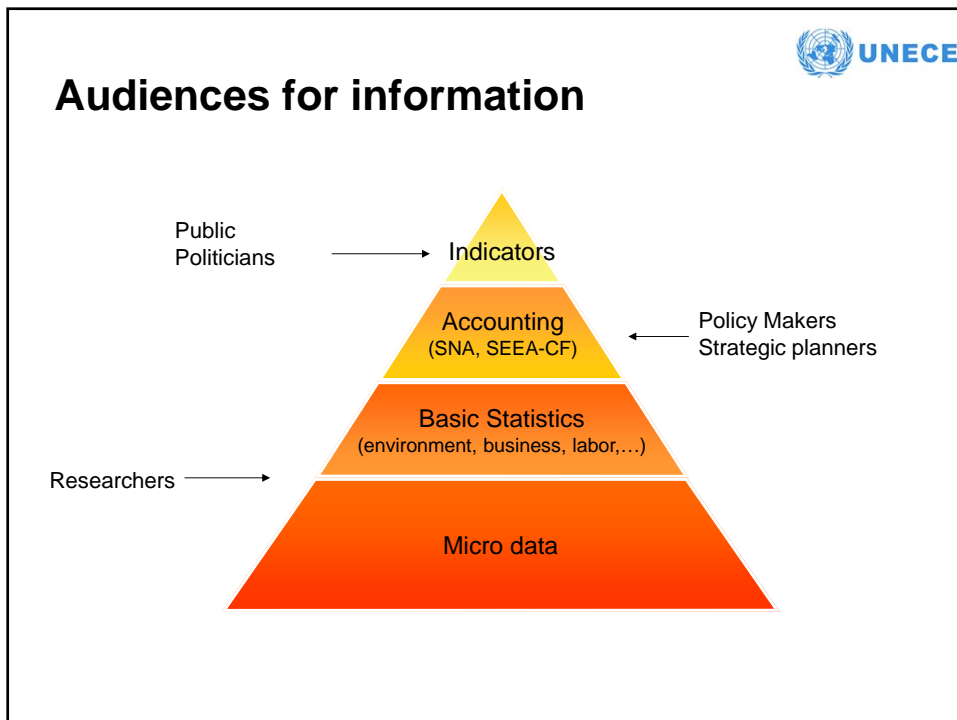
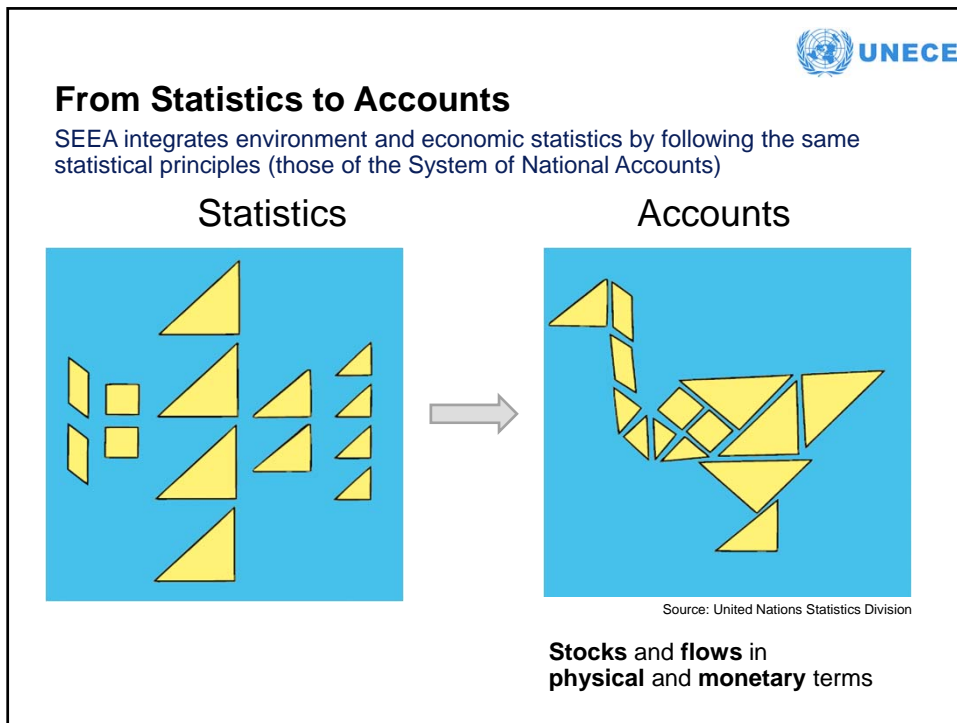
1. Environment Statistics and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). Why do we need both?
2. SEEA and the SDGs
3. Environment Statistics in the ECE Region
4. SEEA in the ECE Region
5. Existing and planned mechanisms to support implementation in EECCA countries
6. Main outcomes and recommendations of the 2015 Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on SEEA implementation
7. Topics of the next OECD/UNECE Seminar on SEEA implementation (3-4 October 2016, Geneva)

# 1. Environment Statistics and Environmental-Economic Accounting.

Why do we need both?



Source: UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics, FDES 2013 (Figure 2.4)



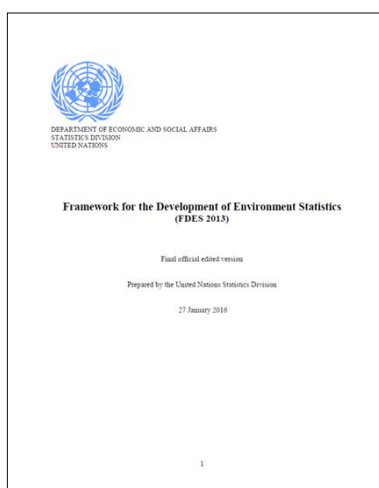


## SEEA responds to complex policy questions such as

- How can natural resources be used sustainably? What is the impact of regulatory environmental measures on different economic sectors and households?
  - How do ecosystems contribute to the well-being of people and to the economy?
  - Which are the most cost-efficient measures to improve the state of the environment?
  - What are the effects of environmental taxes on the environment and on the economy?
  - Etc.
- SEEA is a multi-purpose tool to respond to policy questions and to inform indicators on sub-national, national, regional and global level (such as SDGs, Sendai Framework, Climate Change)



## Main reference documents



## 2. SEEA and the Sustainable Development Goals



**10 (out of 17) SDG goals are directly related to the environmental pillar:**

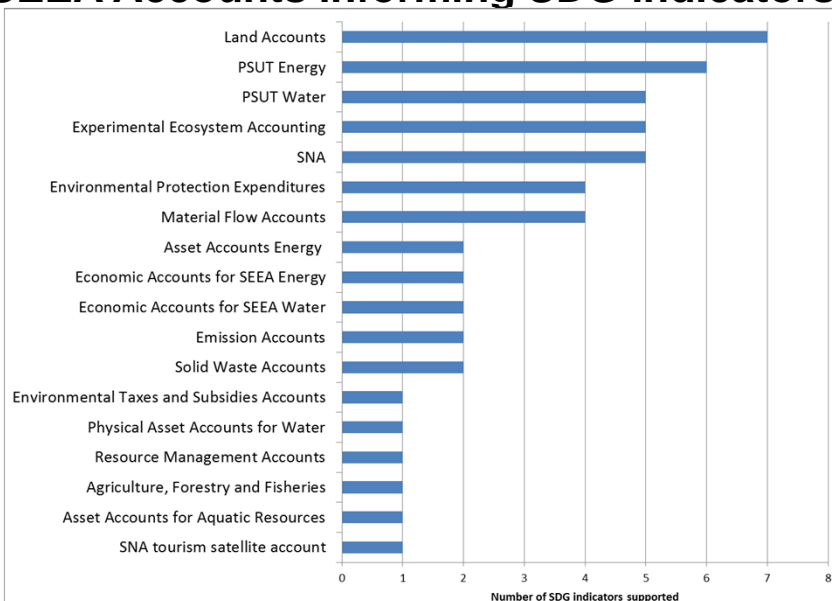
- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 - Agriculture       | 11 - Cities                     |
| 6 - Water             | 12 - Consumption and production |
| 7 - Energy            | 13 - Climate change             |
| 8 - Economic growth   | 14 - Marine and coastal         |
| 9 - Industrialization | 15 - Ecosystems                 |

**42 indicators of these goals can be informed by SEEA**

**SEEA accounts informing more than 3 SDG indicators are:**

- Land Accounts
- Physical supply and use of energy
- Physical supply and use of water
- Experimental Ecosystem Accounts
- Environmental Protection Expenditures
- Material Flow Accounts

## SEEA Accounts informing SDG indicators



### 3. Environment Statistics in the UNECE Region



#### Joint Questionnaires on waste and water of Eurostat and OECD:

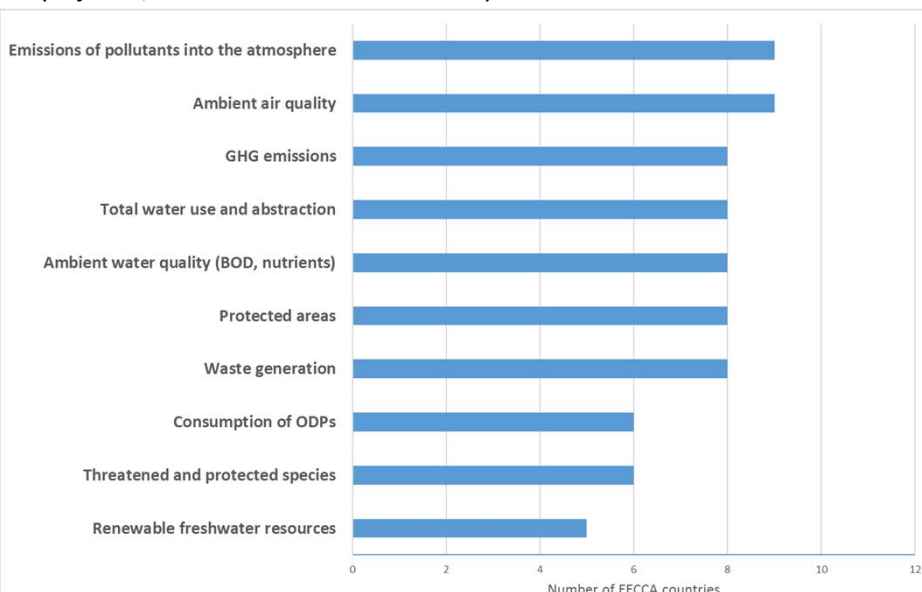
- First developed by the OECD in the early 1980's
- Joined by Eurostat in the early 1990's
- Voluntary exercise → gentlemen's agreement
- Biennial collection of yearly data for national territories
- EU + CC + EFTA + neighbours (+ non- European OECD)

#### LUCAS survey of Eurostat for land use

#### EECCA:

- Responding to UNSD environment statistics questionnaires (waste, water)
- The Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators agreed to produce and publish 14 "core indicators" (most are environment statistics) regularly

#### Environment Statistics in the EECCA Region at a glance: Number of EECCA countries publishing environment statistics per theme (May 2015, JTF on Environmental Indicators)



## 4. SEEA in the UNECE Region



- **European Union:** EU Regulation on:
  - Air emissions
  - Environmental taxes
  - Material flows
  - Environmental protection expenditure
  - environmental goods and services sector
  - Physical energy flow accounts
  
- **OECD:**
  - Implementation Programme for SEEA
  - Focus on SEEA tables with relevance for OECD Green Growth Strategy
  
- **EECCA:**
  - Great interest on implementation in most countries
  - Some countries have started implementation or pilot accounts

## 5. Main outcomes of the 2015 Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on SEEA Implementation



>80 Participants, representing 37 countries, several International Organisations and NGOs

- Lots of success stories
- National and international policy uses of SEEA are increasing
- A common implementation approach should be assured via a regional strategy, national priorities to be considered
- Developing capabilities is a key factor
- International coordination is important
- EECCA participants suggested to use JTF on Environmental Indicators and Statistics as platform
- Recommendations:
  - a. Providing possibilities for exchange of best practices is important
  - b. Future OECD/UNECE seminars
  - c. Regional / sub- regional UNECE implementation strategy
  - d. Strengthened UNSD helpdesk
  - e. Inventory of international activities

**6. Topics of the next OECD/UNECE Seminar on SEEA implementation (3-4 October 2016, Geneva)**



Session 1: Overview on activities of international organisations, follow-up on the 2015 Seminar

Session 2: SEEA and the SDGs

**Session 3: Applications of SEEA**

**Session 4: Implementation of SEEA modules: Challenges and solutions**

Session 4a: Energy and Air Emission accounts

Session 4b: Environmental taxes and subsidies

Session 5: Conclusions and recommendations for further work

**Thank you for your attention!**



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