





1. What is the UNCEEA?



Objectives of the UNCEEA

Established by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its 36th Session in March 2005. Its overall objectives are

- a) to mainstream environmental-economic accounting and related statistics;
- b) to elevate the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) to an international statistical standard;
- c) to advance the implementation of the SEEA in countries.

The UNCEEA meets once per year and provides annual reports to the UNSC

see Terms of Reference:

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/documents/torunceea_final.pdf



2. Agenda of the 12th UNCEEA meeting, 19-21 June 2017



Agenda of the 12th Meeting of the UNCEEA

Day 1: Seminar on Strategy Development for the Promotion and Use of SEEA

Day 2 and day 3: Management meeting

Focus on the work programme, consisting of the following parts:

A – Coordination (Statistics Canada)

B - Methodological Development for Normative Standards and other Research

B1 - SEEA Central Framework (Statistics Netherlands)

B2 - SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (Eurostat)

C – Development of global databases (OECD)

D – Implementation and statistical capacity building (Statistics South Africa)

E - A practical strategy for the application of environmental accounting to emerging issues (Australian Bureau of Statistics)



3. Main outcomes and action



Area A Coordination (Area lead Statistics Canada)

The Committee:

- Agreed to the establishment of a working group comprised of 5-6 UNCEEA members (taking into account representations from developed and developing countries) and chaired by Statistics Canada for coordination of committee initiatives to develop a more detailed work programme based on the discussions at the UNCEEA.
- Requested that **UNSD launch the new website by September 1, 2017**. The website would serve as a central repository of environmental-economic accounting activities, events, etc.
- Requested that a short list of indicators including those indicators where there is an opportunity for the UNCEEA to influence the methodology, be developed (UNCEEA/IAEG in collaboration with TCs – put in Area E)
- Recommended in the short terms that members of UNCEEA work with custodian agencies, especially UNEP and FAO who are custodians of the majority of the environment indicators, and UNCEEA/IAEG members to promote SEEA for the SDGs



SEEA

Area A Coordination (Area lead Statistics Canada)

The Committee:

- Recommended that the Group considers:
 - > The development of a medium term strategy by which the UNCEEA is recognized as the formal mechanism to review selected SDG indicators which the SEEA can inform
 - > **Establish SEEA focal points in countries (UNSD)**
 - > How the UNCEEA can play a role in the review and revision of the SDG indicators by 2020
 - > **Reviews training and technical cooperation activities to avoid overlap. The development of a “super calendar” to include events organized by UNCEEA members may help coordination.**



SEEA

Area C: Development of global databases (area lead OECD)

The Committee:

- Reiterated the need for a pragmatic approach to be taken to the compilation of global databases with progressive expansion of coverage (e.g type accounts and countries) using opportunities as they arise (e.g. capacity building)
- Recommended that the Area lead prepares an updated roadmap and develops with the lead agencies short term plans for the priority accounts, (priority accounts: Energy and water; land; MFA; Air emissions)
- Recommended that the Working Group (Area lead and lead agencies) also develops plans that specify the processes by which data for the priority accounts will be produced and validated, including through collection from countries. It was agreed that subsequent quality assurance will ensure validation from countries will be sought.
- Requested that the Working Group to outlines the mandate for UNSD to collect priority accounts and compile those accounts using existing databases , taking into consideration already existing international mandates and work.
- Requested that the working group discusses the process and governance for reaching an international consensus on the methodologies to compile SEEA accounts using existing global databases (consultation process, vetting procedure, ...) by end October 2017
- Requested that UNCEEA members provide written comments on the outstanding issues (questions of work on the engagement with other groups; the scope of work on global DSDs; the level of ambition of work on air emission accounts, etc.) and that the area leads provides feedback on the comments



SEEA

received

Area D: Implementation of Statistical Capacity Building (Area lead Statistics South Africa)

The Committee:

- Noted the establishment of the Capacity Building Working Group
- Requested the coordination working group and capacity development group to identify synergies between the two areas
- **Encouraged member countries to approach regional commissions to establish/strengthen regional working groups on environmental-economic accounting to facilitate the implementation of SEEA as needed**
- **Requested regional commissions to encourage countries to respond timely to the global assessment SEEA implementation**
- Requested that a global work programme be developed taking into consideration the results of the global assessment and regional workplans
- **Encouraged the regional commissions to develop/strengthen a work programme on environmental-economic accounting taking into consideration the global work programme and analysis of the results reflecting regional diversity**



SEEA

Area B1: Advancing methodology SEEA Central Framework (Area lead B1)

- Requested that the priority areas are reviewed in particular depletion of natural resources, valuation and climate change adaptation
- Noted that the OECD and ISTAT will prepare a table on EW-MFA for discussion at the London Group meeting, in collaboration with UNEP.
- Noted the importance of making progress in the land classification to be taken forward by UNSD and FAO. A paper on progress made on linking the land classification with ecosystem types and ecosystem services can be presented at the next London Group meeting.
- Requested that there is a transparent process in finalizing issues paper before they are submitted to the Technical Committee and the UNCEEA; in particular the paper should clearly specify the lead agencies, the partner agencies and other contributors/commenters, including the names of the experts consulted. Proper consultation of developing countries was stressed.
- UNSD to propose to the bureau by 1 September updated ToRS for both SEEA CF and SEEA EEA Technical Committees
- **Thanked Rosstat for its contribution to the SEEA CF Russian version**
- Requested that the technical notes are finalized as soon as possible
- Noted that the SEEA Energy and the SEEA AFF are being edited and the final technical version is on the UNCEEA website.
- Requested that the UNCEEA reviews the priority of the research agenda to make sure that it reflects the current priorities.



SEEA

Area B1: Advancing methodology SEEA Central Framework (Area lead Statistics Netherlands) - BIOFIN

- Welcomed progress made in advancing the work on expenditures of biodiversity and the creation of a working group to develop a work programme in this area
- Noted the importance of this work in advancing the SEEA implementation, considering the wide reach of the BIOFIN programme in countries
- Requested that a concept note is drafted by Biofin to clarify the alignment with the CEA classification taking an incremental approach of the type of expenditures to include as part of the functional expenditures on biodiversity
- Noted the need to engage with the UN Classification Expert Group at the earliest opportunity, after the concept note on the scope and coverage of the classification is established
- Noted the need to coordinate with Eurostat group working on classification and with the work on biodiversity markers at the OECD
- Noted the importance of UNDP's work on climate change and requested that the secretariat work closely with UNDP to assess progress made in the area and possible engagement of the UNCEEA in this type of work



SEEA

Area B1: Advancing methodology SEEA Central Framework (Area lead Statistics Netherlands) – Sustainable Tourism

- Welcomed the technical note linking the SEEA and TSA and agreed with the process of finalization with the note including review by the London Group and the Working group on MST and final review by the Technical Committee on the SEEA CF
- Stressed the importance of looking at the local aspect of tourism in particular in the context of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
- Welcomed the opportunity to follow progress made with the MST and review the MST in particular those areas that are within the mandate of the UNCEEA and contribute as possible



SEEA

Area B2: Advancing methodology SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (Area lead Eurostat)

- Agreed with the management approach of the revision process, with the Technical Committee overseeing the revision process
- In principle agreed with the proposed work programme and estimated budget to revise the SEEA EEA by 2020, conditional to the availability of funds
- Agreed to review the status of funding at the end of December 2017
- Requested the UNCEEA members to look for funding beyond the national statistical offices, considering the strong interest for the project from ministries of environment, foreign affairs, think tanks, research institutions, etc.
- Requested the Technical Committee on the SEEA EEA to develop a short document briefly making the case for the revision of the SEEA to help UNCEEA members to raise funds.
- Recommended the development of a funding strategy including considering approaching donors as a group and using existing donor meetings to raise funds for the project.
- Reiterated the important role of the NSOs in liaising with different stakeholders and experts at the country level
- Took note of a number of interesting new projects in countries and international organizations.



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