

System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

The role of the SEEA in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Sjoerd Schenau on behalf of UNSD

Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on Implementation of SEEA

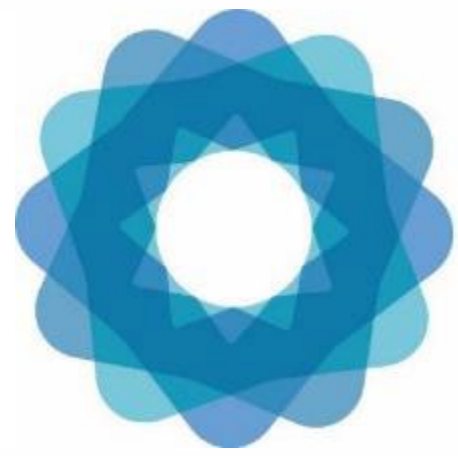
18-20 March 2024, Geneva



United Nations

Outline

- Overview of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- SEEA and the GBF goals and targets
- Development of the metadata for the SEEA-related indicators



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Overview of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)



United Nations

COP15 Major Outcomes



- Kunming-Montreal GBF (decision 15/4)
- GBF Monitoring framework (decision 15/5)
- Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review (decision 15/6)

<https://www.cbd.int/gbf>

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- Global Goals for 2050
 - Goal A - Ecosystems maintained, enhanced, or restored, extinctions are halted, extinction rate reduced tenfold and genetic diversity is maintained
 - Goal B - Biodiversity is sustainably used and its contributions to people are maintained, enhanced or restored
 - Goal C - Benefits from the use of genetic resources are shared and sustainably increased
 - Goal D - The biodiversity funding gap of 700 billion USD is closed by ensuring adequate means of implementation are available
- 23 Targets for 2030
 - Targets 1-8: Reducing threats to biodiversity
 - Targets 9-13: Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing
 - Targets 14-23: Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

The monitoring framework for the GBF contains indicators for the Goals and Targets

Indicators in the GBF

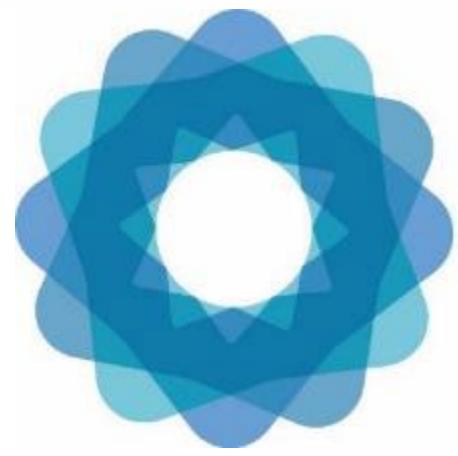
- Adopted in decision 15/5: Headline indicators; Binary indicators; Component indicators and Complementary indicators
- Parties are urged to use the headline indicators in their national reports
- AHTEG* established to guide work on the following:
 - > technical advice on remaining and unresolved issues relating to the monitoring framework for the GBF
 - > guidance on the use of indicators in national planning and reporting,
 - > guidance on ways to fill temporal and spatial data gaps, including through the use of big data, citizen science, community-based monitoring and information systems, remote sensing, modelling and statistical analysis, and other forms of data and other knowledge systems,
 - > guidance on the existing capacity, gaps and needs

* AHTEG: Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group

The GBF Monitoring framework and statistics

Monitoring framework for the GBF (COP 15 decision 15/5) :

- “Notes the value of aligning national monitoring with the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting statistical standard in order to mainstream biodiversity in national statistical systems and to strengthen national monitoring systems and reporting as appropriate and according to their national priorities and circumstances; “
- “Invites the Statistical Commission,..... and other relevant organizations to support the operationalization of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework;”
- “When possible, indicators are aligned with existing intergovernmental processes under the Statistical Commission, such as the SDGs, the FDES or the SEEA”



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

SEEA and the GBF goals and targets



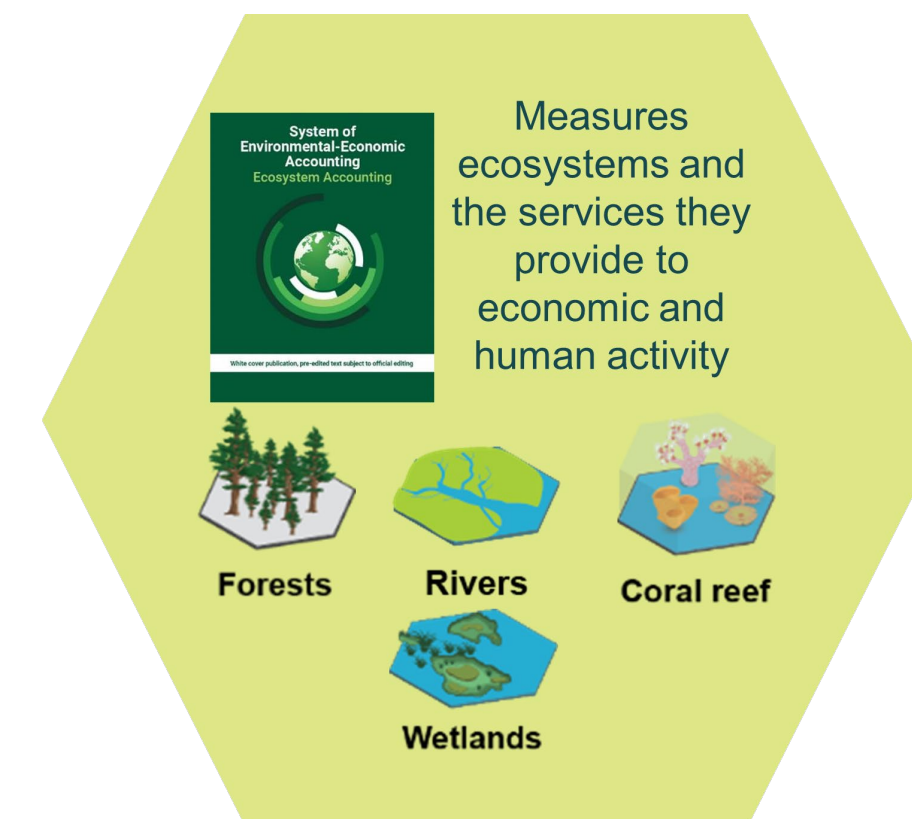
United Nations

GBF indicators and the SEEA

Headline indicators were adopted to monitor each Goal and Target. A few indicators related to the SEEA:

- Extent of natural ecosystems (Goal A)
- Services provided by ecosystems (Goal B and Target 11)
- Sustainable Management of Wild Species (Target 9)
- [Integrating Biodiversity in Decision-Making (Target 14)]

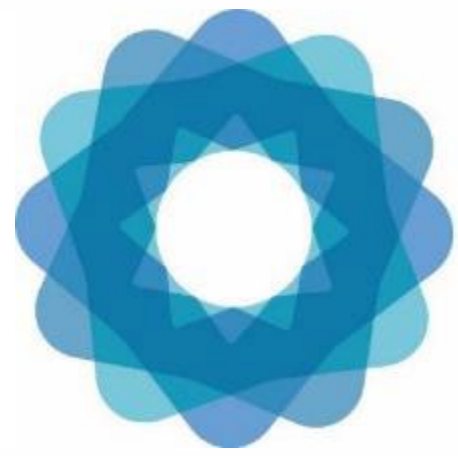
- International public funding (including ODA), domestic public funding, and private funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems (Goal D and Target 19)



United Nations Statistical Commission

At its 55th session in March 2024:

Welcomed the use of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting as the methodological basis for multiple headline indicators of the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, **called on national statistical offices to engage with their biodiversity focal points, encouraged the Committee to support the implementation of the monitoring framework and to facilitate collaboration between the statistical and the biodiversity communities to strengthen national monitoring and reporting**



Development of the metadata



Indicator A.2 ‘Extent of natural ecosystems’

GOAL A

The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050;

Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels;

The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

Headline indicators

A.1 Red List of Ecosystems

A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems

A.3 Red List Index for Species

A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500

Metadata for indicator A2

- Indicator aims to show the **extent of natural ecosystems as a proportion of overall area**, and to track changes in this proportion over time. Responds to the element of Goal A that refers to “substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050”. Can be disaggregated into different natural ecosystem types.
- Definition: The indicator, at the national level, is defined as the **extent of natural and semi-natural ecosystems as a proportion of total area of the country** at a particular point in time, expressed as a percentage. The point in time is the closing date of the accounting period for which the ecosystem accounts were compiled. Trends over time will be evident from changes in the proportion of total area over successive accounting periods.
- Main issues that were discussed and resolved:
 1. Definition of natural vs semi-natural vs anthropogenic ecosystems
 2. Selection of indicator

Indicators for Goal B and Targets 9 & 11

GOAL B

Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

Target 9: Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People

Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Target 11: Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People

Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

Headline indicators

B.1 Services provided by ecosystems

9.1 Benefits from the sustainable use of wild species

11.1 Services provided by ecosystems (focusing on regulating services)

Metadata for indicator B1 ‘Services provided by ecosystems’

- Indicator aims to **track trends in the provision of ecosystem services**, responding to the wording in Goal B that ecosystem services should be “maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored”.
- Definition: The proposed indicator is defined as the average rate of change in the provision of a set of ecosystem services in a particular time period compared to a baseline year, for a country or globally
- Headline indicator based on biophysical measurements, with monetary indicator recommended as complementary or component indicator
- Main issues still outstanding:
 1. List of ecosystem services recommended for inclusion in the reporting under this indicator - a flexible approach is proposed
 2. Finalization of the aggregation method for an index of ecosystem services - how to average trends across ecosystem services. Testing is underway.

Process for the development of the metadata

- UNSD is the custodian agency for indicators based on SEEA and responsible for the development of the metadata
- Each indicator has a metadata document that provides the rationale, definitions, methodology, etc. To finalize the metadata, SEEA EA Technical Committee established two Task Teams (TTS) on A2 and B1 indicators:
 - > TTs composed of members from the TC EA, AHTEG and other experts
 - > Each TT has met several times to discuss technical aspects of the metadata
- Indicator metadata finalization through the AHTEG, SBSTTA26 and final adoption at the COP 16 in Colombia, 21 Oct – 1 Nov 2024
- National reporting of data under all GBF indicators will take place in early 2026 and 2029
 - > Need to prepare compilation guidelines for each indicator by 2026 to support reporting to the GBF

THANK YOU

seea@un.org // <https://seea.un.org/>

