

Part I: Questionnaire for Country Participants

Name:

Affiliation: Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)

Country: South Africa

1. What types of environmental and economic accounts have already been implemented in your country and for how long? (If none, go to question 6)

- Report (official statistics) on Water Accounts for 19 Water Management Areas – published in 2004.
- Report (official statistics) on Mineral Accounts for Coal, Gold and Platinum – to be published in September 2004. The discussion document on Mineral Accounts was published on Stats SA’s website (www.statssa.gov.za) in 2002.
- Discussion document on Land use/land cover – to be published on Stats SA’s website in September 2004.
- Discussion document on Water Quality – to be published on Stats SA’s website in March 2005.
- Discussion document on Energy Accounts – to be published on Stats SA’s website in March 2005.

2. Have you used or are you aware of any use made by others in your country of the handbook of National Accounting *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting 2003*, commonly referred to as SEEA-2003 and/or of the handbook of National Accounting *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting – An Operational Manual (2000)*? How useful were these documents in the implementation of the accounts?

- Yes, we always consult the SEEA when starting with an account (along with international examples from other countries). It serves as the international guideline for the compilation of the accounts for South Africa.

3. Please, describe the major difficulties/constraints that have been encountered during the compilation of these accounts (e.g., financial support, lack of human resources, training, etc.).

- Lack of human resources
- Lack of relevant training/skills
- Lack of relevant and recent data

4. Was the implementation of the accounts driven from a policy demand or was it supply driven?

- Driven primarily from a supply side although the policy demand does exist.

5. Have environmental-economic accounts been used for policy making in your country? If so, what were the policy issues?

- Where they feed into indicators they are used for policy making. Our challenge is to educate the relevant people in the application of these accounts for policy making.

6. Does your country have future plans for starting/continuing and/or expanding the implementation of environmental-economic accounting? Please describe.

Yes. The reports (official statistics) on land use/land cover, energy and the water quality accounts are planned to be published within the 2005/2006 financial year. We will also start investigating the feasibility of compiling new accounts and/or updating existing accounts within that financial year (e.g. air quality and emission accounts etc).

7. What seems to be the major constraints in further implementing environmental-economic accounting in your country?

- Lack of data
- Lack of human resources
- Stakeholders buying into the accounts
- Lack of knowledge e.g. how these accounts can inform policy-making issues.

8. In your opinion, what should be the role of the Task Force on environmental-economic accounting?

- The Task Force should actively promote the compilation and use of environmental-economic accounting through workshops/seminars/meetings. There should also be a training aspect for the building of the necessary skills needed for compilation of the different accounts e.g. setting the international framework/guideline as well as illustrating the use of the accounts in policy making issues. They should also be involved in methodologies, definitions etc. for environmental-economic accounting.

9. In your opinion, which activities of the Task Force would best facilitate in your country the implementation of environmental-economic accounting and the promotion of its uses at the policy level?

- A user-friendly training handbook which link the environmental accounts to indicators and policy issues; Organisation of regional workshops and the bringing together data users and producers.

Additional comments: