



OECD IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME FOR SEEA

*International Conference “Global Implementation
Programme for the SEEA”
New York, June 17-19, 2013*

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Overview

1. OECD Green Growth Strategy
2. OECD plans for implementation of SEEA
3. Tables on emissions to air
4. Tables on natural resources
5. Way forward
6. Implementation of SEEA more generally



OECD Green Growth Strategy

- “Green growth means fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies”
- Presented at May 2011 OECD Council meeting of ministers



OECD Green Growth Strategy (cont.)

- OECD-report: *Towards green growth: Monitoring progress – OECD Indicators*
 - Conceptual framework for measuring progress
 - List of indicators selected based on well-defined criteria
 - Measurement agenda identifying future areas of work
 - List of 25 indicators (not all measurable today)
 - Six headline indicators



OECD Green Growth Strategy (cont.)

1 The environmental and resource productivity of the economy

- Carbon and energy productivity
- Resource productivity: materials, nutrients, water
- Multi-factor productivity

2 The natural asset base

- Renewable stocks: water, forest, fish resources
- Non-renewable stocks: mineral resources
- Biodiversity and ecosystems

3 The environmental dimension of quality of life

- Environmental health and risks
- Environmental services and amenities

4 Economic opportunities and policy responses

- Technology and innovation
- Environmental goods & services
- International financial flows
- Prices and transfers
- Skills and training
- Regulations and management approaches

Socio-economic context and characteristics of growth

- Economic growth and structure
- Productivity and trade
- Labour markets, education and income
- Socio-demographic patterns



Green Growth Strategy and SEEA

- Underlying conceptual frameworks very similar: combining economy and environment
- SEEA is a powerful tool for Green Growth type of analysis (including input-output type of analysis)
- Main links between OECD GGS and SEEA:
 - Indicators that monitor the environmental and resource efficiency of the economy
 - Indicators that monitor environmental assets and their role in the economy
 - Indicators that monitor environmentally-related activities and instruments, and their role in the economy



OECD plans for implementation SEEA

- **Primary goal: To arrive at a first set of tables according to SEEA for OECD member countries**
- Part of the UNCEEA process; pilot at OECD-level
- Several countries already have environmental accounts in place
- Practical experience shows that the compilation of certain tables does not require significant resources, if relevant environmental statistics are available
 - May require reclassifications
 - May require some alignment of definitions



Which SEEA-tables?

Criteria for selecting SEEA-tables:

- Relevance for OECD Green Growth Strategy and related national policies => headline indicators
- Relevance for other types of analysis (e.g. wealth accounting and productivity measurement)
- Availability of relevant environmental statistics at the OECD and/or at national level (note: EU-regulations)
- Consistency with available data in other areas



Emissions to Air

- High policy relevance
- Availability of data (UNFCCC and EU-regulations)
- Primary focus on following emissions to air:
(Biomass) CO₂, N₂O, CH₄, HFC, PFC, SF₆, NO_x,
etc., related to:
 - Production (by economic activity)
 - Consumption (transport, heating, other)
 - Accumulation (emissions from landfills)
- Tier 1 versus tier 2 (breakdowns)
- Note: Calculation of final consumption footprints



Natural Resources

- Natural Resource Index is one of the headline indicators
- Ecosystems excluded, focus on assets where work is well advanced (both conceptually and practically)
- Oil, gas, metallic minerals and timber resources (account for the majority of the value of natural resources in the OECD)
- Optional: water and aquatic resources (link to state of the environment questionnaire)
- Both physical data and monetary values
- Methodology: wealth estimates of countries, or internationally harmonised method based on resource rents
- Close cooperation with World Bank (WAVES-project)



Natural Resources (cont.)

Physical account (physical units)
Opening stock of resources
<u>Additions to stock:</u>
Growth in stock
New discoveries
Upwards reappraisals
Reclassifications
<i>Total additions</i>
<u>Reductions in stock:</u>
Extraction
Normal losses
Catastrophic losses
Downwards reappraisals
Reclassifications
<i>Total reductions</i>
Closing stock of resources

Monetary account (currency units)
Opening stock of resources
<u>Additions to stock:</u>
Growth in stock
New discoveries
Upwards reappraisals
Reclassifications
<i>Total additions</i>
<u>Reductions in stock:</u>
Extractions
Normal losses
Catastrophic losses
Downwards reappraisals
Reclassifications
<i>Total reductions</i>
Revaluation of the stock of resources
Closing stock of resources



Other SEEA-tables to consider?

- Energy balances: link depletion of natural resources, energy use and emission to air
- Emissions to water
- Material flows (link to work at EU-level)
- Waste generation (link to state of the environment questionnaire, and to work at EU-level)



Way forward

- Presentation and discussion at global conference on the implementation of SEEA and 8th Meeting of the UNCEEA (New York, 17-21 June 2013)
- Development of templates, taking into account already existing data collections
- Agreement on templates (possibly by written procedure), including timeliness and time series, by October 2013
- Collection and processing of national data (start at the end of 2013)
- Dedicated Task Force consisting of participant from both constituencies (environmental statistics and national accounts)



SEEA implementation more generally

- Important to arrive at a set of templates for core tables related to the different areas covered by SEEA Central Framework
- No myriad of tables => make choices!
- Distinguish between tier 1 and tier 2
- Define priority areas for which as many countries as possible are invited to collect data on an internationally comparable basis
- Agree among international organisations



SEEA implementation more generally

- Communicate the set of SEEA core tables
- Accept (and define) a two track approach:
 - Align classifications and definitions
 - Develop a fully integrated approach
- Accept national and regional differences in implementation, based on differences in policy concern and differences in statistical development
- However, also be clear on international priorities



Questions and Suggestions

- Process to arrive at set of templates for SEEA core tables?
- Process to arrive a further prioritisation at international level?
- Trade-off between quick national/regional implementation versus worldwide coordination?
- What about two-track iterative approach?
- Methodology for estimating natural resources: quite some questions on the methodology to be applied in practice?



Thank you for your attention!