

Part I: Questionnaire for Country Participants

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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)

Namibia: water, minerals, fisheries, forestry, wildlife since 1995

Botswana: water and minerals since 1998

Tanzania: planning for environmental accounts for water, forestry, fisheries, minerals

Ethiopia: planning for environmental accounts at the state level for water, forestry and soil

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?

SEEA-2003 is widely used

The Operational Manual has not been used

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.).

A. The failure of international institutions or the major international initiatives driving development policy (MDGs, PRSPs) to include environmental accounting as an essential tool for sustainable development is a significant obstacle to implementation. Developing countries are hesitant to introduce a new tool, whose results and policy implications cannot be foreseen. The Botswana Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in 1993 expressed concern that accounting for depletion of minerals would negatively affect indicators of macroeconomic performance and their international credit rating.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Finance, which is implementing a PRSP, blocked implementation of the SEEA in 2004 at the national level, citing concerns about uncertainty of results, and requesting that the SEEA be first “tested” at the regional level.

B. Lack of trained environmental economists to compile accounts and use them for policy. While any environmental accounting effort will involve economic statisticians, the involvement of economists who can utilize the accounts for policy is essential. There are few economists in many governments and even fewer environmental economists.

C. Training tends to be provided in intensive workshops, which is sufficient for a general introduction to environmental accounting, but not sufficient for implementation. The 10-

years' experience of the NRAESA Programme in Africa indicates that extensive, long-term technical support is required.

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

Namibia and Botswana have been driven by policy demand from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (Namibia) and the National Conservation Strategy Agency (Botswana).

Newly initiated work in Tanzania and Ethiopia is largely donor-driven.

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

Water: pricing and allocation, rural development strategies

Fisheries (Namibia): quota levies

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

Namibia: water accounts have been taken over by Department of Water Affairs; other accounts compiled by Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Botswana: environmental accounts implemented by National conservation Strategy Agency.

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

High staff turnover in government with a constant need for training and technical support.

Technical training and support in how to use the environmental accounts for policy analysis.

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

- A. Promote recognition of environmental accounting in international institutions—so that it is included in PRSPs, MDGs and international sector initiatives for water, forestry, etc.
- B. Provide technical support and training for countries that want to implement environmental accounting
- C. Provide information and training for the policy applications of environmental 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?

Additional comments: