



Programme of Work for the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EEA)

United Nations Statistics Division

9th Meeting of the UNCEEA



Overview

- Technical Committee on the SEEA-EEA
- Advancing the SEEA-EEA Research Agenda
- Output/events for the near future
- UNSD-UNEP-CBD project on “Advancing the SEEA-EEA in pilot countries”



SEEA-EEA Technical Committee

- At its 45th session, the Statistical Commission agreed to establish a technical committee on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting to advance its research and testing agenda prioritizing those issues that could be solved in the short to medium term.
- Pre-meeting in June 2014



SEEA-EEA Technical Committee

Mandate:

- Advance the research agenda on ecosystem accounting within the general framework provided by SEEA-EEA

- Identify and recommend best practices to pilot SEEA-EEA
 - use of models and tools
 - testing of methods for measuring ecosystem services
 - testing of methods for measuring and reporting ecosystem condition and capacity;

- Promote the SEEA framework and the associated research and ensure sound relationships with other similar initiatives and projects;

- Assist UNCEEA in organizing relevant meetings and conferences to advance the research agenda.



Advancing the SEEA-EEA Research Agenda

The research priorities discussed at the last UNCEEAA meeting were grouped under 5 streams of work:

- a) Geospatial, having to do with land classifications, delineation of statistical units
- b) Physical measures of ecosystem services and ecosystem conditions
- c) Presentation and policy linkages
- d) Valuation techniques and approaches to aggregation
- e) Integrated accounting issues.

The areas are indicated in the order of priority as identified in the Technical Committee of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting



Issued covered by the pre-meeting

- Membership
- Programme of work of the Committee - prioritization
- Development of guidelines
- The Norwegian funded project on testing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and its role in the global strategy of the SEEA-EEA testing.



Advancing SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting project (2014)

- **Global strategy** for the testing of the SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting at the national level
- **Guidance** document and **training** material for the testing of the SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
- Support **pilot countries**:
 - assessment of policy priorities, data situation and tools used for ecosystem accounting
 - provide a national programme of work on how to advance the testing of the SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, including by using non-conventional data sources;
 - identify relevant national stakeholders beyond statistical offices (e.g. in academia, research institutions, NGOs, etc.).



Project Outputs

- Preparation of a global strategy for advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
- Development of guidance document on compilation
- Development of training material
- Communication
- Forum of experts in ecosystem accounting
- Testing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in countries



Global Strategy for advancing SEEA-EEA

- Assist countries in the testing of the SEEA-EEA and establishing incrementally the technical capacity for compiling a set of ecosystem accounts
- Build on the early experience of testing the SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in countries to
 - identify linkages and contributions to relevant initiatives, platforms and processes;
 - identify relevant data sources managed by national and international agencies and others;
 - identify tools that can develop baselines for 2016;
 - identify list of desired outputs, associated outcomes and timelines at the global and national level beyond 2015.



Guidance documents on compilation

- Provide practical guidance to countries on how to embark on SEEA-EEA through a step-by-step process
- It is intended to
 - help country expert and practitioners understand the available options for models and links to policy demand
 - explain, in particular, how to compile the data, including from non-conventional data sources (e.g. remote sensing)
 - help determine which tools may be applied in various circumstances
 - include case studies from the country pilots



Training material

- A blended learning combining online training and a follow up phase is currently planned.
- A standard set of presentations for common use will be developed as part of this exercise.



Outreach and communication

- To ensure that a clear and effective message is developed to obtain the buy-in of various stakeholders
- Communication strategy for the SEEA-EEA as part of the broader communication programme of the SEEA, to
 - determine how to profile ongoing work in countries online;
 - maintain community of practice informed of progress on implementation of project
 - profile in relevant fora and workshops
 - develop information material
 - share experiences and good practices, and lessons learned with broader country groups, through regional or sub-regional workshops.



Forum of experts in ecosystem accounting

- A forum where experts will meet in person on a yearly basis will be established and scheduled for December 2014 to discuss progress of testing of the SEEA-EEA and the research agenda
- Lead to a large, multi-stakeholder, international conference bringing together various stakeholders and communities proposed to be held in 2016 for
 - showcasing advances in research and testing of the SEEA-EEA
 - pointing to the potential for more definite methods and guidelines to be developed;
 - providing recommendation for the revision of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting



Linking SEEA-EEA with business accounting

- An international meeting on linking SEEA EEA with business accounting, data revolution and sustainable development will be held in November 2014.

- This meeting will bring together experts and practitioners from a number of areas (ecosystem accounts, business accounts, national statistical offices, users of accounts from different policy departments) to discuss
 - the role of ecosystem accounts within the context of the data revolution,
 - how to best use the ecosystem accounts to support sustainable development
 - how the ecosystem accounts can be useful to business accounts.



Testing SEEA-EEA in countries

- UNSD-UNEP-CBD project on “Advancing the SEEA-EEA in pilot countries”
- Seven pilot countries and a large group of associate country pilots.
- An assessment of policy priorities and data availabilities and develop a programme of work in 2014, which will serve as an input for the next phase of the project
- **List of countries**



Question for discussions

- Comments on the research agenda

- Comments on outputs/events for the near future
 - Preparation of a global strategy for advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
 - Development of guidance document on compilation
 - Development of training material
 - Communication
 - Forum of experts in ecosystem accounting
 - Testing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in countries