



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

**SEEA Applications and
Extensions**

Consultation Draft

SEEA Applications and Extensions

Cover Note

As part of the revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), the United Nations Statistical Commission, at its 43rd session in March 2012, supported the drafting of a document describing the potential applications and extensions to the SEEA Central Framework. This cover note accompanies the release of a consultation draft – SEEA Applications and Extensions – which is being circulated for a final round of feedback ahead of submission to the UNSC for its consideration in February 2013.

The scope, structure and audience for SEEA Applications and Extensions was determined following discussions over a number of years within the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) and the London Group of Experts in Environmental-Economic Accounting (London Group).

The attached consultation draft has been prepared over the past 12 months. The text is based on a range of contributions from experts familiar with specific areas and topics included in the draft. These contributions have been brought together by the SEEA Editor under the guidance of an Editorial Board established by UNCEEA. An earlier draft of the material was discussed by the London Group at its meeting in October 2012 and the same draft was circulated to UNCEEA members at that time.

The material in SEEA Applications and Extensions covers

- (i) applications of data from SEEA accounts to topics such as sustainable resource use; environmental efficiency; production, employment and expenditure on environmental activities; environmental taxes and subsidies; income and depletion for environmental assets
- (ii) analytical techniques related to environmental-economic analysis, in particular the use of environmentally extended input-output tables
- (iii) extensions to the data from SEEA accounts to integrate with, for example detailed household sector information and information on tourism activity.

The style of the text is such that many examples are used to illustrate the potential uses of SEEA accounts.

There are two particular areas in which it is anticipated that further work will be undertaken ahead of finalising a document for consideration at the Statistical

Commission meeting in 2013. These are (i) the completion of a listing of relevant reference material (which in the present draft is limited to references concerning environmentally related input-output analysis); and (ii) the completion of an annex providing explanations of the methods and data sources that underpin the examples presented in the text, particularly in Chapter 2. This annex was a specific request of the London Group members.

It is not intended that SEEA Applications and Extensions become an international statistical standard. Rather, this document should represent a companion to the SEEA Central Framework by providing a bridge between compilers and analysts, and by being used in promoting and supporting the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework.

Your views on the consultation draft would be appreciated. We would particularly appreciate input from both compilers and users of environmental-economic accounts and to this end you are encouraged to discuss the content of the consultation draft with relevant agencies in your country.

The deadline for comments on this consultation draft is **Thursday 31 January, 2013**. Please send comments to seea@un.org. If you have any questions concerning the consultation process or would like clarification on the content of SEEA Applications and Extensions, please contact seea@un.org.