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# SEEA Assessment in Samoa

Jillian Campbell, ESCAP

Donna Grcman, ABS

Carl Obst, SEEA Consultant

# Overview

- Background
- Policy setting
- Stakeholder assessment
- Current information/data available
- Environment statistics constraints
- Opportunities
- Conclusion and discussion

# Background

- Samoa (and SBS) noted the need for improved environment statistics
  - SBS has an environmental statistician and environment statistics is seen as part of the SSDS (Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics)
- The need for better environment data has been mentioned at high-level UN meetings
  - Post-2015 agenda / SDGs / SOE frameworks
  - Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the 2014 SIDS conference

# Methods

- SEEA implementation diagnostic tool is being piloted in Samoa
- Three days of interviews with national stakeholders
- Review of some of the existing national documentation

... this is just a first step and today's discussion will provide additional thoughts on additional steps towards implementing certain modules of the SEEA.

# National policy setting

- SDS – Strategy for the Development of Samoa
  - Integrated approach through 14 sectors including a National Environmental and Development Sector Plan (NESP)
  - Regular incorporation of environmentally related issues, for example, those concerning agriculture, fisheries, tourism, water, sanitation, waste, energy, climate change and environmental conservation.
  - Detailed planning, reviews, indicators, governance

# National policy setting

- State of Environment (SOE) Report
  - ▣ SOE includes a set of indicators for monitoring the environment
- Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics (SSDS)
  - ▣ Framework for building statistics in Samoa
  - ▣ Introduction of environmental statistics unit

# Samoa and relevant international activities

- ▣ SEEA implementation program participant
- ▣ SNA implementation program participant
- ▣ World Bank Natural capital accounting signatory
- ▣ FAO global strategy for agriculture and rural statistics pilot country
- ▣ Climate change and vulnerability assessments

# Stakeholders

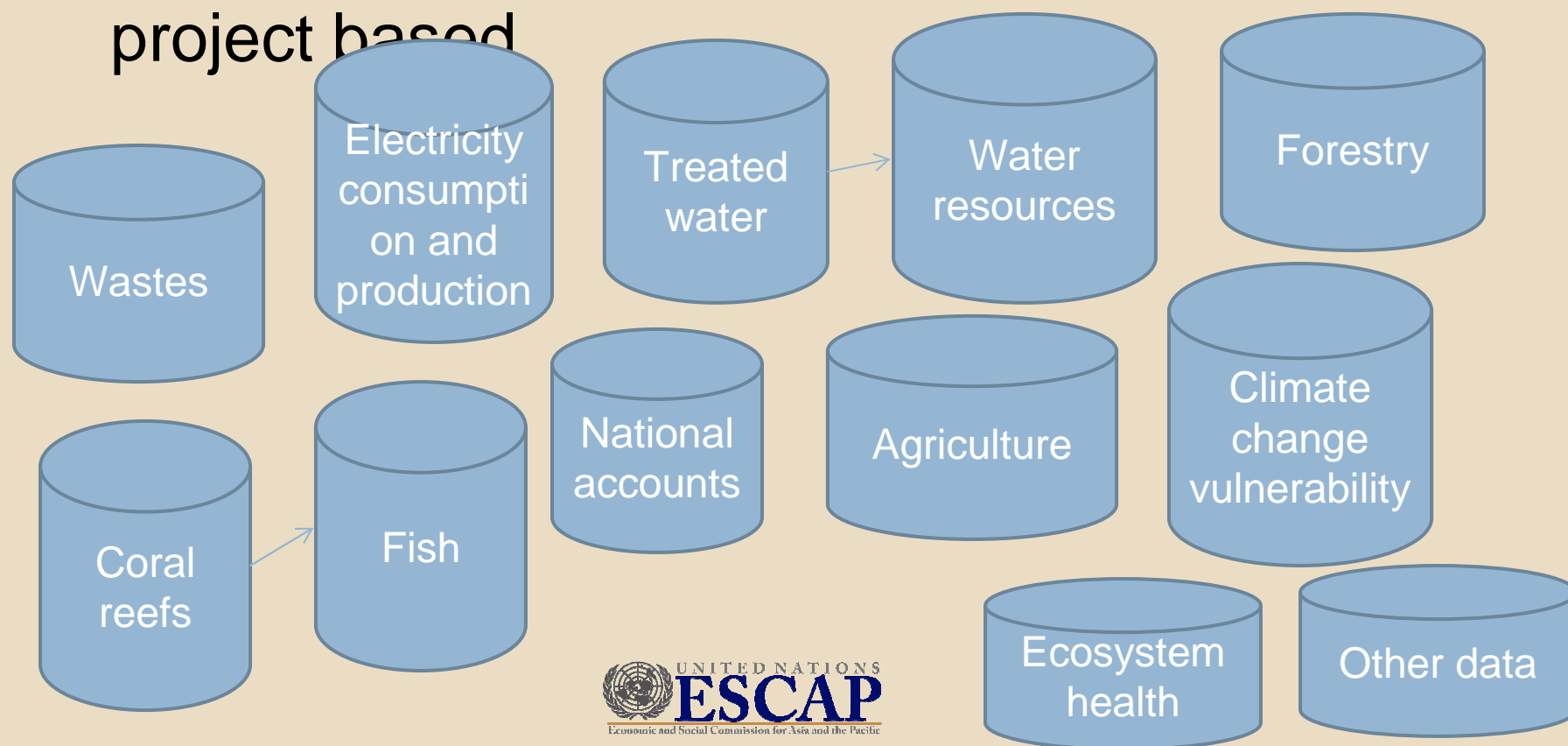
- Ministry of Finance
- Samoa Bureau of Statistics
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
  - ▣ Responsible for environmental sector, including data collections and M&E
- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Central bank, Samoa Water Authority, Electricity and Power Cooperation,
- Regional organisations (SPC, SPREP, USP, FFA)



# Data availability

- Lots of data available

... But the data is not coordinated and often project based



# Constraints and Opportunities

# Constraints

- Data spread across agencies and sections / not co-ordinated
  - ▣ Project based statistics
  - ▣ Limited data sharing or awareness of information
- Limited technical knowledge on environmental statistics
  - ▣ SBS new to this area
- Lack of regional support in environment statistics
- IT systems and data management

# Opportunities

- Better coordination could result in win-win scenarios
  - Improve data quality across sectors (including in national accounts)
  - Reduce duplication
  - Strengthen statistical literacy
  - Consistent definitions
  - Increase data use

# Opportunities

- Samoa has a strong existing institutional setting
  - ▣ Cabinet Development Committee actively integrating strategic and sector plans
  - ▣ Ministry of Finance support for integrated measures of development and sector coordinators meet regularly
  - ▣ SSDS and ongoing vision for statistics
    - Recognised status of SBS as coordinator of statistics
  - ▣ NESP has specific objectives for improving information

# Opportunities

- MNRE is currently developing an information hub
  - ▣ This could serve as a central location for basic environment statistics
  - ▣ MNRE and SBS could work together to improve the consistency of definitions, area boundaries and methods used for the indicators in the database
    - Perhaps the FDES and SEEA could provide a framework
  - ▣ The basic data in the hub could be a central location for much of the information needed for the SEEA

# Opportunities

- Developing statistical infrastructure could improve the foundation for the SNA, SEEA and other statistical compilations
- Data co-ordination and integration
- Particular potential for designing and implementing a strong business register
  - ▣ Business “lists” maintained and used by
    - revenue office
    - employment agency
    - department of agriculture and fisheries
    - Electricity and water authorities

# Findings and possibilities



# Possibilities: water accounts

- Water is a high priority issue in Samoa
- SWA has available data on production and consumption
  - ▣ Commercial and residential distinction but needs identification of industry [a business register could help improve consistent classification]
- SWA and MoH has data on water quality
- MNRE has data on water resources
- Water accounts could provide a more complete picture of how water is being used

# Possibilities: waste accounts

- MNRE has a regular audit on waste (by type) produced by businesses and households [business register could help to provide industry detail]
- Weighbridge now records weight of solid waste ahead of incineration or landfill
- SEEA framework could provide a way to link GDP and waste generation – waste efficiency measures

# Possibilities: marine and coastal resources

- Fisheries is key for economic and subsistence
- There is a recognised need for bioeconomic assessments to provide information for making decisions related to regulating catch and licences
- Available data
  - ▣ Daily catch & National fishing activity survey
  - ▣ On-boat observation data
  - ▣ Stock estimates (maintained by SPC)
  - ▣ Health of certain marine locations include coral reefs

# Possibilities: energy

- Electricity is currently centralised to one provider
- All diesel used in transport sector is imported
- Electricity generation and use data is available
  - ▣ Commercial and residential distinction but needs identification of industry [a business register could help improve consistent classification]
- EPC has noted a need to be able to better estimate the expected growth in consumption
- Link between energy production and water use could be improved

# Possibilities: other

- Land cover and land use maps
- Ecosystem condition accounts
- Tourism satellite accounts with environmental information (energy, waste, water)

# Issues to consider

- Need to reach understanding of respective roles of SBS, key users and data owners
- Clarify mechanism for decisions – authorised board
- Need for more detailed assessment of available data and its alignment with required definitions
- Important to generate small wins and then build capacity – learning by doing
- The relative importance of NSS developments (e.g. business register)

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