

*“The **interlinkages and integrated nature** of the Sustainable Development Goals **are of crucial importance** in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized.”*

Source: Preamble of Agenda 2030

SEEA and the SDGs



What is the SEEA?

*“The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) is a **framework** that integrates **economic and environmental data** to provide a more **comprehensive and multipurpose view of the interrelationships between the economy and the environment** and the stocks and changes in stocks of environmental assets, as they **bring benefits to humanity**.*

*It contains the **internationally agreed standard concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and tables for producing internationally comparable statistics and accounts**.*

*The SEEA framework follows a similar accounting structure as the **System of National Accounts (SNA)**. The framework uses concepts, definitions and classifications consistent with the SNA in order to facilitate the integration of environmental and economic statistics.*

*The SEEA is a **multi-purpose system that generates a wide range of statistics, accounts and indicators with many different potential analytical applications**. It is a flexible system that can be adapted to countries’ priorities and policy needs while at the same time providing a **common framework, concepts, terms and definitions**.”*

Source: <https://seea.un.org/>

SEEA – The common conceptual approach

How do we juxtapose environmental and economic information?

How do we define efficiency?

How do we disaggregate and compare across sectors?

How do we define productivity?

When is something considered waste?

How do we define reuse and recycling?

What is a resource?

How do we measure and classify expenditure, taxes and subsidies?

→ *The answers to these and many more questions should be consistent across indicators*
Aligning indicators to the SEEA and SNA helps build this consistency!

What does SEEA cover?



Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries



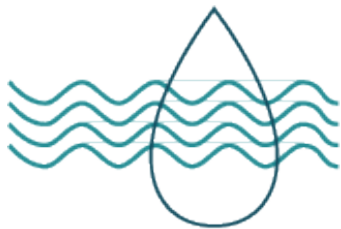
Land Accounts



Material Flow Accounts



Ecosystem Accounts



Water



Energy



Air Emissions Accounts



Environmental Activity Accounts



Measuring Sustainable Tourism

Which goals are covered by SEEA?



Who is covered by SEEA?

Table 1: Existence of environmental-economic accounting programmes in countries

	<i>Number of responses</i>	<i>Number of countries without a programme</i>	Existing programme		Planning a programme	
			<i>Number of countries with a programme</i>	<i>Percentage countries with a programme</i>	<i>Number of countries planning a programme</i>	<i>Percentage of countries planning a programme</i>
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(3÷1)	(4)	(4÷1)
All countries	109	40	69	63%	22	20%
By economic region:						
<i>Developed</i>	43	6	37	86%	3	7%
<i>Developing</i>	66	34	32	48%	19	29%
By geographic region:						
<i>Africa</i>	14	9	5	36%	6	43%
<i>Central, Eastern, Southern and South-Eastern Asia</i>	19	11	8	42%	7	37%
<i>Europe and Northern America</i>	40	5	35	88%	3	8%
<i>Latin America and Caribbean</i>	17	8	9	53%	2	12%
<i>Oceania</i>	9	3	6	67%	2	22%
<i>Western Asia</i>	10	4	6	60%	2	20%



Who is covered by SEEA?

Figure 1: Existence of environmental-economic accounting programmes in countries



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UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA)

Established by the UN Statistical Commission at its 36th session in March 2005

Intergovernmental body (Countries, International Organizations) to provide overall vision, coordination, prioritization and direction in the field of environmental economic accounting and supporting statistics.

Objectives:

- » **Mainstream environmental-economic accounts** and supporting statistics
- » **Develop the SEEA methodology** and elevate experimental components of to an international statistical standard
- » **Advance the implementation** of SEEA in countries

Global SEEA Databases

UNCEEA tasked by UN Statistical Commission to explore global databases using county data, which will facilitate use of SEEA for SDGs

Priority databases:

- energy
- air emissions
- material flow
- land
- water

SEEA Data Structure Definitions (DSDs) have been developed, tested and are now being finalized.

Aligning relevant SDG indicators with the SEEA

Progress made in aligning relevant SDG indicators with the SEEA through collaboration with custodian agencies

Example: Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- » Alignment of multiple indicators with the SEEA, including 6.4.1 (water-use efficiency) and 6.3.1 (proportion of wastewater safely treated)
- » Country testing of indicators 6.3.2 (water quality) and 6.6.1 (water-related ecosystems) as part of the work programme of the UNCEEA

However, the SEEA can inform many more indicators that are not currently aligned

Example: Goal 7, Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

- » Difference of territory vs residence principle for SDG 7 indicators
- » Use of residence principle and SEEA facilitates analysis by economic sector, promotes consistent measurement over time
- » Information derived from the SEEA can complement indicators 7.2.1, 7.3.1, 7.a.1 and 7.b.1

Conclusion

- SEEA itself does not contain predefined indicator sets for SDG reporting
- SEEA provides the statistical and accounting **framework to measure** many facets of the environment and economy **in a coherent and integrated way**
- SEEA is the **conceptual basis** for building up the required integrated indicator framework to report on interlinked and integrated SDGs.
- Global SEEA Database source for deriving global indicators
- Closer collaboration between IAEG SDG and UN CEEA required

Thanks for your attention!

Sven C. Kaumanns

Head of Section

Environmental Economic Accounts and Sustainability

Federal Statistical Office of Germany

