

Part I: Questionnaire for Country Participants

Name:

Affiliation: Coordinator of environmental accounts at Statistics Sweden

Country: Sweden

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)

Since 1993. Three government agencies have worked parallel with different issues. The results are presented in a common reporting series. Statistics Sweden (SCB) are producing physical accounts on for example energy use, air emissions, waste, chemical use, environmental taxes, environmental subsidies, environmental protection and environment industry. Also some resource accounts such as water accounts and forest accounts have been presented. The national Institute on economic research (NIER) has concentrated on the monetary valuation parts of the SEEA and has also developed a CGE-model with environmental extensions that is used for policy making. The Swedish EPA has worked with indicators for the state of the environment and is now mainly concentrating on environmental economic policy questions.

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?

People at SCB and NIER have been involved in the work of writing the manual, which has been a good experience and have triggered discussions and a common understanding of the field. The manual also serves a purpose for institutionalizing the area. We have given it to people in countries who want to start working with environmental accounts. It is also used as point of reference for newly employed.

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.).

Lack of data in certain areas, such as waste statistics. Lack of documentation of secondary sources.

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

Policy driven mainly. The work was started as a result of a commission work on how to take environment into account in economic policy. The commission had suggestions on which areas to work on but left a great deal of freedom for the work so that it could follow international good practice.

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

It has informed several commissions in areas such as environmental taxes, natural resource management, emission trading, chemical policy and others. Of course it does not drive policy in itself but it is used as information for those who take decisions or make models to understand the issues.

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

We will continue with the work. Some areas that are likely to expand are environment industry and the inclusion of more social data to help to inform policies on sustainable development.

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

Some use areas are hampered by time lags in the data sets.

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

To enhance the use of environmental accounts. To bring together some of the efforts of the OECD (on e.g. taxes, subsidies and sustainable development issues), and other large actors with the accounting community for managing sustainable development.

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?

If the international use of the data increases this would mean we could do more analyses on an international scale. This would of course increase its policy use.

Perhaps to make a checklist on policy questions and how to get started on the parts of the SEEA with most relevance for a particular country. To create a website where it is easy to find analyses that are being made.

Additional comments: