

SEEA Technical Notes and Core Tables and Accounts

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Background

- **The general purpose** : to summarize, for a given topic, a range of relevant features and considerations within a limited number of pages (e.g. 10-15) to support countries in the implementation of the SEEA. Focus on **policy relevance** of the accounts and tables, addressing key policy issues
- In 2012 and 2013 some initial work was done on the development of the technical notes by members of the London Group.
- The **Statistical Commission** at its last session (March 2014) stressed the importance of finalizing a set of technical notes to support countries in the implementation of the SEEA

Work done so far.....

	State of the debate note	Draft technical note	Core tables included in the draft technical note
Water		X	X
Energy	X	X	X
MFA and waste	X		
Air emission			
Land		X	
Forest			
Environmental protection expenditures	X		
Environmental goods and services	X		
Environmental taxes and subsidies	X		
Minerals			
Aquatic resources			
Tourism			
Agriculture			
Nutrient and phosphorous balances			
Carbon accounting			
Biodiversity accounting			

What are core tables and accounts?

- The **main function** of the core tables and accounts is to assist countries in the implementation of the SEEA by making clear to compilers what data is included in the core tables and accounts and what key information can be derived.
- **The core accounts** are the key accounts from SEEA CF that are relevant for the topic of the technical note. In the technical notes these core accounts should be described with regard to the key concepts, structure, accounting identities and classification without going into much detail.
- **The core tables** provide an aggregated set of data which provides enough information to derive relevant indicators. The data in the core tables directly comes from the core accounts, but is combined with other relevant data sources such as the national accounts and labour statistics.



General principles for constructing the core tables

- **Number of core tables.** The aim is to provide one or two core tables for each technical note.
- **Physical and monetary data.** Where relevant, the core table combines both physical and monetary data.
- **Keep it simple.** The SEEA core tables must be kept relatively simple, as they primarily aim to assist new compilers and non-statistical users of the data.
- **Indicators.** Indicators and useful aggregates that can be derived from the core table are to be described in the section directly following the description of the core tables and accounts.



Template of SEEA Technical Notes

1. Introduction and general description (half page)
2. Core accounts
3. Core tables and relevant aggregates / indicators
4. Compilation
5. Data quality
6. Extensions and links
7. References and links
8. Annex



Workprocess: prioritization

- Water accounting
- Energy accounting
- MFA and waste accounting
- Air emission accounting
- Land accounting
- Forest accounting
- Environmental Protection Expenditures Accounting
- Environmental Goods and Services Sector
- Environmental taxes and subsidies

Workprocess: Responsibilities

- *SEEA technical committee* will provide overall technical guidance to the process by providing general guidelines (this paper), checking and reviewing the technical content of the draft SEEA technical notes and core tables
- *London group topic leaders* will collect all relevant material for the topic of their technical note and submit this material to the editor. They will assist the editor when additional questions arise.
- *The editor* collects all relevant material and is responsible for drafting the technical notes and core tables, including revising old drafts based on comments received.

Timeline

- June 2014 – UNCEEA to review the proposed structure of the technical notes along with draft notes for water, energy and environmental goods services
- July-October 2014 - Editor to draft technical notes with input from London group topic leaders
- End of September – Editor issues the initial drafts of the Technical notes
- October 2014 – London group will review and provide comment on drafts of the technical notes
- October-November 2014 – Broad consultation on the technical notes
- December 2014-Submission of Technical notes to Bureau of UNCEEA for its consideration

Points for discussion

- Have you any comments with regard to the proposed set up of the core tables and accounts ?
- Have you any comments with regard to the proposed structure of the Technical notes ?
- How to bring the process forward ?

