



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

SEEA Revision
Chapters 1-6

Comment Form

Global Consultation Comment Form

Revised SEEA Chapter 1 - 6

Deadline for responses: 7 December 2011

Send responses to: seea@un.org

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Your country/organization:	Mexico/INEGI
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To submit responses please save this document and send it as an attachment to the following e-mail address: seea@un.org.

The comment form has been designed to facilitate the analysis of comments. In Part I general comments on the general style, content and coverage of the chapter are sought. In Part II any technical and other comments should be included.

Relevant documents

Before submitting responses you are encouraged to read the accompanying papers available on the website.

Revision of the SEEA: Draft Version for Second Round of Global Consultation, October 2011 – Chapters 1 – 6

Reading guide for the SEEA Revision Second Round of Global Consultation

Supporting material for selected classifications and lists in the revised SEEA

Part I: General comments

This is the first global consultation based on the complete set of chapters for the SEEA Central Framework. In this section please provide general comments on the drafts chapters. You may like to consider providing comments on the style and tone, the content and coverage, and the general accessibility of the material.

First, we consider that the numbering of the document could be a cause of confusion. We refer specifically to the sequence of the paragraph number and the section where it belongs. For example, in Chapter 4, the section 4.2.6 is followed by paragraph 4.34, which seems not to carry a sequential order.

4.2.6 Environmental producers

4.34 Relevant sets of environmental producers can be defined but, as for environmental

On the other hand, we would like to remark that the document properly addresses the feeling of the experts on environmental accounting in respect to the issue of valuation. In this sense, while more difficult is the physical quantification of resources, is more complex the monetary valuation. For instance, the valuation of aspects such as water pollution results less complicated due to the availability of more statistics elements. Nevertheless, for the case of biodiversity, for instance, the complexity of its valuation coincides with its problematic physical quantification. Therefore, a good alternative could be the use direct methods such as revealed preferences or hedonic prices, which are mentioned in reviewed chapters.

Part II: Technical and other comments

In the box below please supply any additional comments including those of a more technical nature. As this is the first consultation where the complete 6 chapters have been released, comments on the consistency of the technical content across the chapters would be appreciated.

Please reference your responses with the relevant paragraph number or section number.

On the issue of water resources, the draft incorporates the concept of "hydrological water consumption" which should be aligned with future updates of thematic manuals, which in this case is the SEEA Water.

Regarding Chapter 4, we agree that the classification of environmental activities (CEA), include only those whose final cause is environmental protection or natural resource management, as mentioned in paragraphs 4.12 and 4.13, and that the use of resources and minimization of risks from natural disasters should be considered as economic activities.

In addition, we agree with the inclusion of classification's annexes as part of the SEEA, including rankings and lists related, that would provide an explanation of the activities of the CEA, among others.

We feel that the problem with subsidies and similar financial transactions and environmental taxes are not a matter of concept but rather a practical problem, which requires identifying the environmental component, and this is a complicated task since in many cases the statistics of the countries may restrict to some extent registration of such transactions related to the environment.

On the other hand, Chapter 6 presents some frames that incorporate physical and monetary units. It would be interesting to include some numerical examples (not for specific countries)

of hybrid frames regarding the theme of environmental protection expenditures, which may provide useful indicators for the analysis of certain sectors of the economy and the state of the reserves of natural resources and the quality of the environment.