



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 (requested extension to 16 December)

Send responses to: seea@un.org

Your name:	Donna Livesey/Rocky Harris
Your country/organization:	UK/Office for National Statistics and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Contact (e.g. email address):	Environment.accounts@ons.gsi.gov.uk

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.

The SEEA Central Framework is well-structured and the chapters are helpfully written. We have been referencing the draft chapters in support of recent developments to the UK Environmental Accounts and have found it invaluable. Chapter 6 is also a welcome addition in demonstrating the potential of the accounts and bringing to life the importance of the connection to the SNA framework.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the Editor and supporting Editorial Board for the efforts made to address the points raised during the global consultation process.

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.

Chapters 1 and 2

All of the information in this chapter is important but as a chapter it is performing a dual role – introducing the SEEA and SEEA ‘family’ and introducing the SEEA Central Framework. It is only really when we get to section 1.6 that it starts to become explicit that these chapters represent the SEEA Central Framework. A welcome addition up front would be a visual representation of the SEEA ‘family’ and its component parts, how they all make up (or will make up) the sum of the SEEA, and what is the role of the Central Framework. This should extend not only to the 3 volumes but also SEEA-Energy etc.

A table in support of this with a brief description of what each of the elements bring to the SEEA would complement such a diagram.

The introduction is then well placed to talk in broad terms about the SEEA, before shifting to the Central Framework. There was an attempt at something similar in drafting SEEA-Energy which might be a helpful starting point.

This would also help provide some early context for Chapter 2 where the ‘SEEA framework’ is discussed and then the ‘SEEA Central Framework’. This is very similar terminology and having that contextual diagram up front would be really useful for the reader as they move through this and the other chapters.

Chapter 3

Para 3.28. Worth noting that when comparing extraction of natural products by an industry with monetary SUT, you need to be aware of whether the value of household production is included in the latter.

3.149. The term ‘use of energy from energy products to manufacture non-energy products’ is wrong, as it is not the energy which is being used. What we are trying to account for is

the energy potential of that use. Hence the clause needs to read: 'the use of energy products as a non-energy input into production processes'. NB we should note that this is not a final use of this energy – it can come back into the energy supply in the form of waste oils etc and then be used as an energy input into production processes. Worth revisiting 6.120 and Table 6.5.2 with these comments in mind.

3.243. The term 'emissions from soil as a consequence of cultivation' is too restrictive – emissions can arise through any disturbance of the soils, whether it be for building purposes, land clearance or extraction of peat. Also note that unintended but anthropogenic forest and grassland fires are not natural processes and should be included.

Chapter 6

6.17. A more common problem is that consumption in monetary terms often does not take place at the same time as use in physical terms – nearly all energy use falls into this category and can distort estimates of carbon emissions. It can also be significant when stockpiling occurs (e.g. in recording the Raw Material Equivalent of precious metals).

6.20. Repeats first part of 6.16. Could make more of the advantage of commonality of language as well as concepts.

6.59. This could be strengthened by reference to converting estimates of resource use/environmental pressures by industries into estimates of resource use/pressures relating to product groups.

6.73. This applies increasingly to renewable energy generation as well.

6.137 to 6.144. Would be worth revisiting the balance of this text with that on energy and water, e.g. the comments in 6.143 apply equally to the energy accounts. The section also needs more of a lead in to Input-Output analysis.

6.143. The main adjustment in getting from energy balances/emissions inventories to accounts is the allocation of own account and household direct transport use/emissions, not the adjustment for non-residents.