

Regional Seminar on Developing an Implementation Strategy for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework in the Latin American and Caribbean Region

Agenda

Thursday 19 September 2013

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

I. Opening (9:00-9:30)

Brief opening statements will be made by the host/lead country. International agencies will add the international and regional perspective to the objectives of the regional seminar in initiating the development of an implementation strategy for the SEEA Central Framework in the region.

Opening remarks:

- IBGE
- ECLAC
- World Bank
- UNSD

Objectives of the Seminar

- UNSD

Adoption of agenda

II. Policy demands and priorities to monitor the interactions between economic and other human activity and the environment (09:30 – 13:00)

The session will be divided into three parts that will discuss the growing policy demands and priorities to monitor the effect of economic and other human activity on the environment in the region. Several initiatives have demonstrated that continuing economic growth and human welfare are dependent upon the benefits obtained from the environment and there are growing concerns about the effect of each country's economic activity upon the global, regional and national environment. Countries will have opportunities to discuss the growing policy demand and priority and the uses of SEEA in response to policy needs.

Presentations

Part 1.

Global context, international initiatives and policy applications of SEEA (60 min)

- Post 2015 agenda, green economy and other initiatives (UNSD)
- Policy applications of SEEA (World Bank)
- SEEA implementation plan and the science-policy interface (UNEP)

Part 2.

Regional development issues and policy (30 minutes)

Presentations:

- ECLAC

Coffee break (11:00 – 11:30)

Part 3.

Policy issues, priorities and potential/current applications of SEEA in response to this issues (90 minutes)

Country presentations

- Brazil
- Costa Rica
- Colombia
- Guatemala
- Peru

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

III. The SEEA Central Framework and suggested core tables (14:00-17:30)

This session will provide an on overview of the SEEA and its subsystems and present suggested core tables for water. Countries will show how they have implemented the tables. All countries are invited to discuss the suggested core tables.

Presentations:

- Introduction to SEEA and Core Tables
 - UNSD
- The SEEA and example of core tables for water, forest and environmental protection expenditures (tbc)
 - Water
 - UNSD
 - Brazil
 - Colombia

3:30 – 4:00 Coffee Break

- Energy
 - UNSD
 - Canada
- Other countries presentations

- Peru
- Ecuador

Presentations:

- Discussion (30 min)

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IV. Global and Regional initiatives for implementing the SEEA Central Framework and the development of environmental economic accounts (9:00-10:30)

In this session UNSD will present the global strategy for the SEEA implementation and ECLAC will present a draft regional implementation strategy.

During this session participants will be invited to provide feedback on the draft strategy that will be further developed based on the outcomes of the seminar and a regional consultation to take place in November 2013.

It is expected to have the regional strategy finalised by end of December 2013.

Presentations

- Global implementation strategy (UNSD)
- Draft regional implementation strategy (ECLAC)
- Discussion (30 min.)

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

V. Self-assessment concerning the implementation for the SEEA Central Framework and the SEEA diagnostic tool (11:00-13:00)

The seminar will present the SEEA diagnostic tool, which is critical for countries to carry out self-assessment concerning their SEEA implementation for selected modules and to determine which accounts are needed to meet policy demands. Countries will have opportunities to provide feedback on the implementation guide and the rapid diagnostic tools and discuss its usefulness in conducting the planned self assessment. Depending on the attendees present from countries, additional time may be spent attempting to complete sections of the rapid diagnostic tool.

Presentations

- SEEA implementation guide and diagnostic tool (20 min)
 - UNSD
- Country discussions in groups

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

V. Self-assessment concerning the implementation for the SEEA Central Framework and the SEEA diagnostic tool (Cont'ed)

Report back to plenary

VI. Agreement on Next Steps for the Regional SEEA Implementation

This session will call for the establishment of a regional and national institutional mechanism and multi-year development strategy that drive the regional implementation strategy, and seek commitments from all stakeholders in the countries and international donors for the development of environmental economic accounts in the region.

Participants will discuss the steps and timeline for completing a national self-assessment using the implementation guide and diagnostic tool by the end of 2013. This would include development of a statement of strategy outlining the policy priorities, institutional framework, accounts to compile and strategies for improving data availability. The results from the national self-assessments would provide additional information for the draft regional implementation strategy.

Discussion

VII. Closing

Closing remarks by the organizers