

Regional Seminar on Developing an Implementation Strategy for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework in the ECOWAS and COMESA Regions

12-13 December 2013

Kampala, Uganda

Agenda

Thursday 12 December 2013

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

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

Brief opening statements will be made by the host/lead country; sub-regional, regional and international agencies will elaborate on the sub-regional, regional and international 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

Objectives of the Seminar

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 relationship between economic, other human activity and 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 (45 min)

- Post 2015 agenda, and the role of statistics (UNSD)
- Policy applications of SEEA (World Bank) (UNDP/UNSD)

- Other

Part 2.

Regional development issues and policy (EAC, AfDB, EAC)

Coffee break (11:00 – 11:20)

III. Overview of the SEEA

In this session and overview of the SEEA Central Framework and the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting will be provided.

Presentations:

- Introduction to SEEA
 - UNSD

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

IV Selected country presentations

- Ethiopia
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- Tanzania
- Uganda

IV. The SEEA Central Framework suggested core tables

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:

- The SEEA and example of core tables for water (UNSD)
- Discussion

Friday 13 December 2013

V. Global and regional initiatives for the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework

This session will present the global SEEA implementation strategy and the initial statement of strategy that countries are encouraged to develop.

Presentation

- SEEA implementation strategy and initial statement of strategy (UNSD)
- WAVES programme (World Bank)

VI. Self-assessment concerning the implementation for the SEEA Central Framework and the SEEA diagnostic tool

This session will discuss in greater details the implementation strategy for the SEEA Central Framework, focusing on the first and second phase. The aim of the implementation strategy is to assist countries in the adoption of the SEEA Central Framework and to establish the technical capacity for regular reporting on a minimum set of environmental-economic accounts. 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 carry out an initial self assessment using the rapid diagnostic tools and present their findings during the session.

Presentations

- SEEA implementation guide and diagnostic tool
- Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

Self assessment exercise by countries (90 min)

- Self assessment exercise– rapid diagnostic tools
- Identification of policy priorities and types of accounts and tables to answer the policy questions.
- Presentation of the preliminary findings of the self assessment for each country

1:00 – 2:00 Lunch

VII. Regional and national initiatives for formulating strategy for the implementation for the SEEA Central Framework and the development of environmental economic accounts (13:30-15:30)

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

It is expected that countries will discuss the possibility of drafting an initial statement of strategy for the SEEA Central Framework which should include: the establishment of a multi-stakeholder committee; an overview of the main policy questions; an assessment of data availability; identification of challenges and opportunities for the SEEA implementation; selection of possible priorities; and, the delineation of a programme of work with short and medium term benchmarks.

Presentations

- Draft recommendations on developing an initial statement of strategy for the SEEA Central Framework – country report back discussions
- Discussion (1 hour)

VIII. Closing (15:30-16:00)

Closing remarks by the organizers (30 min)