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SEEA Assessment in Samoa

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Overview

- Background
- Policy setting
- Stakeholder assessment
- Current information/data available
- Environment statistics constraints
- Opportunities
- Conclusion and discussion

Background

- Samoa (and SBS) noted the need for improved environment statistics
 - SBS has an environmental statistician and environment statistics is seen as part of the SSDS (Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics)
- The need for better environment data has been mentioned at high-level UN meetings
 - Post-2015 agenda / SDGs / SOE frameworks
 - Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the 2014 SIDS conference

Methods

- SEEA implementation diagnostic tool is being piloted in Samoa
- Three days of interviews with national stakeholders
- Review of some of the existing national documentation

... this is just a first step and today's discussion will provide additional thoughts on additional steps towards implementing certain modules of the SEEA.

National policy setting

- SDS – Strategy for the Development of Samoa
 - Integrated approach through 14 sectors including a National Environmental and Development Sector Plan (NESP)
 - Regular incorporation of environmentally related issues, for example, those concerning agriculture, fisheries, tourism, water, sanitation, waste, energy, climate change and environmental conservation.
 - Detailed planning, reviews, indicators, governance

National policy setting

- State of Environment (SOE) Report
 - ▣ SOE includes a set of indicators for monitoring the environment
- Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics (SSDS)
 - ▣ Framework for building statistics in Samoa
 - ▣ Introduction of environmental statistics unit

Samoa and relevant international activities

- ▣ SEEA implementation program participant
- ▣ SNA implementation program participant
- ▣ World Bank Natural capital accounting signatory
- ▣ FAO global strategy for agriculture and rural statistics pilot country
- ▣ Climate change and vulnerability assessments

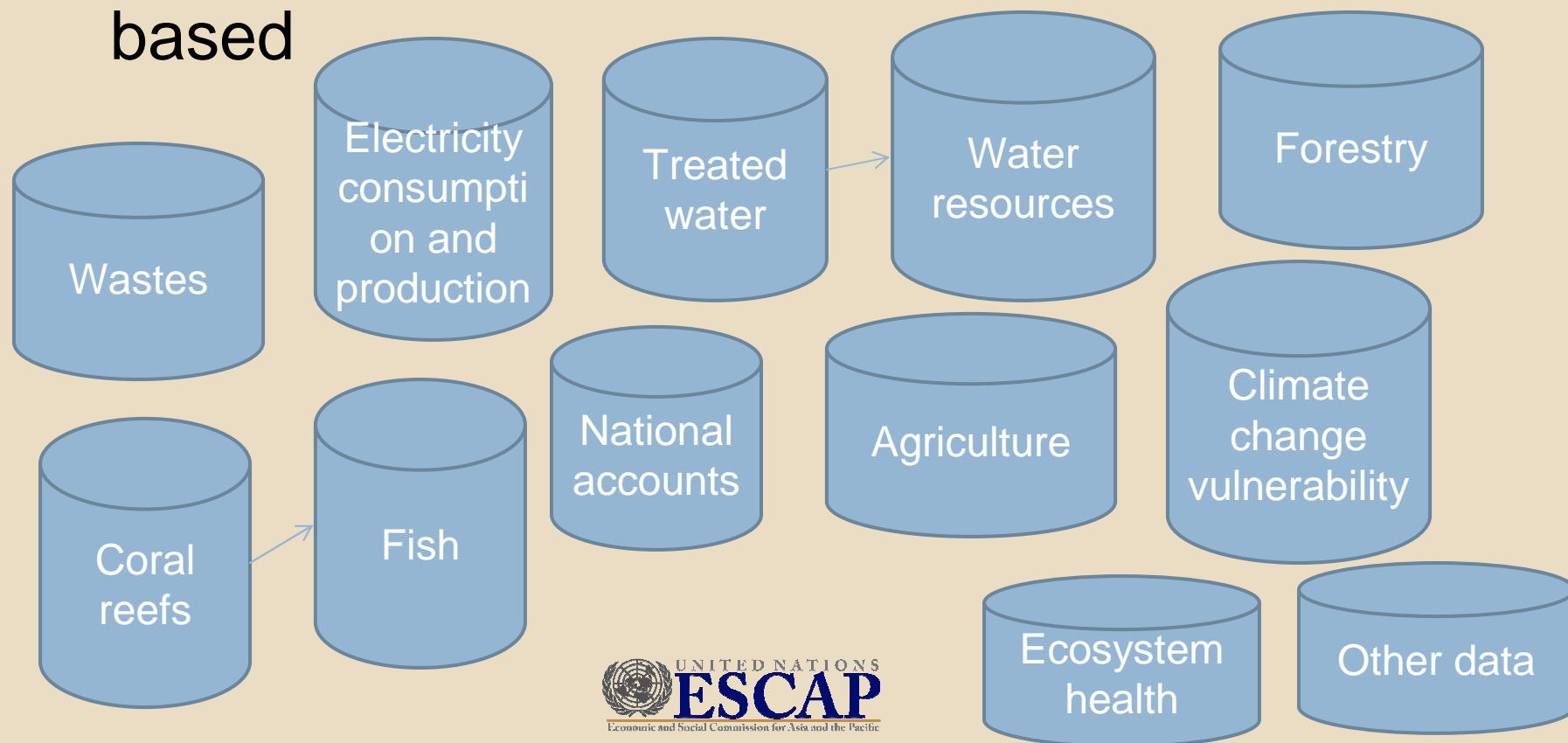
Stakeholders

- Ministry of Finance
- Samoa Bureau of Statistics
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
 - ▣ Responsible for environmental sector, including data collections and M&E
- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Central bank, Samoa Water Authority, Electricity and Power Cooperation,
- Regional organisations (SPC, SPREP, USP, FFA)

Data availability

- Lots of data available

... But the data is coordinated and often project based



Constraints and Opportunities

Constraints

- Data spread across agencies and sections / not co-ordinated
 - ▣ Project based statistics
 - ▣ Limited data sharing or awareness of information
- Limited technical knowledge on environmental statistics
 - ▣ SBS new to this area
- Lack of regional support in environment statistics
- IT systems and data management

Opportunities

- Better coordination could result in win-win scenarios
 - Improve data quality across sectors (including in national accounts)
 - Reduce duplication
 - Strengthen statistical literacy
 - Consistent definitions
 - Increase data use

Opportunities

- Samoa has a strong existing institutional setting
 - ▣ Cabinet Development Committee actively integrating strategic and sector plans
 - ▣ Ministry of Finance support for integrated measures of development and sector coordinators meet regularly
 - ▣ SSDS and ongoing vision for statistics
 - Recognised status of SBS as coordinator of statistics
 - ▣ NESP specific objectives on improving information

Opportunities

- MNRE is currently developing an information hub
 - ▣ This could serve as a central location for basic environment statistics
 - ▣ MNRE and SBS could work together to improve the consistency of definitions, area boundaries and methods used for the indicators in the database
 - Perhaps the FDES and SEEA could provide a framework
 - ▣ The basic data in the hub could be a central location for much of the information needed for the SEEA

Opportunities

- Developing statistical infrastructure could improve the foundation for the SNA, SEEA and other statistical compilations
- Particular potential for designing and implementing a strong business register
 - ▣ Business “lists” maintained and used by
 - revenue office
 - employment agency
 - department of agriculture and fisheries
 - Electricity and water authorities

Findings and possibilities

Possibilities: water accounts

- Water is a high priority issue in Samoa
- SWA has available data on production and consumption
 - ▣ Commercial and residential [business register could help improve consistent classification]
- SWA and MoH has data on quality
- MNRE has additional data from boreholes outside SWA mandate
- MNRE has data on water resources
- Water accounts could provide a more complete picture of how water is being used

Possibilities: waste accounts

- MNRE has a regular audit on waste (by type) produced by businesses and households [business register could help improve consistent classification]
- Weighbridge now records weight of all solid waste ahead of incineration or landfill
- Recycling products are recorded as exports
- SEEA framework could provide a way to link GDP and waste generation – waste efficiency measures

Possibilities: marine and coastal resources

- Fisheries is key for economic and subsistence
- There is a recognised need for bioeconomic assessments which would provide information for making decisions related to regulating catch and licences
- Available data
 - ▣ Daily catch & National fishing activity survey
 - ▣ On-boat observation data
 - ▣ Stock estimates (maintained by SPC)
 - ▣ Health of certain marine locations include coral reefs

Possibilities: energy

- Electricity is currently centralised to one provider
- All diesel used in transport sector is imported
- Electricity generation and use data is available
 - ▣ Commercial and residential [business register could help improve consistent classification]
- EPC has noted a need to be able to better estimate the expected growth in consumption
- Link between energy production and water use could be improved

Possibilities: other

- Land cover and land use maps
- Ecosystem condition accounts
- Tourism satellite accounts with environmental information (energy, waste, water)

Discussion

- Could there be a commitment to developing this area of statistics?
- Where do you think is the greatest opportunity or greatest need?
 - Water, waste, fisheries, energy, land coverage, ecosystems, tourism or somewhere else?
 - Should priority be given to statistical infrastructure – e.g. business register, data storage and maintenance capacity?
- What would be the best next steps? Who should lead them?

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