Statistical CommissionBackground documentFiftieth sessionAvailable in English only5 - 8 March 2019Item 3(1) of the provisional agendaItems for discussion and decision: environmental-economic accounting

International Coordination Survey 2019

Prepared by United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

International Coordination Survey 2019 – an Introduction

As the international statistical standard which integrates economic and environmental information into a common framework, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) plays a vital role in measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In reflection of this, the UN Statistical Commission at its 46th session in 2015 'Urged the Committee of Experts to advocate for and promote the scaling up of its implementation programme, exercising strong leadership in developing a concrete and well-resourced programme to support countries in implementing SEEA, with a clear timeline of objectives and deliverables.' In response, the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) updated its implementation strategy to place the SEEA implementation in the broader context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As part of the implementation strategy, the Committee aims to support the global implementation targets of having at least 100 countries with ongoing, well-resourced programmes in SEEA Central Framework accounting and 50 countries with ongoing, well-resourced programmes in ecosystem accounting by 2020. Well-coordinated capacity building efforts and the provision of targeted technical assistance are vital to reaching these goals. According to data from the <u>2017 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics</u> and updated information and data from members of the UNCEEA, 85 countries have compiled SEEA Central Framework accounts, and among them 44 countries comply with the UNCEEA definition of having implemented the SEEA (i.e., having compiled and published at least one SEEA account and having regular funding available to ensure continued publication). In addition, 32 countries have compiled SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounts, and among them 19 countries currently comply with the aforementioned UNCEEA definition. Another 27 countries are planning to compile accounts. While significant progress has been made over the last few years, additional efforts are needed to reach the implementation targets by 2020.

The current document compiles information from various international and regional organizations to identify recent, ongoing and planned capacity building activities by country. The capacity building activities identified in the current document include targeted technical assistance to countries on the compilation of specific modules, training initiatives and work carried out under environmental-economic accounting projects (among others). By sharing this programme of work, the document will help providers of assistance avoid duplication of efforts and encourage synergies when planning future activities.



Country/region	Dates	Institutions involved	Description
African countries	2018	UNECA, FAO	In Spring-Summer 2018, UNECA and FAO administered a <u>blended learning</u> <u>initiative</u> focusing on the SEEA Central Framework (agriculture, forestry, air emissions, waste, water and energy accounts). The first phase of the initiative included an e-learning course and assessment. The second phase consisted of a regional face-to-face seminar in South Africa. Participants included the national statistical offices and line ministries of Burundi, Ghana, Nigeria, Morocco, Senegal, Cameron, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameron, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Lesotho, Morocco, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Uganda, Senegal, Zambia, Togo and South Africa.
Asia Pacific countries	Ongoing	SIAP, with USP	SIAP, in collaboration with the University of South Pacific (USP), held a <u>Training Programme on Climate Change Related Statistics on the SEEA</u> , as part of SIAP's climate change-related statistics training. Countries involved included Cameroon, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Tajikistan and Thailand. Accounts covered included air emissions, ecosystem condition, EGSS, environmental subsidies and taxes, EPEA, land, timber/forest, waste, water and energy. Assistance is planned to continue in 2019, with the establishment of a sub-regional centre for training on the SEEA at USP in 2019.
Asia Pacific countries	Ongoing	ESCAP, with USP	ESCAP, along with the University of South Pacific (USP), led a subregional <u>training workshop</u> on climate change-related statistics and the SEEA for Pacific Island countries in September 2018. Countries involved included Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The training covered land, waste, water and energy accounts. Assistance is planned to continue in 2019, with the establishment of a sub-regional centre for training on the SEEA at USP in 2019.



Asia Pacific countries	August 2018	ESCAP	Several organizations and countries participated in the first <u>Asia and the</u> <u>Pacific Regional Expert Workshop on Ocean Accounts</u> . Participating countries included Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Fiji, France, Germany (contributor), Indonesia, Japan (contributor), Malaysia, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Seychelles (contributor), Singapore (contributor), South Africa (contributor), Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, UK, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. The workshop addressed spatial units and ecosystem type classifications, ecosystem services and disaster risk and climate change among other issues.
ECLAC Region	Nov. 2018	IBGE, ECLAC, UNEP	UNSD and the Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics (IBGE), in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), and the European Union, organized the <u>Regional Training</u> Workshop on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA) for countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, from 21 to 23 November 2018 in Rio de Janeiro. The training workshop was organized as part of the project "Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services" funded by the European Union, and implemented by UNSD, UN Environment and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In total around 20 countries participated with both statisticians / accountants and policy makers in attendance.
EECCA region	2017-2018	UNECE and UNSD, with Statistics Netherlands and UNDP	UNECE and UNSD held a blended learning workshop on the SEEA, involving Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The national statistical offices and ministries of environment took online, self-paced modules with webinars on the SEEA Central Framework. In January, select representatives from each country attended <u>an in-person</u> <u>workshop</u> in Minsk, Belarus. Accounts covered included air emissions, material flow, ecosystem extent, environmental protection expenditure, water and energy accounts. UNECE and UNSD provided financial support and technical experts, Statistics Netherlands provided a technical expert and UNDP provided logistical support.



EECCA region,	Ongoing	OECD, UNECE	OECD and UNECE jointly organise <u>a regular SEEA seminar</u> (with support
OECD member	Ongoing	OLCD, ONLCL	from the NSOs of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, Kazakhstan,
countries, other			Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Sweden, as well as from Eurostat and
· · · · · ·			
UN member			UNSD). The <u>most recent seminar</u> (February 2019) focuses on water,
states			environmentally related taxes and subsidies, and ecosystem accounts.
EECCA region,	2019	IEA, UNECE,	The statistics divisions of the IEA, UNECE, UNSD and ESCAP will hold a joint
Asia Pacific		UNSD and	statistics training on energy statistics and accounts and applications to policy
countries		ESCAP	in spring 2019. All EU4Energy programme countries will be involved,
			including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,
			Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Other countries,
			especially for those in the EECCA region, will also attend. National statistical
			offices, ministries of energy and ministries of environment will participate in
			the training. In addition, for the energy accounts, this workshop will be part of
			a blended learning initiative, with countries first participating in online
			modules and webinars on SEEA-Energy.
European	Ongoing	Eurostat	Eurostat provides ongoing technical assistance to member countries as well as
Union and			other European countries and candidate countries to the EU. Ongoing
other European			activities include:
countries			1) creation of handbooks and manuals and expert visits to countries;
			2) financial grants for co-financing quality improvements and the
			development of new accounts;
			3) workshops for working groups and assistance with international meetings
			such as the OECD/UNECE SEEA seminar, London Group and UNCEEA
			meetings);
			4) Provision of training courses on physical environmental accounts, monetary
			environmental accounts, water statistics and accounts, ecosystem accounts,
			waste statistics and indicator systems (SDGs);
			5) Software assistance for questionnaires and compilation tools (for energy
			accounts, calculation of footprints etc).
1	1		



South and South-eastern Asia	2018-2019	World Bank WAVES programme	In addition, in 2018, Eurostat developed an implementation plan for the European Union for SEEA accounts (European Strategy for Environmental Accounts 2019-2023).Under the WAVES programme, the World Bank is delivering a series of technical assistance initiatives and workshops to countries in South and South- eastern Asia (Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Nepal) on
			ecosystem services.
UN member states	Ongoing	UNDP, with UNSD and national	UNDP countries to support SEEA implementation through a combination of global advocacy, events, initiatives and technical work at the country level.
		partners	The <u>UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)</u> has worked with UNSD and national partners to identify synergies between biodiversity expenditure reviews (BERs) compiled by the project and the national institutes of statistics or national accounts, where available. The first example of collaboration was <u>Mexico</u> , where BIOFIN-BER collaborated innovatively with INEGI to measure environmental and energy expenditures, including those related to biodiversity. This resulted in a stronger framework to review the allocation of public, private, social resources and those derived from international cooperation. Further alignment and lessons learned are expected from the <u>BER</u> <u>in Brazil</u> on basis of the preparatory work completed in 2018. The 2018 version of the BIOFIN methodology ("The Workbook") recommends alignment with UN-SEEA and featured the case study of Mexico.
			BIOFIN works in over 30 countries. More information on BIOFIN and the countries we support is available here: <u>https://www.biodiversityfinance.net/biofin-around-world</u> .
			UNDP has also worked closely with UNSD throughout 2018 to develop strategies for leverage resources available through GEF-7 and other sources to respond to country demand for SEEA implementation.



Western Africa	2018-2019	World Bank	Under the WAVES programme, the World Bank is delivering a series of
		WAVES	technical assistance initiatives and workshops to countries in West Africa on
		programme	ecosystem services.
Western Asia	2018	ESCWA, with	Organized by ESCWA and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in
		AITRS, UNSD,	Statistics (AITRS), in collaboration with UNSD, and in coordination with UN
		UN	Environment and the League of Arab States, a blended learning workshop on
		Environment,	the SEEA Central Framework and SDG indicators was held in Jordan in 2018.
		League of Arab	Participants from national statistical offices and ministries of environment
		States	took online, self-paced modules with webinars on the SEEA Central
			Framework. In March, select representatives from each country attended an
			in-person workshop in Amman, Jordan. Accounts covered included land,
			material flow, water accounts and links to the SDGs. Select ESCWA plans to
			continue to assist countries in implementing the SEEA in 2019.
Armenia	2017-2020	European	The EEA is implementing the EU-funded European Neighbourhood
		Environment	Instrument (ENI) Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) II EAST
		Agency	project in six countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and
			Ukraine. The project aims to support the promotion of environmental
			protection by strengthening environmental governance. Activities on the
			SEEA involve both national statistical offices and ministries of environment
			and are one of several project activities. In Armenia, SEEA activities under the
			project will focus on land, forest, water, air emission, water emission, waste,
			environmental protection expenditure, environmental taxes and subsidies,
			environmental goods and services sector and ecosystem accounts.
Azerbaijan	2017-2020	European	The EEA is implementing the EU-funded European Neighbourhood
		Environment	Instrument (ENI) Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) II EAST
		Agency	project in six countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and
			Ukraine. The project aims to support the promotion of environmental
			protection by strengthening environmental governance. Activities on the
			SEEA involve both national statistical offices and ministries of environment
			and are one of several project activities. In Azerbaijan, SEEA activities under



			the project will focus on land, mineral and energy resources, energy flow,
			environmental protection expenditure and ecosystem accounts.
Belarus	Ongoing	ESCAP	ESCAP provided technical support on forest accounts and training on energy
			accounts to Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and Kazakhstan in June 2018. UNECE,
			UNDP, UN Environment, UN country teams and Austria Statistics were also
			involved in providing the assistance. In particular, UN Environment provided
			training on protected areas monitoring and information systems. ESCAP
			intends to continue assistance through supporting implementation of forest
			and energy accounts.
Belarus	2017-2020	European	The EEA is implementing the EU-funded European Neighbourhood
		Environment	Instrument (ENI) Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) II EAST
		Agency	project in six countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and
			Ukraine. The project aims to support the promotion of environmental
			protection by strengthening environmental governance. Activities on the
			SEEA involve both national statistical offices and ministries of environment
			and are one of several project activities. SEEA activities under the project will
			focus on land, forest, water, energy, environmental protection expenditure
			and ecosystem accounts.
Bhutan	Ongoing	ESCAP	ESCAP held a technical training workshop during March 2018 on waste, water
			and energy accounts. The workshop involved the NSO in addition to line
			ministries, the Gross National Happiness Commission, energy and
			transportation authorities and local officials. ESCAP plans to continue
			assistance in 2019.
Brazil	2017-2020	UNSD, UN	UNSD and UN Environment are implementing the EU-funded Natural
		Environment	Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project (NCA&VES)
			in five countries: Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa. In Brazil,
			assistance focused on piloting ecosystem accounts in the Matopiba region, as
			well as strengthening coordination mechanisms around natural capital
			accounting. Assistance will continue at least until the end of 2020 (when the
			NCA&VES project will be completed).



Burundi	2018-2019	UNECA	UNECA is providing technical assistance to Burundi for the development of
			pilot energy accounts.
Cameroon	2018-2019	UNECA, FAO	UNECA is providing technical assistance to Cameroon for the development of pilot energy and forest accounts. UNECA and FAO will provide technical assistance to compile forestry accounts in 2019.
China	2017-2020	UNSD, with UN Environment,	UNSD and UN Environment are implementing the EU-funded Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project (NCA&VES) in five countries: Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa. In China, assistance is focused on strengthening the compilation of natural resource balance sheets on land, forestry and water at the national level, and pilot ecosystem accounts in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Guizhou Province. Assistance will continue at least until the end of 2020 (when the NCA&VES project will be completed).
Ghana	2018-2019	UNECA	UNECA is providing technical assistance to Ghana for the development of pilot energy accounts.
Georgia	2017-2020	European Environment Agency	The EEA is implementing the EU-funded <u>European Neighbourhood</u> <u>Instrument (ENI) Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) II EAST</u> <u>project</u> in six countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The project aims to support the promotion of environmental protection by strengthening environmental governance. Activities on the SEEA involve both national statistical offices and ministries of environment and are one of several project activities. In Georgia, SEEA activities under the project will focus on land, water, mineral and energy, air emission, energy, material flow, environmental subsidy and ecosystem accounts.
Guatemala	2016-2019	World Bank WAVES programme	Guatemala is currently a partner country in the World Bank <u>WAVES</u> programme. Under the WAVES programme, the World Bank has delivered technical assistance, workshops and trainings to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change to develop energy, land, mineral, forest, timber, waste and water accounts.
India	2017-2020	UNSD, UN Environment	UNSD and UN Environment are implementing the EU-funded Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project (<u>NCA&VES</u>)



	-	- 1	
Indonesia	2016 2010	Morld Parala	in five countries: Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa. In India, assistance focused on modelling and valuing several key ecosystem services (crops provisioning, nature base recreation and biodiversity) and developing soil accounts at the national level, and piloting ecosystem accounts in Karnataka State. Assistance will continue at least until the end of 2020 (when the NCA&VES project will be completed).
Indonesia	2016-2019	World Bank WAVES programme	Indonesia is currently a partner country in the World Bank <u>WAVES</u> <u>programme</u> . Under the WAVES programme, the World Bank has delivered technical assistance, workshops and trainings to the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Finance to develop land, energy, carbon, forest and water accounts. Ecosystem accounts for peatlands will also be developed.
Kazakhstan	Ongoing	UNECE, UNEP and UNDP in collaboration with ESCAP and Austria Statistics	Technical support on forest accounts and training on energy accounts was provided to Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and Kazakhstan in June 2018. In addition, UN Environment provided training on protected areas monitoring and information systems. ESCAP intends to continue assistance through supporting implementation of forest and energy accounts.
Kazakhstan	2018-2020	OECD	The OECD is providing the Committee on Statistics with technical assistance and training workshops on air emissions, environmentally related taxes, EPEA, energy flow, mineral and energy resources, forest/timber, solid waste and water accounts.
Kazakhstan	Ongoing	UNECE, UNEP and UNDP in collaboration with ESCAP and Austria Statistics	Technical support on forest accounts and training on energy accounts was provided to Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and Kazakhstan in June 2018. In addition, UN Environment provided training on protected areas monitoring and information systems. ESCAP intends to continue assistance through supporting implementation of forest and energy accounts.
Kazakhstan	Ongoing	UNECE and UN Environment, in collaboration	A training workshop was held for the national statistical office, ministry of agriculture, ministry for investment and development and the ministry of energy in July 2018 on material flow, waste and water accounts and links to the SDGs. Experts from UNECE, UN Environment, United Nations University



		 with the United Nations University and Vienna University of Economics and Business 	and the Vienna University of Economics and Business provided expert technical assistance. UNECE plans to continue assisting Kazakhstan (contingent on availability of funding).
Kyrgyzstan	Ongoing	UNECE, UNEP and UNDP in collaboration with ESCAP and Austria Statistics	Technical support on forest accounts and training on energy accounts was provided to Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and Kazakhstan in June 2018. In addition, UN Environment provided training on protected areas monitoring and information systems. ESCAP intends to continue assistance through supporting implementation of forest and energy accounts.
Mexico	2017-2020	UNSD, UN Environment	UNSD and UN Environment are implementing the EU-funded Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project (NCA&VES) in five countries: Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa. In Mexico, assistance is focused on strengthening the compilation of the ecosystem extent accounts and mapping of selected priority ecosystem services (carbon, water supply and crop provisioning) at the national level and at the regional level (pilot ecosystem accounts in the Aguascalientes region). Assistance will continue at least until the end of 2020 (when the NCA&VES project will be completed).
Moldova	2017-2020	European Environment Agency	The EEA is implementing the EU-funded <u>European Neighbourhood</u> <u>Instrument (ENI) Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) II EAST</u> <u>project</u> in six countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The project aims to support the promotion of environmental protection by strengthening environmental governance. Activities on the SEEA involve both national statistical offices and ministries of environment and are one of several project activities. In Moldova, SEEA activities under the project will focus on land, water, air emission and ecosystem accounts.



Mongolia	Ongoing	ESCAP	ESCAP held a training workshop in September 2018 on water asset and physical supply and use accounts. Participants included representatives from the NSO, local authorities, water and sewage authorities, meteorology and environment ministries and other line ministries. ESCAP intends to continue assistance in 2019.
Morocco	2018-2019	UNECA, FAO	UNECA is providing technical assistance for the development of pilot energy and forest accounts. UNECA and FAO will provide technical assistance to compile forestry accounts in 2019.
Nigeria	2018-2019	UNECA	UNECA is providing technical assistance to Nigeria for the development of pilot energy accounts.
Philippines	Ongoing	ESCAP	ESCAP provided technical assistance and delivered training workshops in April and November 2018 on water asset, physical flow and emission accounts. Participants came from the Philippine Statistics Authority, line ministries and water and power authorities. ESCAP intends to continue assistance in 2019.
Rwanda	2016-2019	World Bank WAVES programme	Rwanda is currently a partner country in the World Bank <u>WAVES</u> <u>programme</u> . Under the WAVES programme, the World Bank has delivered technical assistance, workshops and trainings to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and the Ministry of Environment to develop carbon, ecosystem services, ecosystem water, land, water and mineral accounts. In addition, the World Bank has collaborated with Statistics Netherlands to deliver technical assistance and training.
Samoa	Ongoing	ESCAP	ESCAP provided technical assistance and delivered training workshops on waste, water and energy accounts in September 2018. Participants came from the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and line ministries responsible for water, waste and energy. ESCAP intends to continue assistance in 2019.
Senegal	2018-2019	UNECA, FAO	In 2018, UNECA and FAO provided technical assistance to compile forestry accounts. UNECA is currently providing technical assistance for the development of pilot energy accounts.
South Africa	2017-2020	UNSD, UN Environment	UNSD and UN Environment are implementing the EU-funded Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project (NCA&VES)



Thailand	Ongoing	ESCAP	 in five countries: Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa. In South Africa, assistance is focused on strengthening the compilation of ecosystem extent account, city region account, protected area accounts, marine ecosystem accounting at the national level and pilot ecosystem accounts in the KwaZulu- Natal region. Assistance will continue at least until the end of 2020 (when the NCA&VES project will be completed). ESCAP is assisting Thailand in preparing work for pilot ocean accounts
			through the provision of technical assistance and training workshops. In addition to the national statistical office, several line ministries, research institutions and academics are involved.
Uganda	2017-2020	World Bank WAVES programme	Uganda is currently a partner country in the World Bank <u>WAVES programme</u> . Under the WAVES programme, the World Bank has delivered technical assistance, workshops and trainings to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development as well as the Ministry of Water and Environment. Assistance has focused on ecosystem services, ecosystem water, forest, land (with a focus on forest and wetlands) and water accounts. In addition, the World Bank is coordinating with UNEP-WCMC in delivering capacity building activities.
Ukraine	2018-2019	UNECE	In October 2018, UNECE provided financial support for Statistics Finland experts to visit Ukraine to provide technical support on air emission accounts. In 2019, a study fellowship for Ukraine to visit Finland is planned. The study fellowships are being carried out as part of UNECE's capacity building programme under the UN Development Account 10 th tranche.
Ukraine	2017-2020	European Environment Agency	The EEA is implementing the EU-funded <u>European Neighbourhood</u> <u>Instrument (ENI) Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) II EAST</u> <u>project</u> in six countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The project aims to support the promotion of environmental protection by strengthening environmental governance. Activities on the SEEA involve both national statistical offices and ministries of environment and are one of several project activities. In Ukraine, SEEA activities under the



			project will focus on land, air emission, environmental protection expenditure and ecosystem accounts.
Vanuatu	Ongoing	ESCAP	ESCAP is assisting Vanuatu with land, ocean, waste and water accounts through the provision of technical assistance and training workshops. In addition to the national statistical office, several line ministries are also involved.
Zambia	2017-2020	World Bank WAVES programme	Zambia is currently a partner country in the World Bank <u>WAVES programme</u> . Under the WAVES programme, the World Bank has delivered technical assistance, workshops and trainings to the Ministry of National Development Planning and Ministry of Finance to develop ecosystem service, forest, land and water accounts. In addition, the World Bank will provide assistance to develop an integrated assessment model using the accounts.

