

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: environmental-economic accounting

Document E/CN.3/2021/10 – Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

Statement provided by:

National Statistical Office of Cuba

Statement:

Unofficial translation:

The National Statistical Office of Cuba (Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información, ONEI) considers relevant the work program of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting as well as the adoption of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, as a statistical standard, and the promotion of its implementation in countries.

The elements contained in the report of the Committee of Experts are in agreement with the policy to improve the environmental system in our country, which also contributes to the progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. There is an ample legal framework and strategic documents regarding biodiversity, ecosystems and climate change, their relationship with environmental accounting, economic valuation of ecosystem services, and economic-financial mechanisms in the environmental sphere. As a result of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), the result of international collaboration with the United Nations Development Program, accounting standards are available to record current and capital expenditures dedicated to biodiversity and environmental protection activities. Information on these expenses is obtained through the National Statistical System.

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba (Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente, CITMA) published a methodological guide for economic valuation of ecosystem goods and services and environmental damages. On this basis, the GEF / UNDP project entitled “Incorporating multiple environmental considerations and their economic implications in the management of landscapes, forests and productive sectors in Cuba” (ECOVALOR), coordinated by the National Center for Protected Areas with the participation of several institutions, including the ONEI, works on economic valuation studies of ecosystem goods and services, linking them with productive sectors, as well as on pilot implementation of some economic-financial mechanisms and a methodological proposal for the design of the environmental accounts in the country.

The ONEI also updated the methodology for collecting information on natural disasters by modifying indicators to assess damages to forests, mangroves, coral reefs, sandy beaches, flora and fauna, in order to respond to the measurement of the indicators of the Sendai Framework. All the activities carried out, together with the preparatory work to rebase the national accounts, will allow to gradually advance these issues.

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However, the financial capacities and possibilities of the countries need to be considered when directing efforts and resources to strengthen statistical and financial capacities, together with the gradual implementation of the SEEA and the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting. It is important to coordinate the funding to advance the proposed roadmaps in each of the areas that make up the work programme.

Submitted on:	2/18/2021
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