

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

1–3 and 5 March 2022

Item 3 (I) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: Environment and Economic Accounting Statistics

Document E/CN.3/2022/16 – Report of the Secretary-Environment and Economic Accounting Statistics

Statement provided by:

Stats NZ

Overview:

The Committee describes the progress that it has made over the past year as well as its future activities. The discussion is organized according to the five areas of the Committee's work: coordination and communication; methodological development for normative standards and other research; development of databases; implementation and statistical capacity-building; and business accounting. In particular, the Committee describes the implementation strategy for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Ecosystem Accounting, including the establishment of three subgroups – on forest, carbon and ocean accounting – of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting Technical Committee, as well as the formal establishment of an area E, on business accounting.

Action Taken by the Statistical Commission:

- (a) The Commission is invited to express its views on the following: (a) Proposed programme of work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting for the period 2022–2025;
- (b) Engagement of the Committee in the SNA update, as well as the International Standard Industry Classification and Central Product Classification updates;
- (c) Engagement of national statistical offices in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the development of the monitoring framework in the lead-up to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (see sect. II);
- (d) Global implementation strategy for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Ecosystem Accounting framework (SEEA-EA) (see sect. III);
- (e) Final draft of the guidelines for biophysical modelling, which is aimed at supporting the compilation of ecosystem accounting in countries (see sect. III);
- (f) Progress made in finalizing the statistical framework for measuring the sustainability of tourism (see sect. II).

Statement (refers to action items above):

Stats NZ commends the work of the Group on Environmental and Economic Accounting Statistics and has been pleased to support and contribute to the work.

StatsNZ supports the proposed programme of work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting for the period 2022–2025.

StatsNZ has been involved in the global consultation for the System of National Accounts update and have contributed to discussions about the International Standard Industry Classification and Central Product Classification where they relate to both the System of National Accounts and System of

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Economic and Environmental Accounts. Stats NZ recognises the challenge of maintaining the relevance of these classifications while also ensuring the coherence of the conceptual frameworks and classifications in this collaboration. This is an important area of debate and challenge that requires continued efforts.

Stats NZ support the plan for engagement in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the development of the monitoring framework and supports the Global implementation strategy for the System of Environmental Economic Accounting Ecosystem Accounting framework (SEEA-EA) and the final drafting of the guidelines for biophysical modelling.

Stats NZ acknowledges the exhaustive work undertaken to enable adoption of chapters 1-7 of the SEEA-EA as a statistical standard and the continuing work to improve approaches to valuation in chapters 8-11 which supports the implementation of the SEEA-EA.

Stats NZ has recently introduced new quarterly greenhouse gas emissions estimates which have provided more timely insights about New Zealand's environment alongside our quarterly economic statistics. These new statistics are also providing valuable information about how the economic recovery from COVID-19 is impacting on the environment.

Submitted on:

2/25/2021