



System of Environmental Economic Accounting



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Introduction to the SEEA and Global Implementation

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United Nations

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2. Global implementation and available resources

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE SEEA: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Sustainable development initiatives



1992: CBD Aichi Target 2

1992: Agenda 21 (Rio)

2012: The Future we Want (Rio+20)

2015: Sustainable Development Goals

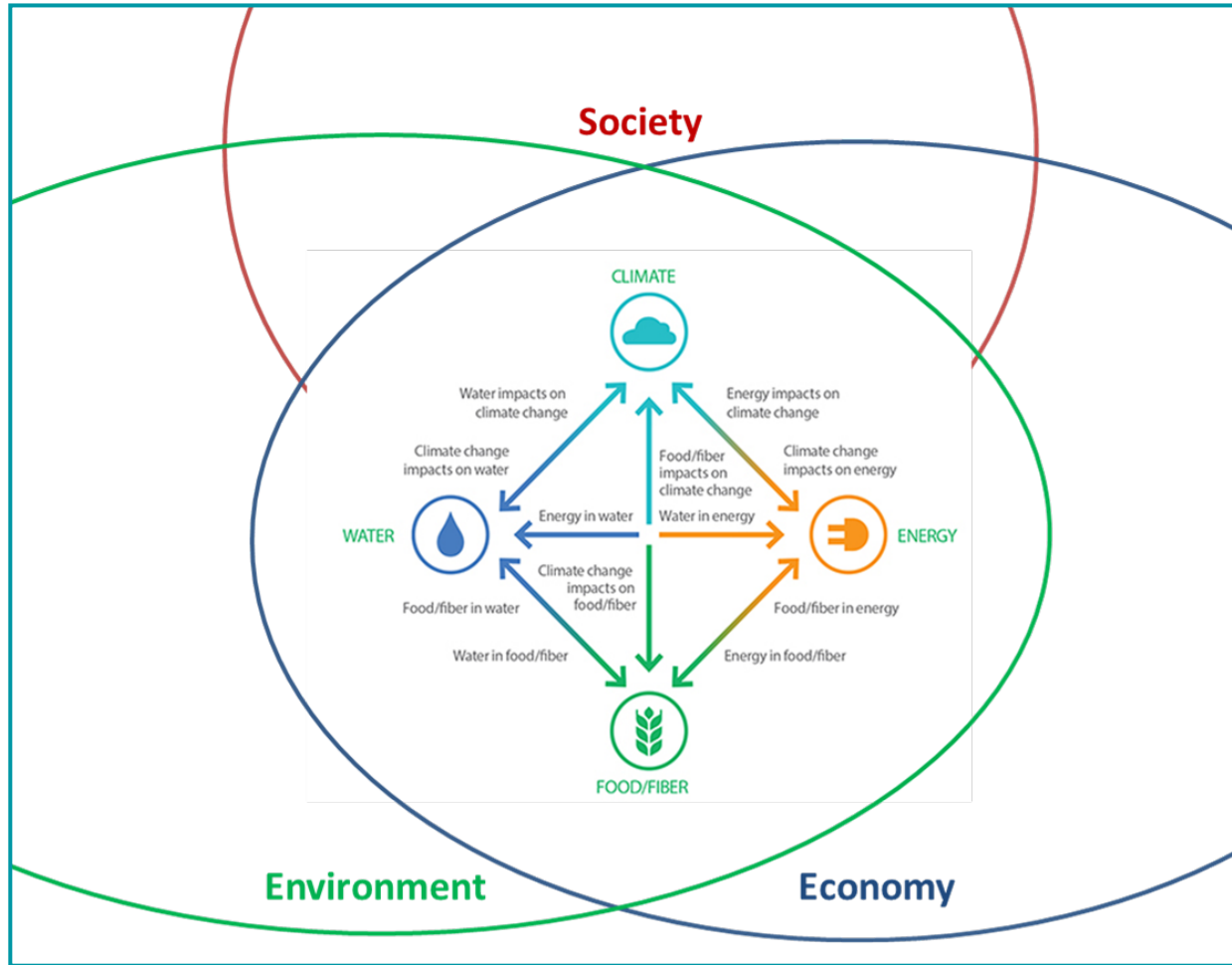
European Legislation

Good measurement for good management



- Sustainable management of the environment contributes to social and economic development
- **Accounting** for the environment means nature can be **managed** as a valuable asset and **reflected in policy**

Integration for sustainable development



Integrated
Policy

↑

Integrated
Information

Statistics for sustainable development

Sustainable Development Policy

Evidence Based

Integrated

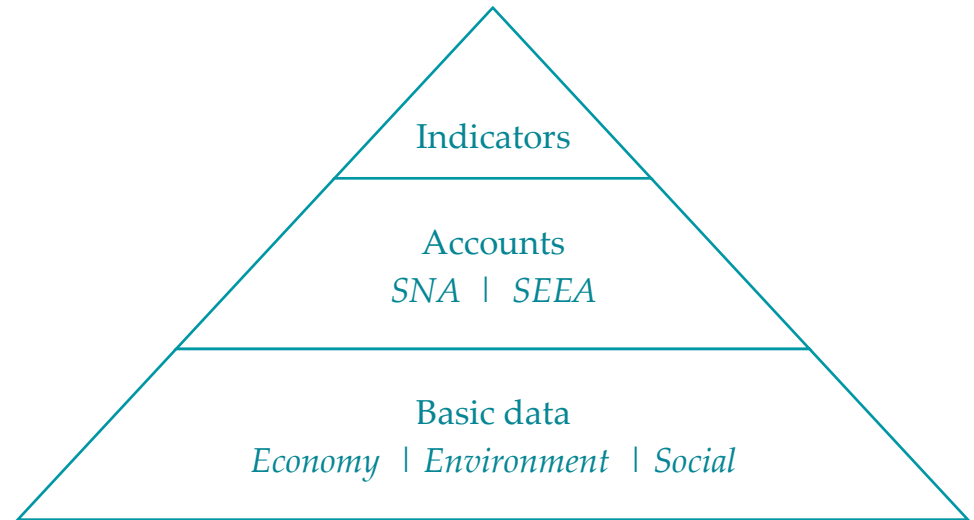
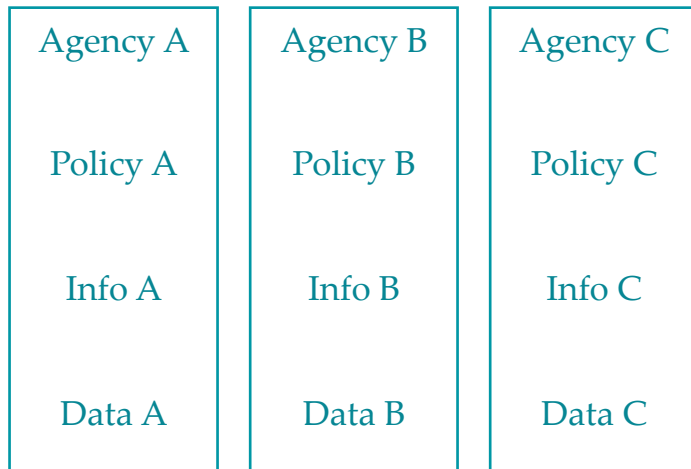
Integrated Information System

Applies a uniform
standard approach

Integrates
environmental,
economic and social
information

Captures synergies and
trade-offs

Silo approach → Integrated statistics



Accounts to integrate statistics:

- Address institutional arrangements
- Integrate statistical production process and services
- Ensure consistency between basic data, accounts and indicators

International statistical standard

- The **SEEA Central Framework** was adopted as an international statistical standard by the UN Statistical Commission in 2012
- The **SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting** complements the Central Framework and represents international efforts toward coherent ecosystem accounting



SEEA and the SDGs (1/3)

- Integration of the SDG indicator framework requires **methodological consistency** across goals
- This methodological consistency should be supported by **statistical frameworks** such as the SNA and SEEA
- Indicators based on statistical frameworks benefit from:
 - > Aligned definitions and classifications
 - > Coherence when combining environmental and economic statistics
 - > A common and comprehensive approach to disaggregation (including for all component statistics) International comparability
- UNCEEA contributions to the IAEG-SDGs:
 - > <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/>

SEEA and the SDGs (2/3)

The SEEA is relevant for a number of SDGs:



SEEA and the SDGs (3/3)

	Material Flows & Solid Waste	Energy & Carbon Emissions	Water & Wastewater	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishery	Ecosystems	Land Use & Management
Efficiency/ Productivity in the use of Natural Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do we define efficiency? How do we define productivity? 2. How do we measure efficiency/productivity in the use of natural resources? 3. How do we disaggregate and compare across sectors? 4. How do we juxtapose environmental and economic information to derive these indicators? 					
Waste Minimization and Treatment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. When is something considered waste? How is this defined? 6. How do we define reuse and recycling? How do we define 'regular collection', 'safe treatment' and 'good waste management'? 7. How do we disaggregate and compare this across sectors? 					
Sustainability and Management of Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. How do we define and compare economic uses of natural resources to their availability? 9. How do we classify and monitor management of those resources? 10. How do we use tools such as GIS and land accounting to inform this? 					
Monetary Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. How do we measure and classify expenditure, taxes and subsidies on the management for different environmental issues? 					

- The answers to these questions should be consistent across indicators.
- **Aligning indicators to the SEEA and SNA helps build this consistency**

GLOBAL IMPLEMENTATION AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Context

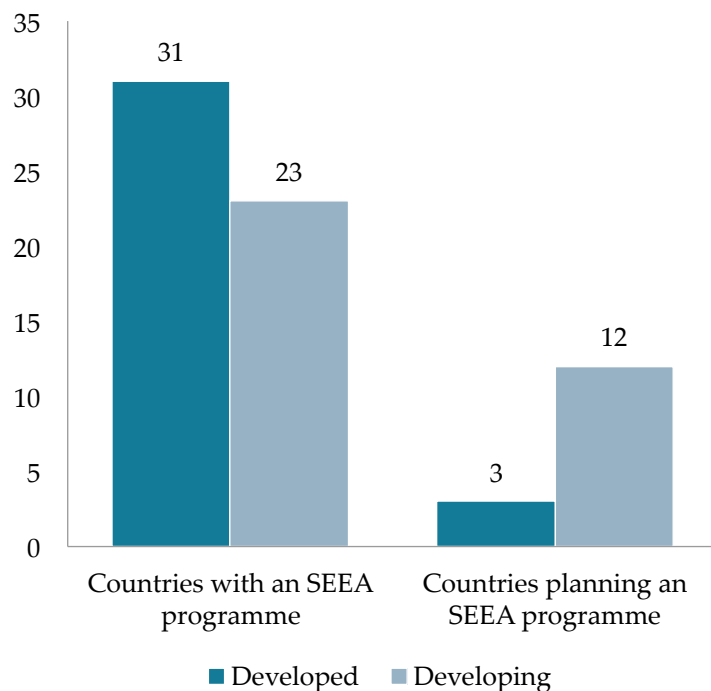
POLICY CONTEXT: International policy frameworks are aligning to use SEEA as the underlying statistical framework

DATA INITIATIVES:

- Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
- Modernization of the Statistical System
- Big Data
 - > Use of geospatial data in support of official statistics
 - > Baselines
- GGIM
 - > Setting the agenda for geospatial information
 - > Geospatial infrastructure and technology

Status of SEEA Implementation

Status of SEEA Implementation
(2014)



- Global Assessment on Environmental Economic Accounting 2014
- 84 countries responded
- 54 currently have an SEEA programme
- **Accounts most commonly compiled;**
 - Air Emissions, Material Flows, Energy
- **Priorities accounts going forward;**
 - Developed Countries: Energy, EPEA and EGSS
 - Developing Countries: Energy, Water and Environmental Taxes and Subsidies
- <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc15/BG-UNCEEA.pdf>

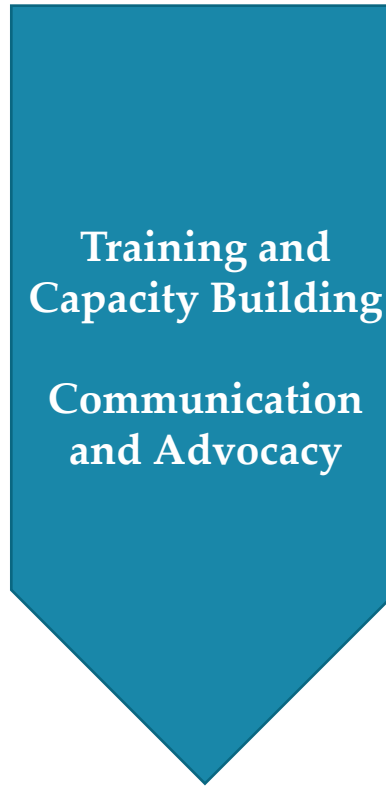
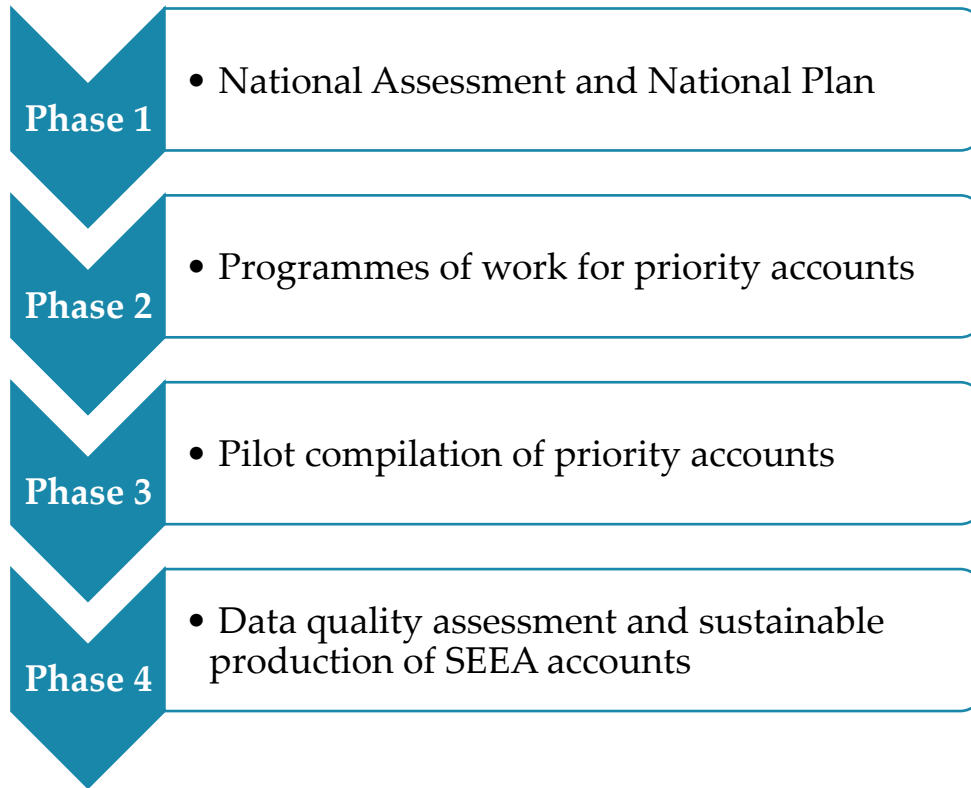
SEEA Implementation Strategy

- Updated in 2015 in response to UNSC request to step up implementation in countries (2014)
- Joint strategy for SEEA Central Framework and Experimental Ecosystem Accounts

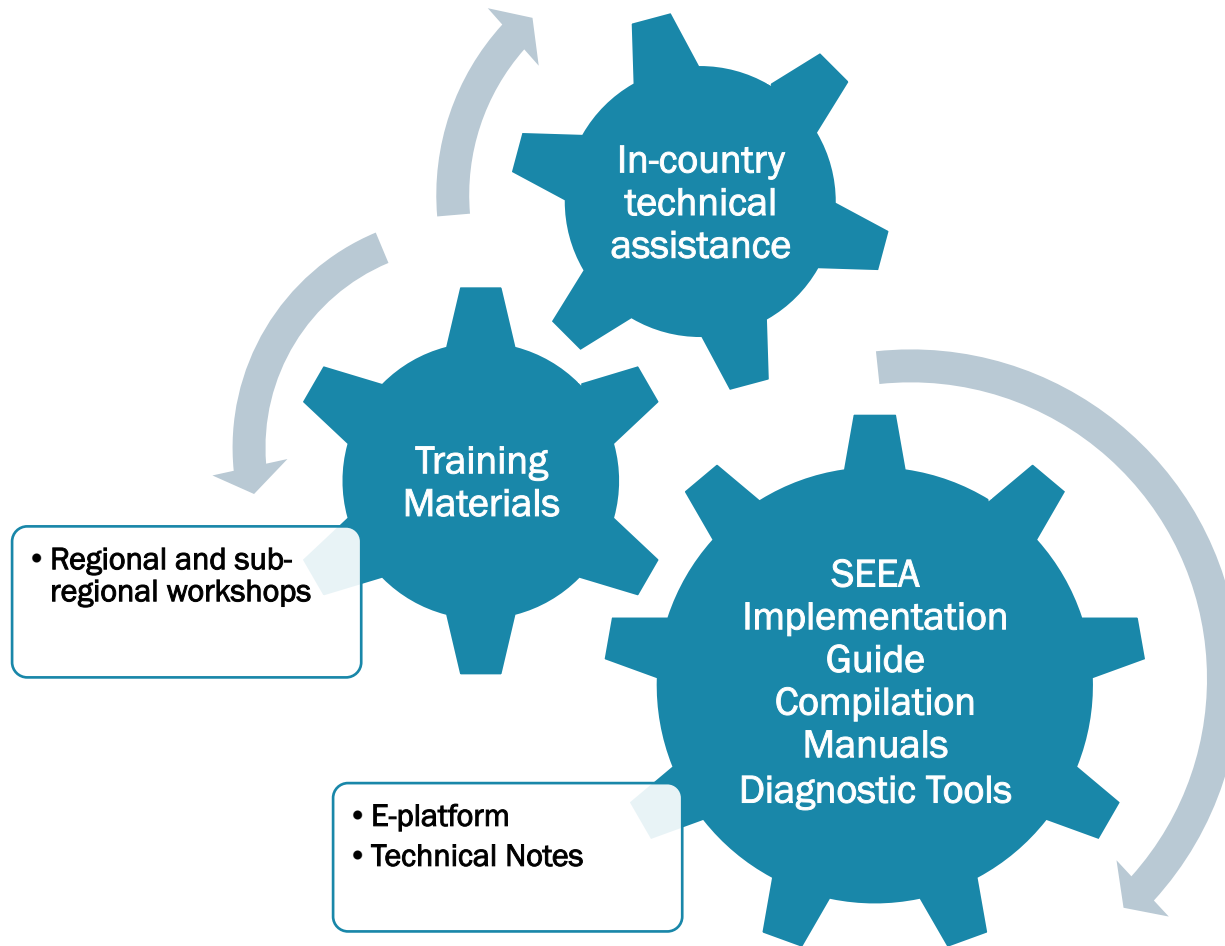
OBJECTIVES:

- Adoption of the SEEA as the **measurement framework for sustainable development**
- Mainstream the SEEA implementation in countries as part of the modernization statistical production process
- Establish technical capacity for regular reporting on a minimum set of SEEA accounts

Approach to National Implementation



Tools to Support Implementation



SEEA Resources (1/3)

- **SEEA Handbooks**
 - > Central Framework; Experimental Ecosystem Accounting; Applications and Extensions
 - > <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/seearev/>
- **Technical Notes** (*forthcoming*)
 - > Water, Energy, Land, Air Emissions, EGSS, EPEA, and Material Flow Accounts
- **Implementation Guide and Diagnostic Tool (2014)**
 - > http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/meetings/ninth_meeting/UNCEEA-9-6d.pdf
- **SEEA hotline**
 - > seea@un.org

SEEA Resources (2/3)

Ecosystem Accounting:

- **SEEA EEA Technical Guidance (2015) and Thematic Papers:**
 1. Functional approach to ecosystem accounting (March 2015)
 2. Land accounts and ecosystem extent (March 2015)
 3. Land and ecosystem condition and capacity (Jan 2015)
 4. Water and ecosystem accounting (Dec 2014)
 5. Carbon and ecosystem accounting (Dec 2014)
 6. Linkages between ecosystems asset and service accounts (Dec 2014)
 7. Compilation of data, tools and methods (Dec 2014)
 8. Spatial units, scaling and aggregation (Jan 2015)
 9. Guidelines for biophysical modelling and mapping (Dec 2014)
 10. Experimental Biodiversity Accounting as a component of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (June 2015)
- **Ongoing efforts to develop guidelines on: a) Biophysical modelling; b) Classification of ecosystem services; and c) Classification of land cover**

SEEA Resources (3/3)

- **Water Accounting**

- > SEEA Water (2007)
- > International Recommendations for Water Statistics (2010)
- > Compilation Guidelines for Water Statistics and Accounts (2014)
- > In-depth training module (forthcoming)

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/water.asp>

- **Energy Accounting**

- > SEEA Energy (forthcoming)
- > International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (forthcoming)
- > In-depth training module (forthcoming)

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/energy.asp>

International bodies for SEEA

United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting (UNCEEAA)

The governing body for the mainstreaming and implementation of the SEEA. Established by the UN Statistical Commission at its 36th Session in 2005.

Chair: Bert Kroese, Statistics Netherlands || Secretariat: UNSD

Technical Committee of the SEEA
Central Framework

Technical Committee of the SEEA
Experimental Ecosystem Accounts

London Group on Environmental Economic Accounting

Forum of Experts on SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

Concluding thoughts

- Increasing information needs are arising
- Implementation of the SEEA is being scaled up
- SEEA is an important statistical framework for the SDGs
- There are a wide range of resources available from UNSD



THANK YOU

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