System of Environmental Economic Accounting
Setting the scene

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What does the Statistical Community have to offer to the NCA discussion?

- United Nations Statistical Commission is the statistical standard setting intergovernmental process, part of ECOSOC
- The UN Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting has been mandated to mainstream the SEEA
- Five working groups

1. Coordination and promotion (Statistics Canada)
2. Methodological development (Statistics Netherlands & Eurostat)
3. Development of databases (OECD)
4. Implementation and statistical capacity building (Statistics South Africa)
5. Formulation of a statistical response to emerging policy issues (Australia Bureau of Statistics & INEGI Mexico)
Methodological development
The System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)

Two standards, one approach:

- The **SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF)** was adopted as an international statistical standard by the UN Statistical Commission in 2012 to measure the environment and its relation with the economy.

- The **SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA)** complements the Central Framework and represents international efforts toward coherent ecosystem accounting.
Two Different Perspectives

SEEA Central Framework:
Individual environmental assets/resources
- Timber
- Water
- Soil
- Fish

SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounts:
Ecosystem assets (spatially based)
- Forests
- Lakes
- Agricultural areas

Ecosystem Assets are environmental assets viewed from a systems perspective
The Environment-Economy Nexus

Economy

Natural inputs / ecosystem services

Environment

Products

Residuals

SEEA
SEEA-Ecosystem Accounting

**POLICY AND DECISIONMAKING**

**ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING**

**Measurement**
- Asset: Classifying ecosystem types
- Condition: Measuring ecosystem health

**Valuation**
- Services: Flow of services to beneficiaries
- Benefits: Value of the benefits people receive
Revision of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

• Elevation to an agreed methodological document
• Engagement with various stakeholders
• Obtaining buy-in
• Timeline by end of 2020 – endorsement by UN Statistical Commission by March 2021
• Process aligned with the Post-2020 biodiversity framework, review of SDG and Climate change process
SEEA: From Silo approach to Integration

Agency A
Policy A
Info A
Data A

Agency B
Policy B
Info B
Data B

Agency C
Policy C
Info C
Data C

Indicators
Accounts
SNA | SEEA
Basic data

Economy | Environment | Social
Implementation of SEEA

- National Statistical Offices
  - Credibility
  - Reliability
  - Replicability
  - Mainstreamed in statistical production process
  - Arms length from policy
- MoE, line ministries, think tanks
  - Science
  - Data production
- Ministry of planning and finance
- Promotes inter-institutional mechanisms
What do we expect from the Forum?

• NCA enables the transformative agenda that is needed to mainstream natural capital in decision making

• How can we mobilize the communities represented to develop a coherent message to make the case for NCA?

• What is missing?
  • Do we need a systematic analysis on potential of NCA policy applications?
  • Do we need capacity building on how to use the accounts?
THANK YOU

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