System of Environmental Economic Accounting
OVERVIEW OF THE SEEA AND ITS APPLICATIONS

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Content

• Why environmental-economic accounting?
• Advancing environmental-economic accounting
• Applications of the SEEA – an example
WHY ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING?
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
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

SEEA
Silo approach  ➔ Integrated statistics
1. Legal and political commitments

- 1992: CBD Aichi Target 2
- 1992: Agenda 21 (Rio)
- 2012: The Future we Want (Rio+20)
- 2015: Sustainable Development Goals
- European Legislation
2. 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.
The SEEA Central Framework Accounts

1. **Stock accounts** for environmental assets: natural resources and land
   - physical (e.g. fish stocks and changes in stocks) and/or monetary values (e.g. value of natural capital, depletion)

2. **Flow accounts**: supply and use tables for products, natural inputs and residuals (e.g. waste, wastewater) generated by economic activities.
   - physical (e.g. m$^3$ of water) and/or monetary values (e.g. permits to access water, cost of wastewater treatment, etc.)

3. **Activity / purpose accounts** that explicitly identify environmental transactions already existing in the SNA.
   - e.g. Environmental Protection Expenditure (EPE) accounts, environmental taxes and subsidies

4. **Combined physical and monetary accounts** that bring together physical and monetary information for derivation indicators, including depletion adjusted aggregates
SEEA AND SDGS
SDG Indicators

End Poverty
Sustainable Agriculture
Healthy Lives
Equitable Education
Gender Equality
Water
Energy
Sustainable Growth
Innovation & Infrastructure
Inequality
Sustainable Cities
SCP
Climate Change
Oceans
Ecosystems
Peace and Governance
Partnership
Integrated architecture for SDGs

Integrated monitoring for the SDGs requires methodological consistency.

The SEEA can be the basis for:

1. The development of coherent environmental-economic SDG indicators

2. The disaggregation of SDG indicators to inform national policy (spatial, sectoral, etc.)
THANK YOU
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