



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Update of the SEEA Central Framework BOPCOM 24/15

Ilaria Di Matteo, Chief of the Environmental Economic Accounts Section, UNSD

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Outline

- Background
- Project management framework and timeline
- Issue list and global consultation



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Background

- The Update of the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF) was mandated by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2024 to:
 - Better respond to emerging demands for integrated environmental and economic data in support of climate change, circular economy, disaster risk reduction, resource management, green growth and jobs, biodiversity and other policies
 - Reflect the changes of the 2025 SNA and BPM7 and other recently revised standards, classifications and manuals, as appropriate
- Timeline for the revision process: March 2028
- Emphasis on the coordination with the revision processes, in particular:
 - Government Finance Statistics (GFS)
 - Classification of Functions of Government (COFOG)
 - Others



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Project management framework

- Three-pronged approach:
 - (a) undertaking technical research and reaching recommended guidance on a set of specific issues;
 - (b) engaging in progressive rounds of inclusive, global consultations and review; and
 - (c) coordination and collaboration with different stakeholders.
- Plan to include a broad set of users in the update process, including statisticians, national accountants, policy makers, academia, environmental economics community, private sector, etc.



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Project management framework

- Overall, the update process is carried out under the auspices of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounts (UNCEEA)
- The UNCEEA was established by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2005 to:
 - Advance the methodological and normative work on environmental accounting
 - Foster the implementation of the SEEA in countries
 - Mainstream the uses of the SEEA
 - Develop global databases on the SEEA
 - Coordinate activities
- The UNCEEA includes experts on environmental accounts from countries and international regional organizations
- Chair: Andre' Loranger, Statistics Canada
- Secretariat: UNSD



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Project management framework

Governance of the SEEA CF update process:

- SEEA CF Technical Committee (TC), with UNSD as Secretariat, will lead the management of the SEEA CF update process
- Task teams will be established under the SEEA CF TC to address the issues and prepare guidance notes
- An Editorial Board will be established to oversee drafting, and includes the SEEA CF TC and co-publishing agencies
- The Bureau of the UNCEEA, including all co-publishing agencies, will provide regular oversight and coordination
- UNCEEA to provide oversight at a high level



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Timeline for the update of the SEEA CF

- 2024:
 - List of issues: drafting, global consultation and finalization
 - Work on certain high priority issues can begin already (e.g. meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting)
 - Organization of task teams
- 2025-2026:
 - Drafting of issue papers by task teams
 - Global consultation of issue papers
 - Drafting updated text of the SEEA CF
- 2027:
 - Continued drafting of updated text of the SEEA CF
 - Global consultation of the chapters
 - Submission to the UN Statistical Commission
- 2028: Endorsement by the UN Statistical Commission



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List of issues for the SEEA CF update

- List of issues drafted by the SEEA CF TC, with input from the broader community and London Group on Environmental Accounting
- On 26 July 2024, launched the global consultation on the list of issues for the SEEA CF update
- Global consultation was aimed at broad audience —SEEA community, national accountants, environmental economists, academia, private sector, etc.
- Sent to more than 1600 contacts and received 117 responses
 - > Responses with a broad geographical coverage:

Africa	19
Americas	14
Asia	38
Europe	33
Oceania	3
International org.	10
- Overall great support for the update process, overall support for the issues and their suggested prioritization, some suggestions for additional issues to consider



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List of issues for the SEEA CF update circulated for global consultation

A: Overarching topics, including consistency with SNA (10)

A1	Providing a broad overview of links between SEEA CF and SEEA EA
A2	Indicators
A3	Update of existing information on EE-IOT
A4	How SEEA CF accounts can be made spatially explicit
A5	Harmonization with other international classifications
A6	Introduction of thematic accounts to link to policy
A7	Extension to social domain
A8	Explicitly linking/integrating environmental activity accounts (ch. 4), asset accounts (ch. 5) and flow accounts (ch. 3)
A9	Consistency with the 2025 SNA revision issues
A10	Treatment of the atmosphere as an asset



B: Physical flow accounts, ch. 3 (12)

B1	Description of PSUTs
B2	Further clarifying treatment of losses (e.g. energy, water)
B3	Inclusion of LULUCF in air emission accounts
B4	Inclusion of carbon flows
B5	Inclusion of text on quarterly accounts
B6	Differences between PSUTs and EW MFA
B7	Inclusion of residual flows to ecosystem type, i.e. pressure account
B8	Elaboration of waste accounts
B9	Further guidance on recording own account production
B10	Creation of a classification of residuals
B11	Further clarifying treatment of goods sent for processing abroad and providing guidelines
B12	Borderline cases for the production boundary

C: Environmental activity accounts and related flows, ch. 4 (6)

C1	Inclusion of the Classification of Environmental Purposes (revised CEA)
C2	Inclusion of the integrated framework for monetary accounts
C3	Elaborating environmental tax abatements
C4	Incorporation of sustainable finance into an accounting framework
C5	Inclusion of potentially environmentally damaging subsidies/related transfers
C6	Extending the scope of environmental activities

D: Asset accounts, ch. 5 (7)

D1	Inclusion of the carbon stock account
D2	Inclusion of water quality accounts in the SEEA CF
D3	Inclusion of accounts for physical produced assets
D4	Consideration of water as a produced asset (e.g. (artificial reservoirs))
D5	Revision of the interim land use and land cover classifications
D6	Evaluation of need for soil resource accounts in SEEA CF
D7	Valuation of water

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List of issues for the SEEA CF update

- The SEEA CF TC is finalizing the review of the comments from the global consultation and preparing a revised list of issues for the SEEA CF update
- Revised list of issues to be sent to the UN Statistical Commission (along with the project management framework) in March 2025
- During the update process, close coordination with the revision of GFS and COFOG
 - > Identify issues of common relevance and ensure consultation across revisions processes
 - > Chair and Secretariat of the SEEA CF TC are also part of the relevant Task teams of the GFS and COFOG revision processes
- Close coordination/consultation with the AEG on issues of common relevance
- A webpage has been created for the update process of the SEEA CF:

<https://seea.un.org/content/update-seea-central-framework>



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THANK YOU

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