The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) - An overview and introduction to SDG indicator 15.9.1b

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The need

• Nature and the services it provides support almost every aspect of human well-being

• But headline indicators like GDP do not capture the full economic contributions of nature

• Traditional accounts don’t help us understand how the depletion of natural resources and degradation of the environment affect the economy and wellbeing

• SEEA integrates information on the economy and the environment showing their interrelationship, complementing the System of National Accounts and measures such as GDP
SEEA uses the accounting approach to integrates many data sets

- SEEA accounts can rely upon numerous data sources, covering such areas as:
  - energy
  - environment
  - agriculture
  - economy
  - ecosystems

- These data sources are combined to produce an integrated set of accounts and develop policy relevant indicators.
SNA and SEEA – statistical standards
SEEA Central Framework - Conceptual Framework

Economy
- Economic units
- Activities
- Instruments

Environment
- Natural inputs
- Residuals (emissions, waste)

Transboundary Environmental Flows

Imports
Exports

Territory of reference
Measures environmental assets and individual resources and how the economy used them.

Measures ecosystems and the services they provide to economic and human activity.

Asset & Resources + Ecosystems = SEEA
SEEA Ecosystem Accounting – Conceptual Framework

Environment

- Ecosystem assets
  - Ecosystem extent
  - Ecosystem condition

Final ecosystem services

Society

- Economy
- Benefits

Individual and societal well-being

GDP boundary
SEEA as a supporting framework
The SEEA supports the SDGs

The SEEA provides information for 40 indicators for 9 SDGs

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger
GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
GOAL 14: Life Below Water
GOAL 15: Life on Land
SEEA and SDG indicator 15.9.1b

- Target 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts (i.e. Aichi Biodiversity Target 2)
- Inclusion in post-2020 global biodiversity framework being discussed
- Indicator 15.9.1—two parts
  - a) Number of countries with national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2
  - b) Integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the SEEA
    - Stages of implementation:
      0- No compilation
      1- Compilation
      2- Compilation and dissemination
      3- Regular compilation and dissemination
Global Assessment on SEEA

- Measure indicator 15.9.1b through the Global Assessment on Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics
- Administered UNSD under auspices of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA)
- Administered 2014, 2017, 2020, 2021—and annually from now on for SDG reporting
- Benchmark every three years
- Used for SDG reporting but also to inform capacity building efforts and the work programme of the UNCEEA
2021 Global Assessment for Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics

> 90 countries implementing the SEEA
- 88 countries compiling the SEEA Central Framework
- 36 countries compiling the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting
THANK YOU

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