



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

# Regional Training Workshop on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting

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5-8 June 2023

Manila, Philippines

Concept note



**United  
Nations**

Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Statistics



## 1 BACKGROUND

The System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) provides the agreed upon statistical framework for measuring the relationship between the environment and the economy. It is comprised of two complimentary international statistical standards: the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF) and the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA). Adopted in 2021, the SEEA EA constitutes an integrated and comprehensive statistical framework for organizing data about habitats and landscapes, measuring the ecosystem services, tracking changes in ecosystem assets, and linking this information to economic and other human activity.

The SEEA EA can contribute significantly to measuring biodiversity and monitoring progress towards biodiversity targets. This is especially true after the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in late 2022 by the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The GBF signals the international community's dedication to halting biodiversity loss and increasing ecosystem restoration, and the SEEA plays a key role in the monitoring framework. The SEEA EA also contributes significantly to other international initiatives (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement, etc.)

The regional workshop is organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP) as part of the Development Account project, "Environmental-Economic Accounting for Evidence-Based Policy in Africa and Asia", which aims to address the technical and institutional barriers to the establishment and use of environmental-economic accounts. The workshop aims to build capacities in the region for the compilation of SEEA EA accounts relevant to biodiversity, as well as climate change.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the training programme are to:

- a) help participants acquire knowledge and skills to deepen their understanding of the SEEA EA;
- b) develop good practices for the dissemination of SEEA EA accounts and resulting indicators;
- c) facilitate experience sharing among Asia-Pacific countries; and
- d) support countries to set up a strategy and work plan for the implementation and further development of SEEA EA accounts in support of biodiversity policies.

## 3 LANGUAGE

The course will be offered in English.

## **4 TARGET PARTICIPANTS**

Target participants of the regional workshop are staff of national statistical offices and other agencies that have experience in SEEA and its implementation, particularly those working on land or ecosystem accounts, and/or plan to implement land or ecosystem accounts in the future. The total number of target participants is approximately 40, including national participants.

## **5 ORGANIZATION**

The 4-day training workshop will take place in Manila. Participants will discuss technical issues related to the compilation of SEEA EA accounts; they will also learn about good practices in dissemination. Besides technical issues, participants are expected to share their experiences on producing and disseminating SEEA EA accounts. The workshop will consist of lectures, practical exercises and the sharing of experiences among countries through presentations and breakout group discussions.

## **6 CONTACT PERSONS**

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## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

<b>Day 1: Monday, 5 June</b>	
Time	Session
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:30	Opening remarks and ice breaker
9:30 – 10:30	Overview of the SEEA EA and policy applications
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee & tea break
11:00 – 12:00	Introduction to land cover accounts
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:00	Basic GIS concepts
14:00 – 15:00	Country experiences in compiling land cover accounts
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee & tea break
15:30 – 16:30	Introduction to ecosystem extent accounts
16:30 – 17:00	Exercise on ecosystem extent accounts

<b>Day 2: Tuesday, 6 June</b>	
Time	Session
9:00 – 9:30	Review of Day 1
9:30 – 10:30	Country experiences in compiling ecosystem extent accounts
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee & tea break
11:00 – 12:00	Introduction to ecosystem condition and service accounts
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Country experiences in compiling condition and service accounts
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee & tea break
15:30 – 17:00	Introduction to the ARIES for SEEA

<b>Day 3: Wednesday, 7 June</b>	
Time	Session
9:00 – 9:30	Review of Day 2
9:30 – 10:30	Exercise on ecosystem condition and service accounts
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee & tea break
11:00 – 11:30	Exercise on ecosystem condition and service accounts
11:30 – 12:00	Introduction to geospatial data assessment
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Group work on geospatial data assessment
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee & tea break
15:30 – 17:00	Presentations on geospatial data assessment

<b>Day 4: Thursday, 8 June</b>	
Time	Session
9:00 – 9:30	Review of Day 3
9:30 – 10:30	Ecosystem services modelling
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee & tea break
11:00 – 12:00	SEEA and the Global Biodiversity Framework
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	Exercise on dissemination
14:30 – 15:00	Way forward and closing