

**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)**  
**STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)**

**Training Programme on Environment Statistics and the System of  
Environmental-Economic Accounting for SDGs**

2-6 September 2019

Chiba Japan

**Concept Note**

Development of evidence-based sustainable development strategies and policies relies on available and reliable statistics. Mainstreaming the measurement of environmental concerns as part of the regular data collection programs of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) would give policy makers the means to make balanced policy choices for sustainable development. It will also assist with monitoring national and international sustainable development initiatives, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Statistical approaches to measuring such measurements include the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).

The FDES provides information about the state and changes of environmental conditions, the quality and availability/use of environmental resources, the impact of human activities on the environment and the impact of changing environmental conditions on human lives and livelihoods. It also provides information about the social actions and economic measures that societies take to avoid or mitigate these impacts and to restore and maintain the capacity of the environment to provide the services that are essential for life and human well-being.

The United Nations Statistical Commission, at its 44th session endorsed the FDES 2013 as the framework for strengthening environment statistics programmes in countries, and recognized it as a useful tool in the context of SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda. The FDES 2013 organizes environment statistics into six components and each of them is broken down into subcomponents and statistical topics.

The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) is a framework that integrates economic and environmental data to provide a more comprehensive and multipurpose view of the interrelationships between the economy and the environment, the stocks and changes in stocks of environmental assets as they bring benefits to humanity, as well as residuals generated by human activities to the environment. It contains the internationally agreed standard concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and tables for producing internationally comparable statistics and accounts. The SEEA framework follows a similar accounting structure as the System of National Accounts (SNA). The framework uses concepts, definitions and classifications consistent with the SNA in order to facilitate the integration of environmental and economic statistics. The SEEA is a multi-purpose system that generates a wide range of statistics, accounts and indicators with many different potential analytical applications. It is a flexible system that can be adapted to countries' priorities and

policy needs while at the same time providing a common framework, concepts, terms and definitions.

The SEEA Central Framework allows for the measurement and a better understanding of environmental-economic interactions. The SEEA has also been identified as a useful framework for monitoring and reporting for the 2030 sustainable development agenda in support of inclusive sustainable development.

Together, the FDES and the SEEA support a wide range of the SDGs including, but not limited to, Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation, Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy, Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production, Goal 13: Climate action, Goal 14: Life below water and Goal 15: Life on land.

The training programme will provide the opportunity for participants to learn basic concepts and frameworks, with hands-on sessions, of the FDES and the SEEA, with the overall aim to strengthen capacity to produce a set of statistics and indicators to inform environment-related policy decisions at the national and international levels.

### **Objectives**

The main objectives of the workshop include:

- Improve understanding of basic concepts and frameworks on environment statistics including the FDES and the SEEA;
- Produce selected indicators using their national data, and acquire basic knowledge and skills on the accounting principles and identify basic data needs for compiling environmental-economic accounts;
- Facilitate experience sharing among participating countries, and to understand country plans, and identify opportunities for collaboration; and
- Promote the use of environment statistics in policy formulation and monitoring.

### **Expected outputs**

- Enhanced training capacity in participating countries to produce environment statistics, and understand basic concepts and applications of the SEEA Central Framework, as well as, data requirements for basic accounts; and
- Recommendations for a regular ESCAP training programme on environment statistics.

### **Topics**

The workshop will broadly cover the following:

- Overview of environment statistics, FDES, SEEA and SDG context in relation to environment statistics;
- Indicators: data sources, approaches, calculation and reporting;
- Natural disaster indicators and sources;
- Refresher on SEEA (data sources, compilation methods, approaches): Physical flow, Water, Solid Waste, and Land;
- Applying the SEEA diagnostic tool and connecting with policy makers and users; and
- Individual/group research on national data sources, and application issues.

Provisional Schedule of Training Programme on Environment Statistics and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for SDGs is attached

### **Participants**

Target audience will include one middle-level technical staff from the NSO, and one middle-level officer from the Ministry of Environment which uses or provides environmental information for policy formulation.

The following countries are invited to this course: Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Micronesia (Federal States of), Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Vanuatu.

The training programme will be held over five days and in English.

All sessions for this training programme will be jointly delivered to participants of another training programme on Theory and Practices in Official Statistics for Monitoring SDGs together.

### **Pre-workshop requirements**

Participants are expected to be familiar with the followings.

- FDES: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ENVIRONMENT/fdes.htm>
- SEEA: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/seea.asp>