

Regional Workshop on Measuring Natural Resources in the National Accounts

1-4 September 2026

Chiba, Japan

Concept note and provisional agenda

1 BACKGROUND

In many countries natural resources—such as mineral and energy resources, timber, land, water, and aquatic resources—play a central role in supporting economic development. The management of natural resources is also relevant to sustainable development and long-term economic resilience. As countries increasingly prioritize green growth, low-carbon transitions, and efficient resource management, the demand for high quality and timely statistics on natural resource stocks and flows continues to rise. The main statistical frameworks for measuring natural resources are the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).

The System of National Accounts (SNA) provides the overarching framework for compiling information about the economy. In 2025, the UN Statistical Commission adopted the latest version of the SNA (2025 SNA) which, among others, provides a broader framework to account for elements affecting well-being and sustainability. The 2025 SNA includes several key changes when it comes to measurement of natural resources such as recording depletion as a cost of production, a revision of the asset classification with explicit recognition of renewable energy resources, and adoption of splitting of asset ownership. The [OECD manual “Measuring Natural Resources in the National Accounts: A Compilation Guide”](#) was developed to support the implementation of the major changes in the 2025 SNA.

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). The SEEA CF takes a resource-based approach to measuring the supply and use of resources and availability of environmental assets. Compiling accounts in physical terms is often a first step towards monetary valuation and measuring depletion.

Despite growing demand, many national statistical systems face challenges in compiling natural resources information due to incomplete data, need to improve knowledge of valuation methods and more broadly of the SNA and SEEA, and the need to increase institutional coordination. There is a need to strengthen the capacities of national statistical systems (NSSs) to produce and disseminate natural resources accounts to better meet the needs of users for high quality integrated data on the contribution of the environment to the economy.

This workshop—organized by the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)—aims to increase capacities of NSSs to compile natural resource

statistics in accordance with the SNA and SEEA in support of economic and environmental policies.

2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- a) explain natural resource concepts within the 2025 SNA and SEEA;
- b) build knowledge on compiling natural resource information in physical and monetary terms, including valuation techniques for natural resource assets and measuring depletion;
- c) differentiate measurement approaches based on availability of data and resources;
- d) facilitate experience sharing among countries in measuring natural resources and integrating natural resources in national accounts;
- e) strengthen coordination and harmonization of concepts and measurement approaches between economic and environment statisticians; and
- f) discuss the role of NSOs in the compilation of natural resource accounts.

3 LANGUAGE

The course will be offered in English.

4 TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Target participants are staff of national statistical offices and other relevant agencies that have experience in compiling natural resource statistics as part of SNA and SEEA implementation. Countries to be invited are those who 1) are OIC-SIAP common member states or have been identified as priorities by the organizers, and 2) have indicated that SNA and/or SEEA is a priority training need.

Two participants (one responsible for SEEA and one responsible for SNA) will be invited for each of the following countries: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Thailand. One participant (responsible for either SEEA or SNA) will be invited from Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, and Viet Nam. Additional self-funded participants from GCC countries will also be invited depending on space availability.

5 ORGANIZATION

The 4-day workshop will take place in Chiba, Japan. During the workshop, participants will discuss technical issues related to the compilation of natural resources accounts in physical and monetary terms, with a special emphasis on measuring depletion.

The workshop will consist of presentations, practical exercises and the sharing of experiences among countries. In-person delivery of the workshop is essential and more effective given the length and intensity of the workshop's dynamic peer discussions, hands-on exercises, and expert-led sessions.

6 CONTACT PERSONS

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7 DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1

- Opening and introductions
- Overview of major changes in 2025 SNA
- Introduction to asset classification for natural resources in the SNA, relationship between SNA and SEEA, and policy demands
- Country presentations
- Natural resource accounts in physical terms
- Exercise

Day 2

- Valuation of natural resources, including Net Present Value (NPV)
- Valuation of mineral and energy resources
- Exercise
- Country presentations

Day 3

- Valuation of biological resources
- Exercise
- Panel discussion on role of NSOs in implementing natural resource accounts
- Country presentations

Day 4

- Sequence of economic accounts
- Explicit guidance on accounting for production of electricity and heating by households, for sale and for own final use
- Dissemination practices
- Way forward