

The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting SEEA 2012

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In February of 2012, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) as an international statistical standard. This puts the SEEA on the same footing as the System of National Accounts (SNA) in terms of its international status as a guidance document. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the SEEA, its links to other initiatives, and the implications for future work in this area. It will also describe milestones since the economic importance of the environment as a source of wealth, inputs, and services was recognised explicitly in the 1993 revision to the SNA. The SEEA is the result of the efforts made in the last two decades towards the accounting of natural resource assets and at integrating environmental and economic data.

The SEEA Central Framework represents the standard components of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts such as classifications, accounting conventions, and methodologies needed for the creation of linked environmental-economic accounts, adding value to both data sets. The Central Framework is supported by two related publications, SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and SEEA Applications and Extensions.