

United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting
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TAKING THE ENVIRONMENT INTO ACCOUNT

Canadian experiences in the SEEA EEA

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Why do environment accounts matter?

A System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) can play a critical role of integrating the economy and the environment, and essentially provide a measure of the capacity of the environment to sustain economic activity

"Asking statistics offices (to take responsibility for collecting and reporting environmental data) was a stroke of genius" Nature, The international journal of science / 20 February 2020

Measures the impacts of climate change and loss of biodiversity on the environment, the economy and society

Measures the ability of the environment to maintain resilience to human pressures and support economic activity and people

Plays a key role in the measurement of indicators such as the Sustainable Development Goals

Climate Change and the SEEA

The SEEA can provide a way to help with nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change, such as reforestation and changes in agricultural practices

Ecosystem Accounts

Forest accounts can measure the extent and types of forest ecosystems

This information would be of critical importance to the Government of Canada's plans to improve urban forests, rebuild forests after forest fires and plan two billion incremental trees as a natural climate solution

Physical Flow Accounts

Gives us a detailed picture of how a national economy uses energy and produces greenhouse gas emissions – by industrial sector, by commodity and by final demand (e.g., households)

In Canada, these accounts were used to assess the economic impact of carbon pricing on households



Protecting Biological Diversity and the SEEA

Ecosystems are treated as important assets that must be monitored and protected to let them continue to produce ecosystem services

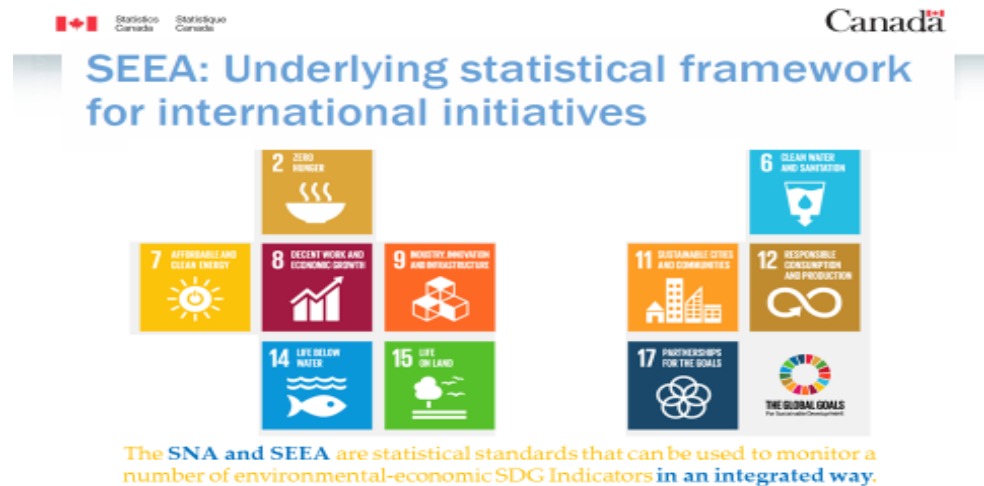
The SEEA creates a framework to provide for crucial contextual information on biodiversity: the condition and extent of ecosystems.

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Canada's current national biodiversity strategy includes Statistics Canada developing and expanding statistics on ecosystems

Sustainable Development Goals and the SEEA framework

Meeting international reporting requirements

National statistical offices face significant reporting requirements with respect to several conventions and processes. SEEA provides a framework to substantially streamline the production and reporting of several of these indicators.



Ecosystem Accounts in Canada – the way forward

Statistics Canada has been developing Ecosystem Accounts but much more needs to be done

Increase collaboration with non-governmental organizations and academia

Build a 'Census of the Environment'

- A comprehensive and evergreen spatial Register of Ecosystem Assets
- A complete suite of environmental ecosystem accounts
- A central portal that would offer data analytics and access functions for users

Increased use of earth observation data, including satellite imagery

Quantity and quality of ecosystem service flows must be tracked and valued

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