



Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Workshop on Environmental Accounting for Policy Analysis

Bogota, Colombia, March 16-17, 2016

I. Background

Many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are starting to implement Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA) as the guiding methodological framework. Pioneer countries are Mexico and Colombia and more recently Guatemala, Costa Rica, and several others are developing efforts to institutionalize the accounts in the countries' statistical and policy processes.

Programs led by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services Partnership (WAVES) provide opportunities for synergies, country support and enhanced collaboration towards institutionalization of NCA:

- **ECLAC**, in its statistical work, aims to promote the creation and use of internationally comparable, accurate and timely statistical information of relevance to the formulation, follow-up and evaluation of economic, social and environmental development policies in the region. The Statistics Division of ECLAC is currently undertaking a UN Development Account Project which aims, amongst other things, at the implementation of the SEEA in six pilot countries of the region. The project also includes activities to share experiences with non-pilot countries.
- **GIZ**, through its sectoral project Rioplus, aims to promote environmental policy and sustainable development by strengthening personal and institutional competences and integrating environmental concerns into sectoral policies and international development processes.
- **WAVES** is a World Bank-led global partnership that aims to promote sustainable development by ensuring that natural resources are mainstreamed in development planning and national economic accounts.

This workshop is a follow-up of two regional events developed by ECLAC, GIZ and WAVES. One was a training on the SEEA framework with a focus on the technical aspects of compiling NCAs that UNSD, ECLAC and GIZ organized in July 2015 in Santiago de Chile as a follow-up and final step of an 8 week online course. Sessions on the SEEA implementation showed that one of the main challenges was the institutional set-up and the communication with the users of the accounts for policy application. Similar conclusions were reached on the regional workshop on water accounting that was hosted by Costa Rica in 2014 and developed under the WAVES initiative.

II. Objectives

The Regional Workshop on Environmental Accounting for Policy Analysis has two objectives. The first is to provide a platform for knowledge sharing on SEEA implementation with a focus on the institutional set-up as well as the use of accounts and policy applications. The second objective is to discuss the establishment of a Regional Cooperation Program, outlining possible activities for 2016-2019.

III. Participants

The workshop gathers together 28 participants from 15 countries with – in general – two participants from each country. One country participant represents the “producer side” of the accounts (NSOs, CB, etc., depending on the country), the other represents the “user side” (Ministry of Environment, Planning Department etc., depending on the country). In addition, experts from WAVES, ECLAC, GIZ, UNSD as well as from academia will attend.

IV. Expected results

- 1) Countries share experiences on SEEA implementation and use of environmental accounts for policy making.
- 2) Collect lessons learned and best practices.
- 3) Discuss the objectives and key activities of a Regional Cooperation Program.

Annex 1: Agenda

DAY 1, March 16		
Time	What	General Topic
08:00-08:30	Registration	
08:30-09:40	Inauguration and Ice Breaker	
09:40-10:20	Session 1: UNSD Presentation: Introduction to the SEEA and current developments	Experience sharing on implementation of the SEEA in the LAC region
10:20-10:40	Coffee break	
10:40-11:20	Session 2: Where do countries stand?(Institutional background and level of implementation)	
11:20-12:45	Session 3: Pair-up of advanced and starting countries for experience sharing on implementation	
12:45-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:10	Session 4: Experience sharing on institutional set-up	
15:10-15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30-16:00	Session 5: Need for support for SEEA implementation	
16:00-17:00	Session 6: Use of env. accounts for policy making –expert input	
DAY 2, March 17		
08:45-09:00	Intro Day 2	Use of NCAs for policy making
09:00-10:00	Session 7: Use of env. accounts for policy making – country examples	
10:00-10:20	Coffee break	
10:20-11:30	Session 8: Producers and users of information – the crucial linkage	
11:30-12:30	Session 9: Round table on policy use	
12:30-13:45	Lunch	Discussion on the RCP
13:45-14:40	Session 10: Presentation: Regional Cooperation Program (RCP)	
14:40-15:30	Session 11: Discussion on the Regional Cooperation Program	
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00-17:00	Session 12: Conclusion and Way Forward	