

Environment Accounts and its inter-linkages with SDGs



Session: Environment Accounting- SEEA perspectives and it's inter-linkages with SDGs
28 June 2022

**Seminar on Data for Sustainable Development:
India's Environmental Accounts and its Role in Policy
and Decision-Making
(in celebration of 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav')**



Environmental Accounts and SDGs : Measures beyond GDP



- **Why environmental accounts?**
- Environmental Accounts go beyond conventional accounts in depicting cost to environment Eg:-degradation due to pollution , ecosystem conditions like wetland health and measures of biodiversity
- Recognizing services like flood management by mangroves, carbon sequestration by wetlands and sea grasses
- **Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG Indicator Framework-**
SDGs aim to Leave no one behind and that includes life in all its forms . Further it brings out the interconnectivity of food, water , ecosystem health , biodiversity and phenomena like Climate Change that may impact economic and social dimensions of sustainability

Stocks and flows captured by SEEA CF and Conditions by SEEA –EA bring out measures that can help in SDG Monitoring



Environment Accounts and its inter-linkages with SDGs

Adopted as an international statistical standard by the United Nations Statistical Commission, the **System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)** transforms disparate economic and environmental information into internationally comparable statistics using an agreed-upon set of standard concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and tables.

As an integrated statistical framework that is fully aligned with the System of National Accounts, the **SEEA is uniquely positioned to measure progress toward the SDGs on the economy-environment nexus.**



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

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The systems approach of the SEEA enables countries to develop sets of statistics and indicators on both natural resources (e.g. timber, water) and ecosystems and how they relate to the economy. An account is more comprehensive .

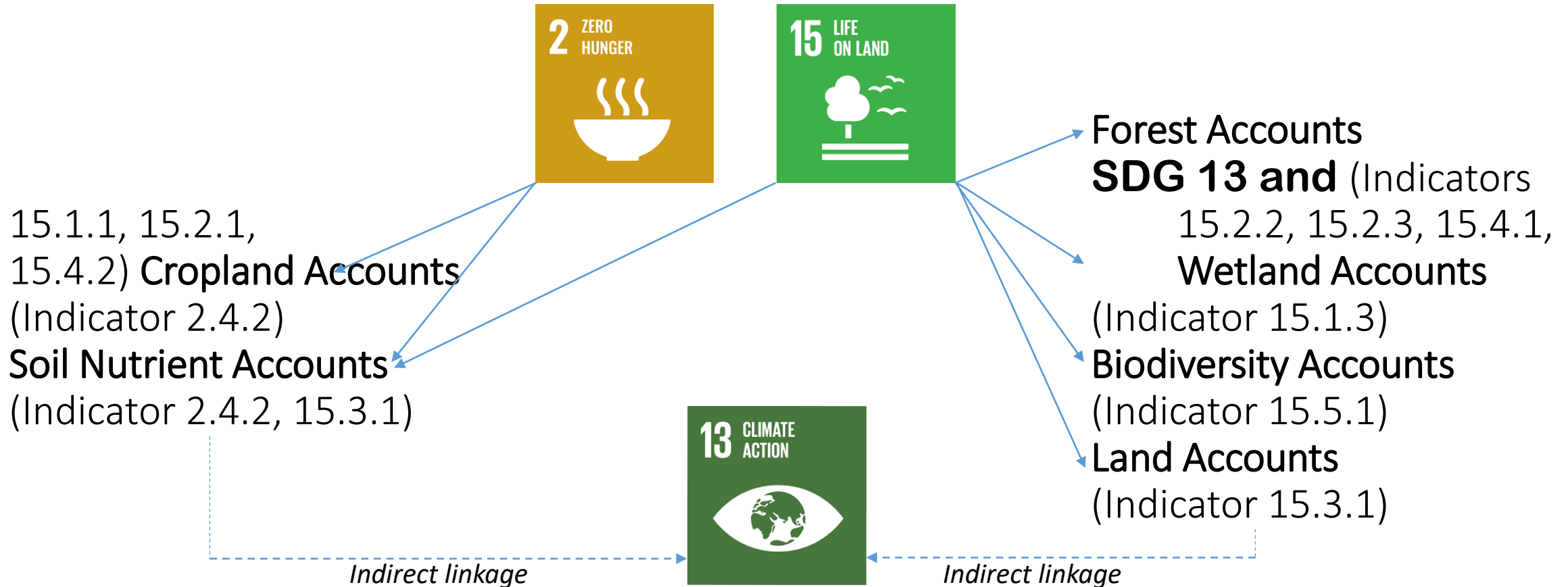
SDG 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 are the 9 SDGs that are supported by the SEEA.

The SEEA framework can be used to compile data to directly measure **SDG indicators** and provide supplemental information for numerous others.

The SEEA supports 40 indicators
for 9 SDGs



Linkages of existing Environmental Accounts with SDGs pertaining to the environment



SEEA as part of SDG Targets



- 15.9.1 Part B deals with integration of biodiversity values into the national accounting and reporting systems defined as implementation of SEEA
- The SEEA is now also part of indicator 12.b.1, under custodian of the [World Tourism Organization \(UNWTO\)](#). Target 12.b is to develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.
- Indicator 12.b.1 is progress towards implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability.
- Implementation of these standard accounting tools will be measured by implementation of the [Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008](#) and the SEEA Central Framework.

Forest Accounts



- **Forest Accounts**
- ↘
- **SDG 2** – Nutritive Value of Wild plants for Indigenous people captured through NTFP Accounts
- **SDG 6** – Water provisioning Services of forests contribute to clean water
- **SDG 12**- Sustainable Timber harvesting monitoring from Timber based accounts measures sustainable consumption
- **SDG 13** – Carbon stock account of Forest measures Carbon di oxide removal and regulation of Climate thus assessing the slow down in pace of Climate Change .
- **SDG 15**- Forests are the preserves of biodiversity and protect other terrestrial ecosystems like wetlands.
- **SDG 14** – Mangroves as part of forests safeguard the coastal ecosystems and marine life .



Environmental Accounts and SDG 15 for Forest Ecosystems

Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA): It is based on the principle of ecosystem accounting as it provides a platform for payment of ecosystem services. The main objective of CAMPA is

- 1) To promote afforestation and regeneration activities as a way of compensating for forest land diverted to non-forest uses.
- 2) To compensate the loss of forest area and to maintain the sustainability.
- 3) CAMPA Funds will receive payments for: (i) compensatory afforestation, (ii) Net Present Value of forest (NPV) [, and (iii) other project specific payments.



Direct linkage with SDG 15



Carbon Stock of Forests and Target 15.2

- Carbon Stock of Forest is the basis of Carbon sequestration Service
- Data on this stock also constitutes the basis for indicator of Sustainable Forest Management under Target 15.2



Environmental Accounts and SDG 14

Coastal Ecosystem Accounting: NCSCM has studied the stock and assets in various LCEUs (Land Cover Ecosystem Functional Unit) of the coastal ecosystems. The condition of the coastal ecosystem has been studied through primary and secondary data collection on water quality, soil, and biodiversity assessment.

In association with the experts of ARIES and InVEST programme, NCSCM has developed methodologies to quantify carbon sequestration, coastal vulnerability potentials and nutrient retention capacity of LCEUs.

NCSCM has applied SEEA-EA framework in the coastal areas of few states to estimate the monetary benefits of goods and services of coastal ecosystems and applied SEEA accounting principles.



Direct linkage with SDG 14

Environmental Accounts and SDG 15.5

Economic Evaluation of Tiger Reserves: Considering the importance of contribution of tiger reserves not just for biodiversity conservation but also in generating ecosystem services, a pilot study was commissioned by NTCA for economic valuation of select tiger reserves.

The Centre for Ecological Services Management (CESM), Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) in Collaboration with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) have published their findings biennially – 2015 to 2019. Eg Estimated that Corbett Tiger Reserve Provides flow benefits worth ` 14.7 billion (221.72 million US\$) or ` 1.14 lakh / hectare annually



Direct linkage with SDG 15

Tiger Reserves



- Besides the Valuation of tangible benefits like Employment Generation, Agriculture ,Non Wood Forest Produce
- The report takes into account vital services like
- Gene pool protection
- Sediment Regulation
- Water provisioning/Pollination
- Nutrient cycling/ retention



Environment Accounts and its inter-linkages with SDGs

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Target

Potential environmental accounts: Energy accounts





Water and Waste related accounts:

MoSPI through EnviStats has published Water Quality Accounts in 2019 and 2021.

They describe the quality of the stocks of water resources which is then reported in the form of discrete classes.

Studies have assessed the quality for Surface water; Ground water; Coastal/Marine water.

Waste/ Residual Accounts are under compilation.



Water related accounts:

Account	SEEA Account	SDG	MEA/International Obligations other than SDGs
Water Quality Accounts	SEEA-Water	SDG 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFCCC • CBD – Aichi Targets/Post 2020 GBF • UNFF • Ramsar Convention
Waste Accounts	SEEA-Waste; Residual Flow Accounts	SDG 12	Waste related MEAs (Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention, Minamata Convention)

Thank You





https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/documents/seea_and_sdgs_one.pdf