



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

# Update on the UNCEEA and Global SEEA Implementation March 2023

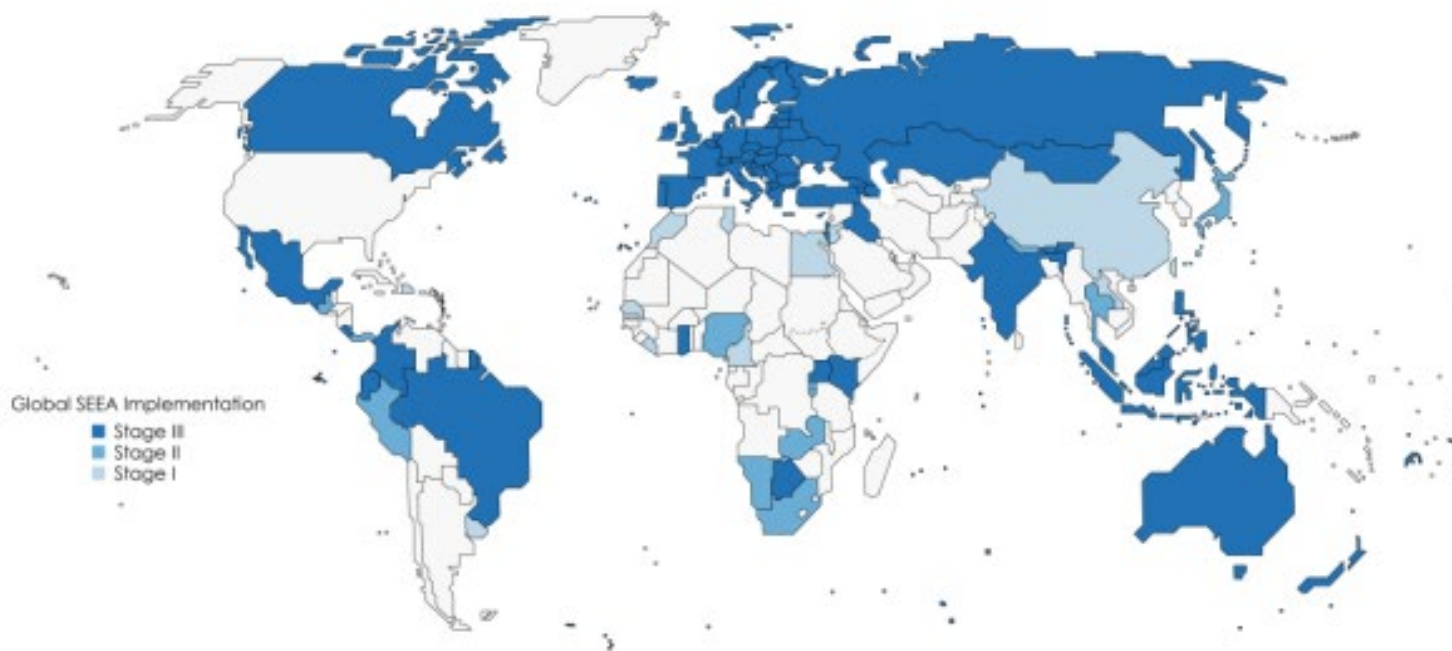
UN Statistics Division  
and

Santaro Sakata, Statistics and Data Directorate, OECD

# Topics of focus

- Current status of implementation
- Mainstreaming use of the SEEA in policy
  - Monitoring the Global Biodiversity Framework
  - G20 Data Gaps Initiative
- Global databases
- Involvement in updates to 2008 SNA and classifications
- Working group on business accounting and the SEEA
- Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism

# SEEA implementation



- > 2022 Global Assessment for Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics
  - 92 countries implementing SEEA
  - 91 countries implementing SEEA Central Framework
  - 41 countries compiling SEEA Ecosystem Accounts (incl. thematic accounts)
  - Stage of implementation (SDG indicator 15.9.1): 66 countries (72%) at Stage III; 14 countries (17%) at Stage II; 12 countries (11%) at Stage I.

# Mainstreaming

- Areas of focus for the Working Group on Coordination and Communication include biodiversity, circular economy, climate change, sustainable finance
- Biodiversity
  - Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at COP 15 in December 2022, including a monitoring framework
  - SEEA EA provides basis for deriving several headline indicators
  - UNSD/SEEA EA TC Indicator Working Group have prepared metadata for these indicators
  - Monitoring framework to be further developed by an Ad-hoc Technical Expert Group composed of countries and IOs—engagement by SEEA community is key

# Mainstreaming, continued

- Climate change—DGI 3
  - New G20 DGI includes pillar on climate change (7/14 recommendations)
  - Several climate change recommendations are based on SEEA, e.g. implementation of energy and air emission accounts, carbon footprint, government subsidies, national climate mitigation and adaptation expenditures
  - UNCEEA will assist the Inter-Agency Group and G20 countries to close these data gaps
  - Spillover effects anticipated; all countries encouraged to follow recommendations
- Participation in UNECE work on climate change
  - Participation in/contributions to annual ECE Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-related Statistics as well as the Task Force on the Role of NSOs in Achieving Climate Objectives

# Global Databases – Priority Accounts

- Air Emission Accounts (AEA)
- Physical Energy Flow Accounts (PEFA)
- Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts
- Land Accounts
- Water Accounts

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# Why global AEA/PEFA questionnaires?

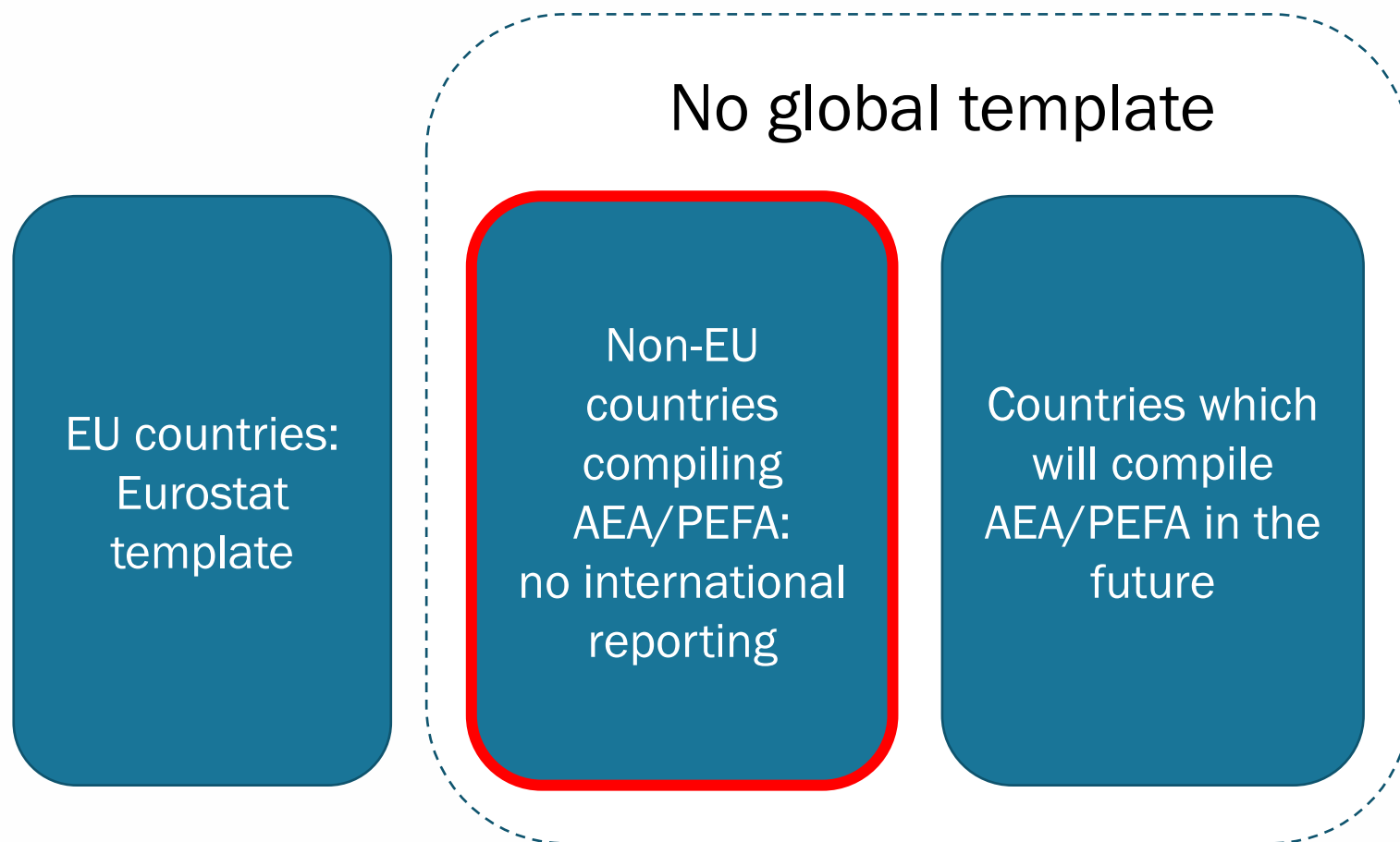
EU countries:  
Eurostat  
template

Non-EU  
countries  
compiling  
AEA/PEFA

Countries which  
will compile  
AEA/PEFA in the  
future



# Why global AEA/PEFA questionnaires?



# Questionnaire design and key features

Global Use

Flexible

User-friendly

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## Global Use

- Derived from **Eurostat** Questionnaire
- **ISIC** classification
- Consistent with **SEEA DSD**

## Flexible

- Tiered structure
  - Industry disaggregation
  - # of pollutants (AEA)

## User-friendly

- Check function
- Automatic calculation for GHG total (AEA)
- Automatic calculation of PEFA indicators

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# Timeline for 2023

Countries	Agency	From Agency to Countries	From Countries to Agency	Release
UNSD countries (non-EU, Non-OECD)	UNSD	February	14 April	September
Non-EU OECD	OECD	June	September	December (AEA) February 2024 (PEFA)

Questionnaires available at:

<https://www.oecd.org/statistics/data-collection/environmental-economic-accounts.htm> and

<https://seea.un.org/Data/Global%20data%20collection>

# Updates to statistical standards and classifications

- Technical Committee on the SEEA CF actively involved in update of the 2008 SNA
  - Collaboration agreement between Committee, AEG and ISWGNA
  - Cross-participation between members of SEEA CF TC and Task Team on Wellbeing and Sustainability
- Participation in updates of international classifications
  - ISIC, CPC, SIEC, CEF
  - COFOG revision coming up
- UNCEEA will discuss possible update of the SEEA CF at its 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting in June 2023

# SEEA and Business Accounting

- Current activities include:
  - Reviewing upcoming standards/frameworks with an eye towards alignment with the SEEA
  - Collaboration with relevant initiatives and groups
  - Developing SEEA documents for the business community
- Focus for alignment is on methodologies and standards currently up for consultation/review and which will have outsized impact in the business accounting space
- Feedback provided to GRI Biodiversity Standard and multiple beta versions of the Task Force for Nature Related Financial Disclosures (UNSD also is a knowledge partner to TNFD)



# Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism

- Strong interest from countries; many countries have joined pilots
- Document to be finalized this year; UNCEEA TCs to review before global consultation, which is planned for Summer 2023
- Submission to UNCEEA prior to final consideration by the UNWTO Committee on Statistics
- Presentation to UNSC foreseen in 2024

# THANK YOU

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