



SYSTEM OF ENVIRONMENTAL- ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING FOR WATER (SEEA-WATER)

SEEA-Water is an integrated approach to water monitoring, bringing together a wide range of water related statistics across sectors into one coherent information system. It is the conceptual framework and set of accounts which presents hydrological information alongside economic information in a consistent way. SEEA-Water uses concepts, definitions and classifications consistent with the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008.

Importance of SEEA-Water

- ✓ Indicators and descriptive statistics to monitor the interaction between the environment and the economy.
- ✓ Progress towards meeting environment goals.
- ✓ Database for strategic planning and policy analysis to identify more sustainable development paths.

SEEA-Water includes:

Stocks and flows of water resources within the environment

Pressures imposed on the environment by the economy in terms of water abstraction and emissions added to wastewater and released into the environment or removed from wastewater

The supply of water and its use as an input in the production process and by households

The reuse of water within the economy

The costs of collection, purification, distribution and treatment of water, as well as the service charges paid by its users

PHYSICAL SUPPLY USE TABLE (PSUT)

Records flows of water between the environment and the economy in physical terms (m³). It describes:

- the abstraction of water resources (water as natural inputs) from the environment into the economy,
- the flows within the economy in the form of supply and use by industries and households (of water products), and
- the flows of water back to the environment (water residuals).

HYBRID AND ECONOMIC ACCOUNT

Hybrid and economic accounts for activities and products related to water (economy of water). It describes in monetary terms:

- the use and supply of water-related products;
- identifies the costs associated with the production of these products;
- the income generated by them; and
- the investments in hydraulic infrastructure and the cost of maintaining it.

ASSET ACCOUNT

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Describes the water stocks and their depletion over the accounting period including links to the abstraction and consumption of water by the economy. It measures stocks at the beginning and the end of accounting period and record the changes in stock that occur during the period.

EMISSION ACCOUNT

Describes the pressure that economy puts on environment in terms of emissions into water. It measures:

- the quantity of pollutants that is added to wastewater as a result of production and consumption activities and released into the environment; and
- the quantity of pollutants which is removed as part of treatment by the sewerage industry.

Sources:

- <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/seeaw/>
- System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water, 2012