



The International Workshop

“Environmental Information Systems (including SEIS) and Environmental Statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals

11-14 June 2018, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Background

This workshop on Environmental Information Systems and Environmental Statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is organized by UNECE, UNEP and UNDP in Kyrgyz Republic in collaboration with UNESCAP in close cooperation and coordination with the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF) and with the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (NSC KR).

The joint “One UN” approach to the planning and organization of this workshop is the result of active collaboration between the four UN agencies (UNDP, UNECE, UNEP and UNESCAP) with the aim of uniting efforts at country level to eliminate duplication and achieve cumulative results in the promotion of environmental information systems and improved capacities on environmental statistics for the SDGs. This joint approach is also actively being promoted both by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, within the UN system, and by the UN Resident Coordinator Dr. Ozonnia Ojielo.

Shared Environmental Information Systems (SEIS) and the SDGs

Knowledge-based societies require building up capacities to source, organize, interpret and communicate environmental data and information in an effective way in support of decision-making. In line with the principles of Shared Environmental Information Systems (SEIS)¹, there is a recognition of the need for making national data from credible sources available in a meaningful way and in a format suitable to inform environmental governance.

¹ SEIS principles of open access to data: i.e. data is managed as close as possible to source; and data is collected once and shared for many purposes



In addition, environmental data and information need to be effectively collected, managed and shared online to support multiple uses at different governance levels to meet multiple reporting obligations, including reporting on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and on progress towards implementing the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Environmental-economic accounts and environmental information management

In addition, the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNDP Kyrgyzstan have requested UNECE Statistical Division and UNEP Europe Office to provide additional technical support in further developing national capacity to produce environmental-economic accounts and the development of environmental information management systems for better responding to urgent environment-related policy information needs, including the production of environment-related SDG indicators and reporting on MEAs.

Kyrgyzstan has already started developing Forest Accounts and wants to further improve these. The National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic established a new statistical report for forest users to provide an official data flow that leads to compiling a pilot fast-track forest account. Support is requested to update the forest ecosystem accounts and/or improve them with this new data source and try to integrate into the System of National Accounts (SNA).

Kyrgyzstan is also intending to start compiling energy flow accounts from October 2018 onwards. Support is needed to develop this type of account and examine national capacity for its regular development. Energy balances and regular statistics on energy are available.

Information systems and indicators in support of NBSAPs and of the SDGs

Since biodiversity and ecosystems play an essential role in securing current and future economies and quality of life, the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems has led to a series of actions taken to promote their conservation and sustainable use through legal, policy and regulatory mechanisms. Under the Convention on Biological Diversity Kyrgyzstan has adopted a national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) for the period to 2024. This includes objectives to introduce an electronic information system for improving the management of natural resources, and improve the monitoring of the state of biodiversity. It also includes an objective to expand the area of Specially Protected Nature Areas.

As well as NBSAP implementation, Kyrgyzstan is now making efforts for fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Many of the SDGs and their targets are closely interrelated to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for 2011-2020.

Therefore, there is a strong need and opportunity to have linked information systems and indicators in place, for not only supporting the implementation of NBSAPs, but for relevant SDGs as well. It is of particular relevance during 2018 to strengthen the links between NBSAPs and the SDGs, as the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development will focus in 2018 on "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies". This focus will include countries being invited to report on their progress and lessons for several SDGs. Similarly, all countries including Kyrgyzstan, are developing their 6th national reports to the CBD for submission at the end of 2018.

Relevant projects contributing to environmental information systems in Kyrgyzstan

To strengthen and improve the decision-making capacity of the Kyrgyz Republic towards meeting and sustaining global environmental conventions, UNDP is implementing a GEF financed project on "Strengthening institutional and legal capacities to enable improvement of the national monitoring system and management of environmental information". The project acts as a basis for joint efforts in the country within this workshop. Within the framework of the this UNDP-GEF project and in close cooperation with the SAEPF, NSC KR and interested ministries / departments, UNDP provides support in the development of an environmental information management and monitoring system of information (EIMMS) for the Kyrgyz Republic. The objective is to improve the country's reporting process, both to increase public awareness and adoption environmentally sound decisions, and to fulfill obligations under international conventions. At the same time additional support will be provided by UNEP-WCMC within its project on "Supporting countries in Pan Europe to implement NBSAPs and SDGs through strengthened information systems, indicators and institutional mechanisms". The goal of the UNDP-GEF project on "Strengthening of institutional and legal capacities to enable improvement of the national monitoring system and management of environmental information" is to strengthen a set of important capacities for Kyrgyzstan to make better decisions to meet and sustain global environmental conventions. The project supports the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in harmonizing the existing system of collecting information through the integration of internationally agreed standards and methodologies, as well as systemic provision of data on the state of the environment. A significant emphasis is made by the project on supporting the initiatives of SAEPF, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Melioration and the NSC KR on the development of the EIMMS named "Kerege" that is constructed by an integration of existing environmental management information systems, building upon much of the capacities currently being developed in this area by other development partners.

The goal of the UNEP project on "Supporting countries in Pan Europe to implement NBSAPs and SDGs through strengthened information systems, indicators and institutional mechanisms" is that processes for implementing and reporting on key biodiversity-related Conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Georgia, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan are strengthened through linked information systems, and use the best available information on species, ecosystems and ecosystem services. In



all three countries UNEP-WCMC is providing technical assistance and capacity development for information systems and products on protected areas, for use in reporting in 2018 to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the SDGs.

UNECE Statistical Division and UNEP Europe Office are closely cooperating in the United Nations Development Accounts Programme (UNDA, 10th tranche) which aims to strengthen capacity of National Statistical Systems in producing environment-related SDG indicators. Kyrgyzstan has identified SDG indicators related to forestry and energy as a national priority, and has already piloted environmental-economic accounts on forest and energy. Support on further developing these accounts for strengthening the regular production of relevant SDG indicators will be supported through this programme.

UNECE, UNEP and UNDP (in collaboration with UNESCAP) are joining forces and resources to deliver jointly this national training workshop, in close cooperation and coordination with the State Agency for Nature Protection and Forestry Management of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF) and with the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (NSC).

To the extent possible and useful experts from other countries of the region will be invited to share their experience in the workshop and also benefit from the expert training.

Workshop Objectives

This 4-day workshop is designed to advance understanding of environmental information systems and effective application of SEIS environmental data sharing principles by relevant national agencies in Kyrgyzstan, and to improve capacity for the production of environmental statistics and information products for monitoring progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the first day of the workshop, a series of presentations will aim at capturing environmental data sharing needs and opportunities in the Kyrgyz Republic and at promoting the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned from different countries in sharing of environmental data and the promotion of Shared Environmental Information Systems (SEIS) principles. The focus of this first day will be on environmental information systems (including SEIS) and on the importance of environmental statistics/data in support of decision-making processes and the SDGs.

The following second and third days of the workshop will focus on training/capacity building, highlighting practical, country-specific benefits of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) of the United Nations Framework for the Development of



Environment Statistics (FDES), and their relation to relevant SEIS² and SDG³ indicators, with a particular focus on Forest and Energy accounts and protected areas information.

The final, fourth day focused on the Introduction to the information system framework developed by UNEP-WCMC within the “Supporting countries in Pan Europe to implement NBSAPs and SDGs through strengthened information systems, indicators and institutional mechanisms” project and relevant discussion.

The main objectives of the workshop are:

1. Take stock of relevant programmes and initiatives for the production and sharing of environmental data and statistics in Kyrgyzstan as relevant to SEIS and the SDGs;
2. Showcase examples of environmental information systems and promote regional cooperation and sharing of experience in the design and management of environmental information systems
3. Further improve the production of forest accounts, with a specific focus on the use of newly available data sources and a discussion on how to integrate the results into the System of National Accounts
4. Provide training on the establishment of energy flow accounts and producing a pilot account with available data;
5. Draft action plans for forest and energy accounts;
6. Support the development of indicators and information system capacity for protected areas in Kyrgyzstan;
7. Identify existing gaps and further training needs for SEIS implementation and the production of environmental statistics, accounts and indicators for national reporting on the SDGs.

Outputs

The workshop has a number of distinct outputs:

- Strengthened knowledge base of SEEA for forest and energy reporting on the state of environment by linking relevant data and information and making it easily accessible in line with the principles of SEIS of open access to data;
- Strengthened knowledge on forest accounting and energy flow accounting;
- Pilot tables for energy flow accounts and a draft action plan for implementation;
- Strengthened capacity for developing protected areas indicators and information system capacity;
- Way ahead for better coordinated data sharing processes to report on the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

In addition, the workshop will also contribute to promoting a shared understanding among practitioners of the national knowledge base and challenges for interpreting and

² <https://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html>

³ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

communicating environmental data and information in an effective way in support of decision-making and reporting. It will also contribute to the mapping of environmental data gaps as relevant to ongoing efforts under the scope of the SDG-MAPS initiative in Kyrgyzstan.

Key Logistics

- **Dates:** 11-14 June 2018
- **Location:** The entire 4-day workshop is being held at Damas International Hotel (<http://www.damas.kg/>)
- **Participation:** It is envisioned that the first day will be attended by 70-100 invitees from across national state agencies, civil society and international organizations based in Kyrgyzstan. Representatives from environment agencies and national statistics offices from Austria, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan will also be invited to promote regional cooperation and sharing of experience. It is envisioned that roughly 40 invitees will remain for the full 4 days.
- **Speakers:** Representatives of state bodies (SAEPF, NSC and etc,) and authoritative speakers from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) will be delivering various interventions in areas identified in the annotated agenda. Invited speakers from other countries will also deliver presentations and training sessions as relevant.
- **Website:** <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48489>

Separate Logistic Note is attached.

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Draft Agenda

Day ONE (11 June 2018): Environmental information systems and environmental statistics/data in support of decision-making processes and the SDGs

Time	11 June 2018
09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-10:00	Opening and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic ▪ The State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) ▪ The National Statistics Committee (NSC) ▪ The UN Resident Coordinator in Kyrgyz Republic
10:00-10:15	Introduction, objectives and programme of the workshop, with UNEP and UNECE representatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Michael Nagy, UNECE ▪ Mr. Tomas Marques, UNEP
10:15-10:30	Overview of the UNDP work in Kyrgyzstan in support of environmental management information system and SDGs data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, UNDP-GEF
10:30-10:45	Overview of UNDP work in Kyrgyzstan in monitoring SDGs data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mrs. Kanykey Orozbaeva, UNDP
10:45-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:00	Shared Environmental Information Systems (SEIS) & SDGs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support to SEIS establishment in Europe and Central Asia, Mr. Michael Nagy, UNECE ▪ SEIS and the environmental dimension of the SDGs, Mr. Tomas Marques, UN Environment (UNEP) ▪ Framework diagram for analysis of information systems, Mr. Philip Bubb, UNEP-WCMC
12:00-12:30	<i>Question and answers on SEIS and SDGs</i>
12:30-13:30	Lunch break

13:30-15:00	<p>Environmental information and data sharing perspectives from Austria, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Tajikistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation from Austria by Mr. Stephan Nemetz Austrian Federal Environment Agency ▪ Presentation from Kazakhstan by Mr. Asset Nakipbekov from Committee on Statistics ▪ Presentation from Belarus by Mrs. Ekaterina Poleshchuk ▪ Presentation from Tajikistan on EIMMS by Mr. Sukhrob Raupov (tbc)
15:00-15:30	Discussion on the state of environmental information systems in the Kyrgyz Republic and opportunities for development
15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-16:45	<p>Environment Statistics, System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), and the SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main concepts used in environment statistics (UN Framework for the development of Environment Statistics) and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA-CF) and how they support user's needs, Mr. Michael Nagy, UNECE ▪ General principles of SEEA, Ms. Birgit Lia Altmann, UNECE
16:45-17:30	Discussion and conclusions of the first day
17.30	Welcoming reception

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Day TWO (12 June 2018): SEEA Forest Accounts

Time	12 June 2018
09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-11:15	Introduction to forest accounting, including exercise by Ms. Birgit Lia Altmann, UNECE
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
11:30 –12:00	Forest accounts in Belarus by Mrs. Ekaterina Poleshchuk
12:00-12:30	Forest accounts in Kyrgyzstan, available data sources and issues to be clarified by Ms. Nazira Kerimalieva, NSC
12:30- 13:30	Lunch break
13:30-14:15	Introduction to monetary forest accounts, including exercise by Ms. Birgit Lia Altmann, UNECE
14:15-15:00	Review of new data sources by Mr. Michael Bordt, UNESCAP
15:00-15:30	Linking forest accounts with SNA by Mr. Michael Bordt, UNESCAP
15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-16:45	<i>Open discussion, clarification of open issues</i>
16:45-17:30	Review / drafting of action plan for further development of forest accounts in Kyrgyzstan

Day THREE (13 June 2018): SEEA Energy Accounts

Time	13 June 2018
09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-10:00	Important international policy frameworks related to energy by Mr. Michael Nagy, UNECE
10:00- 11:30	Introduction to energy accounting, including exercise by Mr. Michael Bordt, UNESCAP (coffee break before the exercise)
11:30- 12:30	Energy accounts in other countries of the Region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Energy accounts in Belarus by Mrs. Ekaterina Poleshchuk ▪ Energy accounts in Kazakhstan by Mr. Asset Nakipbekov
12:15- 13:30	Lunch break
13:30-14:00	Energy flow accounts in Kyrgyzstan and available data sources, issues to be clarified by Mrs. Elena Doronina, NSC KR
14:00- 15:30	Using energy balances for energy flow accounts by Mr. Michael Bordt, UNESCAP



15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45- 16:45	<i>Open discussion, clarification of open issues</i>
16:45-17:30	Review / drafting of action plan for further development of energy accounts in Kyrgyzstan.

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Day four (14 June 2018): Developing a Protected Areas Information System and products – led by UNEP-WCMC

Time	14 June 2018
	Developing a Protected Areas Information System and products – led by UNEP-WCMC
09:00-09:30	Registration
	Explore the needs and potential for developing information products and an information system on Protected Areas in Kyrgyzstan:
09:30-10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the information system framework developed by UNEP-WCMC
10:15-10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of the protected areas system in Kyrgyzstan and preliminary results of the preliminary assessment of the national capacity to have protected areas information. UNDP-GEF, 6NR Leading Expert ▪ Overview of the NBSAP reviewing process. UNDP-GEF, NBSAP support team ▪ The status and plans for Protected Areas Monitoring & Information Systems in Kyrgyzstan
10:45-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carry out rapid information system capacity assessments for selected protected area indicators, using the framework developed by UNEP-WCMC (group work).
11:45-12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify conclusions on technical and institutional needs and opportunities for developing protected areas information in Kyrgyzstan (group work and plenary).
12:15- 13:30	Lunch break
13:30-16:00	<p>Conclusions and next steps from the workshop for better co-ordinated data sharing, training needs for SEIS implementation, and reporting on the SDGs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest accounts ▪ Energy accounts ▪ Protected area information system and products
16:00-16:30	Finalization and closing of workshop



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