System of Environmental Economic Accounting

Sub-Regional Training Workshop on Climate Change Statistics and Indicators

Concept note and provisional agenda

Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

ESCAP | UNITED NATIONS SIAP Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

1 BACKGROUND

In the Pacific region, climate change is one of the most pressing policy issues given its wide-ranging impacts on well-being. At the Fifty-first Pacific Islands Forum in 2022, Pacific Island leaders emphasized climate change as an existential threat to the wellbeing, livelihoods, and security of the Pacific, resonating with the Boe Declaration (2018) and the Kainaki II Declaration (2019). Consequently, they declared a climate emergency. The region is already experiencing intensifying threats like rising sea levels, increasing ocean acidification, and escalating extreme weather events, profoundly impacting the region's economy, society, and environment. The urgency for scaled-up and cross-sectoral climate action is evident. To effectively address climate change, the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) need to implement the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and swiftly act on their national climate agendas in collaboration with regional entities such as agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific, including the Pacific Community (SPC), and the international development community. Reliable and actionable statistics and indicators on climate change impacts are vital to enable evidence-based policy, decision-making, planning and investment. Importantly, these statistics and indicators must be able to speak to the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change.

National statistical offices (NSOs) of countries in the region are well placed to support evidence-based policies aimed at managing the economic and environmental impacts and vulnerabilities due to climate change. At the same time, there is a need to strengthen the capacities of NSOs and national statistical systems more broadly to produce and disseminate climate change related statistics, accounts, and indicators to better meet user needs. The international statistical standard for compiling information on climate change and the economy is the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA).

The SEEA is comprised of two complimentary international statistical standards: the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF) and the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA). The SEEA CF takes a resource-based approach to measuring the supply and use of environmental resources and availability of environmental assets. The SEEA EA takes a more holistic approach in providing a spatially explicit approach to compiling accounts on ecosystems and the services they provide. The SEEA can be flexibly implemented by countries prioritizing accounts based on availability of information and policy priorities. The accounts are designed to respond to data needs for multiple policy initiatives including global initiatives on sustainable development and on mitigating and adapting to climate change.

In addition, the SPC has developed a Natural Disasters and Climate Change Survey Module, which was launched in 2023 as a standard methodology to regularly collect data representing the socio-economic picture of climate change impact on individuals, households and communities. The main objective is to encourage the production and use of socio-economic information on the impacts of climate change and natural disasters on PICT households.

The workshop, organized by the SPC and the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP) aims to further build capacities in the region for the compilation of statistics, accounts and indicators relevant to climate change. The workshop will focus on both the SEEA and the Climate Change and Natural Disasters Survey Module. In particular, the workshop will cover land, water and ecosystem accounts which support the compilation of indicators relevant to climate change impacts and vulnerabilities. These accounts also contain information related to losses and damages due to climate change which are areas of high interest in the Pacific.

2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the training programme are to:

a) increase participants' knowledge of the purpose and implementation of SEEA, including land, water and ecosystem accounts, with an aim towards producing high-quality statistics, accounts and indicators;
b) help participants acquire skills and understanding to implement the Natural Disasters and Climate Change survey module in their country;
c) facilitate experience sharing among Pacific countries; and
d) support countries to set up a strategy and work plan for the implementation and further development of climate change and environmental statistics.

3 LANGUAGE

The course will be offered in English.

4 TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Target participants are technical staff of NSOs and ministries of environment that:

1) have experience in using climate change statistics and indicators or
2) are responsible for the production of climate change statistics and indicators.

5 ORGANIZATION

During the workshop, participants will discuss technical issues related to the compilation of land, water and ecosystem accounts and other SEEA accounts closely related to climate change; they will also learn about good practices in dissemination.

The workshop will consist of lectures, practical exercises and the sharing of experiences among countries through presentations and breakout group discussions.

6 CONTACT PERSONS

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Day 1

- Opening remarks and ice breaker
- Climate change and environmental policies and data needs / priorities in the Pacific
- Current environmental statistics production and needs in Pacific countries
- Climate change statistics
    - Mitigation
    - Adaptation
    - Loss and Damages
- SDG indicators relating to climate change and environment

Day 2

- Natural Disaster and Climate Change Household Survey Module and Sourcebook
- Connection of environment data with other themes (gender, economics, etc)

Day 3

- Introduction to SEEA Central Framework
- Land accounts
- Water asset accounts, and physical supply and use tables

Day 4

- Ecosystem extent accounts
- Ecosystem condition accounts
- Ecosystem service accounts

Day 5

- Brief cover of other SEEA accounts (eg Waste accounts, Energy accounts, GHG accounts)
- Good practices in dissemination
- Where do we go from here?