



LAC Regional Workshop on Environmental Accounting:

Sustainable Development Agendas: How Energy and Emission Accounting Can Contribute to Policy Design and Decision Making

Antigua, Guatemala, May 16-18, 2017

Concept Note and Agenda

I. Background

In recent years more and more countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are engaging in Environmental-Economic Accounting to inform their public policy decisions in order to achieve sustainable development. Due to this interest by countries, international organizations have increased their efforts to support the region in this implementation effort. A regional seminar, jointly organized by ECLAC, IBGE, UNDP, UNEP, UNSD and the World Bank was held in Brazil in 2013 to discuss the growing policy demand for information to monitor the effect of economic and other human activity on the environment and to raise awareness of the relevance and utility of the SEEA in answering these policy questions. During the seminar, the regional SEEA implementation strategy was presented and discussed. The regional strategy is embedded in the global strategy developed by the UNCEEA and recently revised. One of the targets of the strategy adopted last year by the UN Statistical Commission is to have at least 100 countries with on-going, well-resourced programs in SEEA Central Framework and at least 50 countries with on-going, well-resourced programs in ecosystem accounting, to support national decision making.

In March 2016, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the World-Bank-led global partnership Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services Partnership (WAVES) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH jointly organized a Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Workshop on Environmental Accounting for Policy Analysis in Bogotá, Colombia.¹ As part of the agenda of the regional workshop in 2016, a Regional Cooperation Program (RCP) was discussed. Countries showed great interest for such a program, which is why efforts are currently undertaken to establish a RCP as a formal collaboration between WAVES and ECLAC. A key factor of success that was identified by the workshop's participants is the continuous communication and exchange between environmental accounting experts and users on the regional level. Therefore, a 2nd LAC Regional Workshop on Environmental Accounting will be organized in May 2017 by ECLAC and WAVES in collaboration with UNSD. The workshop will also support the SEEA global implementation strategy and provide a link with the SDGs.

With a historic global agreement to tackle climate change in place, delivering on UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 and reducing emissions becomes the cornerstone of the global agendas towards sustainable development. SDG7 focuses on a concerted global effort to ensure access to

¹ For the event's documents see www.wavespartnership.org/en/latin-america-and-caribbean-regional-workshop-environmental-accounting-policy-analysis.

affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Energy is interconnected with all of the other SDGs, and recognizing these linkages is important to effectively implement them. It is recognized that these linkages could be addressed by statistical frameworks that integrate the economy and the environment.

In the LAC region, energy is one of the crucial aspects for development. In many countries production and trade of energy resources has a critical effect on their economy. Given volatile world market prices, more and more countries aim to increase energy efficiency, while increasing supply of renewable energy and reduce emissions. Furthermore public energy management is a crucial factor in the design of climate change, green growth and sustainable development agendas.

At the global level, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) provides guidance to account for the energy economy, providing a framework for energy and emissions statistics in a way compatible to national accounts. Specific guidance is also under development such as the SEEA-Energy, a subsystem of the SEEA. This accounting framework provides an information basis for issues such as the availability and value of national energy resources, production, imports and exports, use of energy products by industries and households as well as energy efficiency and the calculation of emissions of energy related greenhouse gases. In LAC, the number of countries engaging in the implementation of Energy and Emission accounts has increased rapidly in the recent past. In terms of basic energy statistics and energy balances, most countries in the region have been producing these data sets for a long period of time which can enable the compilations of accounts, although data gaps and its quality issues are also present. For these reasons, energy and emissions accounting and its use for policy making has been chosen as the focus topic for this LAC Regional Workshop on Environmental Accounting.

II. Objectives

The regional workshop aims to share knowledge and exchange ideas on how energy and emission accounting can inform current policy issues directly related to the energy sector such as increasing access or in areas such as climate change, green growth and SDGs. In addition, the workshop will allow for an exchange of experiences on the implementation (technical elaboration and policy use) of energy accounts. The event will serve as a follow-up event of the previous Regional Conferences and other workshops by presenting results and progress achieved during the past year. Finally, the event will discuss the way forward and possible South-South cooperation in moving forward the natural capital accounting agenda.

III. Target audience/participants

The workshop intends to gather LAC country representatives from both sides of environmental accounting, i.e. the producers and the users of the accounts. The focus on energy facilitates to target the participants that will be able to contribute and benefit from the event. For the producer side, the goal is to invite the government officials who are actually compiling the accounts or are about to initiate programs to compile accounts, which depending on the country will be from National Statistics Offices, Central Banks or Line Ministries particularly Energy Ministries/authorities. It is expected these participants will have previous knowledge of energy statistics and energy balances. For the user side, the goal is to gather rather high-level decision makers from either the Ministry of Energy and/or the Ministry of Planning, or other relevant ministry, who engage in the planning and design of policies that could benefit or be informed from an energy and emissions accounting framework. It is also expected that these participants are aware of the current national debates around the energy sector. In addition, experts from WAVES/World Bank, ECLAC, GIZ, UNSD, OLADE and other international organizations as well as from academia will attend.

IV. Expected results

- 1) Participants have advanced their knowledge on how to use the information from energy accounts for policy making
- 2) Countries share technical experiences on the implementation of Energy and Emission Accounts based on the SEEA international standards and discuss with international experts
- 3) Countries get to know their counterparts in energy accounting and statistics across the region and discuss the possibilities of South-South cooperation
- 4) Report on the workshop

V. Agenda – OUTLINE OF SESSIONS

DAY 1: Background and Introduction to Energy and Emissions Accounting	
Time	Activity
08:00-08:30	Registration
08:30-09:30	Inauguration with authorities and representatives
09:30-11:00	Session 1: Background: Environmental accounting in LAC, SDGs and Horizons 2030
11:00-11:30	Coffee break and photo group
11:30-13:00	Session 2: Context: Key energy issues, goals and policies
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:00	Session 3: Energy (and emission) statistics, balances and accounts
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break
15:30-17:00	Session 4: Short exercise on energy accounts
DAY 2: The policy relevance of energy and emissions accounting	
08:30-09:00	Introduction Day 2
09:00-10:10	Session 5: SDG indicators from energy and emissions accounts
10:10-10:40	Coffee break
10:40-12:30	Session 6: How the accounts can inform energy policies and strategies
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Session 7: Climate Change and energy and emissions accounts
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break
15:30-17:00	Session 8: Green Growth and energy and emissions accounts
DAY 3: Implementation of Energy and Emissions Accounting	
08:30-09:00	Introduction Day 3
09:00-10:30	Session 9: How to get to an energy account and use it?
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:30	Session 10: Possibilities for South-South cooperation, Way forward and Closure of the workshop
12:30-13:30	Lunch
Afternoon	Field trip