Producing Economic-Environment Statistics in the Pacific

– Progress in some Pacific Island Countries using SEEA, and linkages to measuring national development and SDG priorities

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Purpose

- Provide an overview of SEEA related work in the Pacific

- Briefly highlight SEEA linkages to national development and SDG priorities

SEEA in the Pacific

- Implementation at very early stages. Generally official statistics have focused on economic and social statistics.

- A number of countries (Fiji, FSM, Palau, Samoa and Vanuatu) have undertaken an assessment using the SEEA diagnostic tool to review for relevance and feasibility.

- Assessment results found that producing SEEA based accounts are both relevant and feasible.

- Countries have prioritised accounts for production over the short to medium term.

SEEA – Pacific Implementation Plans

- **Fiji** – Energy, Water, Waste and measuring sustainable tourism

- **FSM** – Energy

- **Palau** – Water and Energy

- **Samoa** – Water

- **Vanuatu** – Land, Water

- Experimental accounts will be released in 2017.

Linking SEEA to National Priorities and SDGs

- SEEA accounts provide data for making informed policy choices and supports the monitoring of national development plans/ priorities and SDGs

- SEEA connections to environment related SDG's 6, 7, 11-15:
  - Water;
  - Energy;
  - Ocean;
  - Climate change;
  - Forest resources; and
  - Land and its use.

An Example – Goal 7 on Energy

- 3/5 SDG indicators can be directly/ partially derived from SEEA Energy

- Provides a basis for measuring CO_2 emissions

- Facilitates policy analysis on efficiency and intensity of resource use (application for regulation), and supply and use capacity (link to infrastructure planning)

Work-in-progress

- Early days for SEEA implementation in the Pacific – an initial attempt to produce official environmental statistics

- Broader applications are possible once a number of requisite indicators are available, e.g. Oceans and measuring Sustainable Tourism (Fiji case study proposes a framework for application and use).

Issues for Discussion

- Given that 5 countries in the Pacific would have SEEA statistics by 2017, how can all partners (academia, international organizations, government, NGOs etc) support:
  - research using available statistics for policy purposes – e.g. infrastructure planning, regulatory? What aspects of policy could be of most interest?;

  - research to support tracking of national development priorities and SDG's?

Issues for Discussion

- How can the proposed network create stronger demand for production and use of environment-economic statistics at national and regional levels?
    - Advocacy?
    - Technical backstopping?
    - Capacity building?
    - Virtual sharing of knowledge and experiences, and testing research of policy interest?

- In all this, a stepladder approach is needed, cognisant of limited resources and recognising the early stage of SEEA in the Pacific. Practical short to medium term actions need to be identified.

Vinaka – thank you!