

Annex 37. Tourism in the Conceptual Framework of SEEA

1. Although referred to a national context, the following paragraphs contain a range of classifications and lists (taken from the SEEA CF) to support the understanding of the key concepts and the compilation of relevant statistics; they are intended to provide a starting point for the compilation of relevant statistics. However, this material is not at the same level of sophistication in each case and certain classifications are labeled “interim”.

The classifications and lists contained in SEEA Central Framework are:

- Classification of environmental activities:
 - Environmental protection;
 - Resource management (interim);
- Classification of land use (interim);
- Land cover classification (interim);

List of solid waste.

2. Looking for tourism in these classifications, the classification of land use includes category 1.4 “Use of built-up *and related areas*” defined as “land affected or adapted by man, under buildings, roads, mines and quarries and any other facilities, including their auxiliary spaces, deliberately installed for the pursuit of human activities. Included also are certain types of open land (non built-up land), which are closely related to these activities, such as waste tips, derelict land in built-up areas, junkyards, city parks and gardens. Land under closed villages or similar rural localities are included” (UNSD et al. 2014: SEEA_CF 2012).

Tourism can be found in two groups of category 1.4 (UNSD et al. 2014: SEEA_CF 2012).

1.4.6 Commercial, financial and public services

Land mainly used for commerce, trade and related services, public administrations and judicial services, public order and safety services, social security and social work services, and professional and trade associations, including private roads and other auxiliary spaces located in the areas concerned. This category includes wholesale and retail trade; ***hotel and catering services***; banks and insurance; personal services; installations for national defense; education and research/development; and land occupied by religious buildings (UNSD et al. 2014: SEEA_CF 2012).

1.4.7 Recreational facilities

Land developed for and occupied by leisure or recreational purposes, including cultural sites: archaeological sites; historic sites, classified monuments, ruins and stately homes; museums, libraries and media centres; concert halls and theatres; cemeteries, and associated areas (water, wooded areas, lawns and gardens); sport facilities: public beaches and swimming pools, gymnasiums and sports halls; stadiums and games fields; assembly and dancing halls; golf courses; riding tracks; car racing circuits; green or leisure areas: urban parks, public gardens, zoological and botanical gardens and hobby gardens; major burial grounds used as walking places with considerable vegetation; ***facilities for tourism***: camping and caravanning sites; amusement parks, circuses, youth hostels and country centres; marinas; ***secondary residences or vacation houses***; and casinos. Excludes areas that can be used for recreation if this is not the main utilization. (UNSD et al. 2014: SEEA_CF 2012).

3. SEEA Central Framework 2012 (UNSD, EC, Food & Agriculture Organization of UN, IMF, OECD & WB., 2014) explicitly states that the proposed classification is subject to be revised, especially when the intention is to identify more rigorously and precisely land use for tourism related purposes. It should be then possible and feasible to generate statistics far more useful for tourism key stakeholders. That is one of the objectives of the proposed classification.

The following paragraphs try to identify concrete contributions that if considered appropriate, might require a more detailed focus or presentation.

4. In the first place, group 1.4.7. *Recreational facilities* SEEA Central Framework 2012 (UNSD, EC, Food & Agriculture Organization of UN, IMF, OECD & WB., 2014) should be better structured because the use of such facilities impact both resident and non-resident population; it would be desirable to define the terms “recreation” and “leisure” versus tourism (because tourism is already defined in an international statistical standard).

More precisely, such clarification process should use the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 as a starting point, where not only the term “tourism” has been defined, but also a list of purposes of the tourism trip is proposed which allows defining a classification on the main purposes of the trip. In fact, the list of related activities to the different main purposes of a tourism trip implicitly includes a clarification among the three mentioned terms.

Precisely, the group of main activities undertaken during a tourism trip for the main purpose of *Holidays, leisure and recreation* includes for example, sightseeing, visiting natural or man-made sites, attending sporting or cultural events, practicing a sport (skiing, riding, golfing, playing tennis, diving, surfing, hiking, trekking, mountain climbing, etc.) as a non-professional activity; using beaches, swimming pools and any recreation and entertainment facilities, cruising, gambling, attending summer camps for youngsters, resting, honey-mooning, fine dining, visiting establishments specialized in well-being (for example, wellness hotels), fitness except in the context of a medical treatment (in which case the purpose would be 1.4 health and medical care), staying in a vacation home owned or leased by the household, etc. (IRTS 2008).

5. Also the group 1.4.6. *Commercial, financial and public services*, includes land use for the provision of “hotel and catering services”. Consequently, it would seem appropriate that the tourism connection to the classification of land use should take into account the following:
 - Activities mainly performed by visitors for personal purposes: this means obviating possible uses associated to “business and professional purposes” as well as other personal purposes different “holidays, leisure and recreation” which embodies displacements to vacation homes.
 - Those buildings, infrastructures and collective equipment which are built due to the significance of tourism

UNWTO could certainly contribute to the revision of the present “interim” classification.

6. On a very different context, SEEA _CF 2012 states that data from the accounts can be extended and integrated with other information with the objective of deriving “expanded SEEA indicators”. Such an approach involves a breakdown of existing SEEA accounts using additional information, for instance by linking to specific spatial areas, by further breakdown of the household sector, or by a focus on certain themes where there is an interaction between human activity and the environment, such as tourism or health.

The *SEEA Applications and Extensions* document includes explicitly a “tourism extension” exercise (see Annex 1 of SEEA).

7. Interestingly enough, such an extension to the household sector allows for a more powerful type of analysis in areas of particular interest to UNWTO such as poverty alleviation. As stated in paragraphs 4.19 and 4.20 of such document, “integrated data, including social, economic and environmental accounts based on agreed classifications and methods, are important in efforts to help countries design effective sustainable development and other cross-cutting policies. Comparable data over time and across countries are needed to track performance across a range of sustainable development related goals and objectives” (including, for example the post-2015 agenda and Sustainable Development Goals) (*SEEA Applications and Extensions*, 4.19)
8. “It is important that these common sets of data are used to inform policymaking and implementation as part of integrated planning at all levels. Such data is also integral to the systems used to define, track and achieve future national and international development objectives. Extensions into these areas are encouraged by the Rio+20 Conference Outcome Document, and are supported by several development programmes linking the collection and analysis of data to integrated policymaking” (*SEEA Applications and Extensions*, para. 4.20.)