



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION  
UNITED NATIONS



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

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## System of Environmental-Economic Accounting— Ecosystem Accounting

### *Global Consultation on the complete document: Comments Form*

**Deadline for responses: 30 November 2020**

Send responses to: [seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org)

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The comments form has been designed to facilitate the analysis of comments. There are six guiding questions in the form, please respond to the questions in the indicated boxes below. To submit responses please save this document and send it as an attachment to: [seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org).

All documents can be found on our website at: <https://seea.un.org/content/global-consultation-complete-draft>

In case you have any questions or have issues with accessing the documents, please contact us at [seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org)

## General comments

### **Question 1: Do you have comments on the overall draft of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting?**

Any system which includes an evaluation of nature in National Accounts has to be a good thing. One must hope that more, and better, information will make for better decisions. Is Ecosystem Accounting really going to bring about restored or enhanced, productive and functioning healthy ecosystems and sustainability, or will it merely be a vehicle for the creation of new sophisticated financial products.? Or will it do both?

## Comments by sets of chapters

### **Question 2. Do you have comments on Chapters 1-2 of the draft SEEA Ecosystem Accounting?**

How can local communities, and the general public, be involved in the process, other than by having it done to them by men with clipboards?

### **Question 3. Do you have comments on Chapters 3-5 of the draft SEEA Ecosystem Accounting?**

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**Question 4. Do you have comments on Chapters 6-7 of the draft SEEA Ecosystem Accounting?**

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

**Question 5. Do you have comments on Chapters 8-11 of the draft SEEA Ecosystem Accounting?**

Despite the 2010s being 'The Decade of Biodiversity' and increasing use of tools such as SEA, EIA, Life-Cycle analysis, sustainability appraisals, and Biodiversity Net Gain, not one of the Aichi 20 for 20 Biodiversity targets has been met. What are the features of Ecosystem Accounting that suggest that this approach will enhance biodiversity and sustainability where others have so manifestly failed to do so?

Where have the Supporting Ecosystem Services gone? Can a true account be made without them? Net Present Value of an ecosystem asset appears to be no more than the sum of its ecosystem service flows. How, then, should non-use values and Total Economic Value be captured and articulated?

A policy maker looking at the stylised example in Annex 10 would conclude that farmland is more valuable than a forest and plan accordingly: by converting forest to more farmland. Thus the stock of ecosystem services (and thereby biodiversity) is diminished.

**Question 6. Do you have comments on Chapters 12-14 of the draft SEEA Ecosystem Accounting?**

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)