

Ecosystem condition indicators for SEEA EEA: issues & challenges

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Chapter 5 consultation outcomes

Q6 “Do you have any comments on Ecosystem Condition Typology for organising characteristics, data and indicators about ecosystem condition?”

(+Q9 “Do you have any other comments on Chapter 5?”)

- 60/82 gave an answer for Q6 (73%)
- 20/60 expressed a strong support for the approach (33%)
- 9/60 asked for lists of **more concrete indicators** (15%)
→ the most common request made

Indicators in Chapter 5

Guidance directly relevant for variables & indicators:

- the SEEA Ecosystem Condition Typology
 - a reporting structure for variables/indicators
- a number of criteria
 - guidance to select variables/indicators
- ...but no “shortlist” of concrete condition variables/indicators, since
 - ecosystems are different
 - countries are different
 - the optimal level of detail is unclear

The “level of detail” spectrum

- amount of vegetation
- NDVI
- mean NDVI of the dry season
- the percentage of the ground area occupied by vertical projection of photosynthetic foliage, based on automated decision tree classification technique (XX et al., 2015) applied to dry season Landsat 5 TM imagery for period 1986-2011 (obtained from <http://....>)

Questions for discussion

- Do we need a minimum list with condition variables / indicators? (And if yes, at what level of detail?)
- Who develops it? (And how?)
- How should it be applied? (any prescriptive aspect? as a source of inspiration? as a basis for simple thumb rules? → e.g. “*one indicator per category*”)?
- (Any other question on indicators / variables in Chapter 5...?)