



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 – Experimental Ecosystem Accounting Revision

First Global Consultation on:

Chapter 8: Principles of valuation for Ecosystem Accounting

Chapter 9: Accounting for ecosystem services in monetary terms

Chapter 10: Accounting for ecosystem assets in monetary terms

**Chapter 11: Integrated and extended accounting for ecosystem services and
assets**

Comments Form

Deadline for responses: 6 July 2020

Send responses to: seea@un.org

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The comment form has been designed to facilitate the analysis of comments. There are twelve 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 the following e-mail address: seea@un.org.

All documents can be also found on the SEEA EEA Revision website at:
<https://seea.un.org/content/seea-experimental-ecosystem-accounting-revision>

In case you have any questions or have issues with accessing the documents, please contact us at seea@un.org

Questions related to Chapter 8

Question 1: Do you have comments on the principles proposed to underpin monetary valuation for the revised SEEA EEA, including the use of exchange values and net present value approaches?

The use of exchange value seems like the logical principle of approach to ecosystem services monetary valuation, although as it was mentioned there are rarely a case in which an ecosystem service is exchanged directly in the markets for a certain exchange value, so it is not an easy task to make such calculations and strict methodological guidelines need to be implemented. When talking about the net present value approach such considerations as future patterns of certain ecosystem service flows, patterns of demand, etc. might be very hard to foresee and need to be explained in more detail.

Question 2. Do you have any suggestions for topics to include in Annex 8.1?

There are no suggestions for this part.

Question 3. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 8?

Maybe it would be easier to understand and more clear if after a paragraph explaining the accounting context for valuing ecosystem services there would be at least one practical example, whereas now you have to jump to another chapter for any practical examples.

Questions related to Chapter 9

Question 4. Do you have comments on the range of valuation methods proposed for use in estimating exchange values of ecosystem services?

It is a big advantage that many different methods of ecosystem services valuation are proposed which can be applied to various different services provided by different ecosystems, although it will be a challenge to correctly choose the most suitable method.

Question 5. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 9?

We have no additional comments on Chapter 9.

Questions related to Chapter 10

Question 6. Do you have comments on the definitions of entries for the ecosystem monetary asset account including ecosystem enhancement, ecosystem degradation and ecosystem conversions?

All of the stated entries for the ecosystem monetary asset account are stated clearly, the definitions are easily understandable, so there are no further comments.

Question 7. Do you have comments on the recommendations concerning the selection of discount rates for use in NPV calculations in ecosystem accounting?

There is too little elaboration on this topic in chapter 10, so it is quite hard to grasp the ideas/recommendations concerning the discount rates for NPV calculations in ecosystems accounting.

Question 8. Do you have comments on Annex 10.1 describing the derivation and decomposition of NPV?

The process of decomposition of NPV and the whole idea is shown in detail and is quite clear. Although the process is much clearer with “traditional” provisional ecosystem services such as crop or timber provisioning and might be more problematic with cultural services and etc.

Question 9. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 10?

This chapter is really important in ecosystem service accounting as it deals with monetary value of such accounts. It is an advantage that quite some practical examples are set, formulas are written and the example tables on NPV calculations are added. Maybe some more elaboration in this chapter could be stressed on the discounting rates and the correct choosing and application on them.

Questions related to Chapter 11

Question 10. Do you have comments on the proposed structure of the extended balance sheet that integrates the monetary values of ecosystem and economic assets?

It should be noted that clear distinction between ecosystem assets and economic assets has to be made to avoid overlapping, which might be harder to make for specialists not familiar with national accounting.

Question 11. Do you have comments on the approaches to assigning the ownership of ecosystem assets that underpins the structure of the extended sequence of institutional sector accounts?

We do not have any further comments on this topic.

Question 12. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 11?

While integrated and extended accounting for ecosystems services and assets is important and shows a broader value added by ecosystem services to the overall economy it might be a hard process for people working with ecosystem services accounts which have never worked with national accounting and don't have much experience in this field, so probably there would be a need to incorporate more experts in this process.