



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

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

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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.

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

General comments

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

The *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report* (2005) included 'sense of place' as a cultural ecosystem service in its own right, recognising that sense of place is part of the contributions made by ecosystems to human society which need to be assessed and managed.

'Sense of place' is not referred to in the overall draft of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, but it is similar in concept (I presume) to spiritual or symbolic services, which appears to have been addressed as a non-use values.

Within non-use values they would be more closely aligned with existence value.

The current proposal for SEEA Ecosystem Accounting is to exclude those values.

Particularly in the Australian context, this is quite problematic as it does not account for the indigenous peoples' Connection to Country, and the role that their activities and Caring for Country play in maintaining the health and condition of ecosystems, which thus provide other ecosystem services.

I would imagine there are other First Nations people which have similar connection to their country and caring for their country activities.

If this cannot be addressed as part of this proposal for SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, then a recommendation should be made that this issue be urgently addressed as a separate companion piece of work to inform SEE-EA.

Comments by sets of chapters

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

See above.

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

See above.

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

See above.

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

See above.

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

See above.