

List of Issues for Vol II, Valuation

Expanding the scope of valuation in Volume II

SEEA-2003 limited coverage to environmental degradation.

Revised SEEA should take a broader approach to valuation, the measurement of environmental benefits/ecosystem services, and the loss of these services.

Many benefits are used as intermediate inputs to production and are already included in the SNA, but implicitly.

Valuation will not change aggregates, but many countries are finding it useful for policy to make these values explicit, e.g., to know the contribution of forests to maintenance of clean, sediment-free water.

Content of Vol II related to valuation

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Definition of economic value, valuation techniques & relation to SNA concept of value
- Prioritizing benefits to address in Vol II
- Carbon sequestration, can it be included (partly) in Vol I related to forest accounts
- Damages to human health—human capital
- Adjusted aggregates & indicators

Process and timeline

Establish Advisory Group

- technical experts (economists and national accountants)
- representatives from agencies participating in SEEA revision
- participation from developing countries

National accounts experts & agencies:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics-TBD
- UNSD, as the secretariat of the UNCEEA
- Statistics Netherlands, Mark De Haan, chair of the London Group
- Bureau of Economic Analysis (USA)
- UNEP (Anantha Duraiappah)
- European Environmental Agency

Technical experts, economists:

- Giles Atkinson, London School of Economics, UK
- Jeffrey Vincent, Duke University, USA
- Haripriya Gunimeda, India, Madras University, India
- Rashid Hassan, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Process and timeline

Meetings: One meeting with all members of Advisory Group. All other communication by email.

Funding

- Members from agencies in developed countries cover their own costs.
- Payment for other technical experts paid by World Bank
- Participants from developing countries will need support to attend meeting.

Timeline:

Late 2009: Advisory group recruited and meets (or may be early 2010)

2010: Paper drafted and circulated

Questions/Issues

1. Does the LG agree with the expanded scope of Vol. II (env benefits & damages, not just damages)?
2. Does the LG think that all valuation of carbon storage belongs in Vol II, or does part (eg, forestry) belong in Vol I?
3. Does the LG agree with a limited discussion of human capital ?
4. Does the LG agree with the establishment of an Advisory Group on valuation, and the process proposed?
5. Are there other agencies that want to participate, or want to be removed from the proposed Advisory Group?
6. Where can funding be obtained for travel of participants from developing countries to Advisory Group meeting?