



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 6: Ecosystem services concepts for accounting

Chapter 7: Accounting for ecosystem services in physical terms

Comments Form

Deadline for responses: 20 August 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 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 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 6

Question 1: Do you have comments on the concepts and definitions for ecosystem services, benefits and associated components of the ecosystem accounting framework?

I have no major concerns. Some terminology could be better defined (e.g., processes and characteristics, “factors” in logic chain, “components” of biodiversity in Para 6.32).

The description of benefits in para 6.11 may be misinterpreted as referring to only short-term gains or positive utility. The subsequent paragraphs make it clear that long-term ecosystem integrity is also included. Perhaps this could be made clear in the initial paragraph (e.g., “ultimately, including over the long term”).

Question 2. Do you have comments on the content and descriptions in the reference list of selected ecosystem services?

Well done overall.

Question 3. Do you agree with the proposed treatments for selected ecosystem services described in Section 6.4 for biomass provisioning services, global climate regulation services, cultural services, water supply and abiotic flows?

Yes, it is clear and gives good guidance for implementation.

Question 4. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 6?

No additional comments.

Questions related to Chapter 7

Question 5. Do you have comments on the proposed recording approaches for ecosystem services supply and use tables described in section 7.2?

No, they are very straightforward and consistent with the concepts. It remains to be seen what they would look like with several services and ecosystem types.

Question 6. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 7?

The discussion of baselines is well taken, but more of concern to those conducting the primary measurement. Compilers of ecosystem accounts should be prepared to ask if the data collectors have considered the baseline and what the baseline is. However, compilers will have little control over changing these once the measurements have been made.

Para 7.70 on connections to the SEEA CF could use a logic check (“While in general concept ecosystem services...”). There are many instances of the word “and” in the second sentence. Could substitute “while”.