



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?

Excellent document covering all the aspects of Environmental accounting in an elaborate way with examples and linking to SDG goals.

Separate provision may be made to account the influence of societal welfare measures by Government or NGOs and enforcement of laws on reduction of disservices or improvement of ecosystem condition, etc. Example: increase in biomass provision service of a forest due to welfare measures implemented in tribal areas. This will help in monetize the impact of such enforcements.

Comments by sets of chapters

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

1.49: 'Expandable' may be added to uses and applications. i.e., the scope of services of ecosystem can be expanded based on local needs, without disturbing the ecosystem typologies.

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

Page-51. **Key ecological concepts:** A figure depicting the ecological concepts may be introduced.

Page-53 : A3.15 Characteristics: Soil toxicity and soil depth may be included.

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

Units for measuring pollination services given as #visits. It may be very difficult to measure and obtain a reliable value or benefit attached thereon. Instead, relative improvement in economic output in the neighbourhood areas to grassland / forests may be a better measure and possible to obtain from field measurements.

For Self pollinating crops, the pollination service credits may be given to 'Agriculture'.

Page-136: 7.15 "A single SUT is compiled for one accounting period, usually one year". This may be a very ambitious target for many countries. Initially, it can be made at 3 years interval and depending on progress gradually it may be brought to annual cycle.

Suitable methods to derive an account may also be provided. Example, for ecosystem extent changes and degradation, remote sensing based methods may be suggested. Similarly usefulness of remote sensing data is amply demonstrated in biomass (crop as well as forest) assessments and thus it can be a good candidate for direct use in biomass provisioning services assessment.

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

Table 10.1: Ecosystem monetary asset account : It is not clear how temporary and permanent losses in catastrophic events are accounted. Entry for 'recovery from catastrophic loss' may also be included, if 'catastrophic loss' considers only permanent loss. Example: During events like cyclone, there may be loss of plantation crops or land may be converted to saline leading to temporary loss. Over a period of time they may recover back to normal.

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

Uncertainty associated with each ecosystem account need to be introduced.

Page-262, A13.4: Carbon stored in buildings in the form of wood and concrete need to be accounted as 'Carbon in the economy'.