



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

Organization & country:	NSO, MoSPI, India
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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?

No comments

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

In Table 6.2: Reference list of selected ecosystem services, amenity services have been defined as “the ecosystem contributions to local living conditions, in particular through the biophysical characteristics and qualities of ecosystems, that provide benefits including recreational opportunities, visual aesthetics and lower levels of air and noise pollution”. As such, this seems to be a combination of other services like the Recreation-related services, Noise attenuation services and Air filtration services. Therefore, this service need not be shown separately since that would contradict the text in 6.42 – “Each ecosystem service in the reference list is defined such that it can be measured in a mutually exclusive and separable way such that there is no double-counting of the ecosystem contributions of individual ecosystem services in the reference list”.

Further, it is observed that it may be difficult to delineate the compilation of some of the services – like the soil erosion control services may need to be associated with soil quality regulation services. Therefore, it is suggested that in para 6.48, the following text may be added:

“Compilers may combine a few ecosystem services in view of the data and resource availability and relative significance of the ecosystem services”.

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, we agree.

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

No 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?

In Chapter 6, it is given that
“The measurement of the ecosystem service should be aligned with the gross quantity of biomass that is harvested, i.e., the gross natural input. This will be different from the total stock of biomass available for harvest and from the biomass that is subsequently removed from the ecosystem and sold or otherwise used. Thus, for example, felling residues and discarded catch should be considered as part of the ecosystem service flow.”

However, in Chapter 7, Para 7.6 it is said that
“For each ecosystem service, the total supply recorded in the top section must equal to the total use recorded in the bottom section”.

A provision may be required to be made for that part of the supply (like felling residues etc), which cannot be ascribed to any use.

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

No comments