



International Seminar
“Towards Linking Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services
to Economic and Human Activity”
27-29 Nov 2012
United Nations Secretariat 27th floor Conference Room S-2726 and S-2727

Provisional Annotated Agenda

The objective of the meeting is to establish a dialogue, and possibly long term partnerships, among the scientific, policy, environmental economics and statistical communities. Bringing the different communities together will allow for a more comprehensive discussion of issues and the respective roles in developing scientific based methodologies; mainstreaming a policy dialogue on statistics of the experimental ecosystem accounts; and ensuring coherence, consistency and scalability of the country studies.

Tuesday, 27 Nov 2012

8:30-9:30 Registration of participants

Session 1 Opening (10:00AM - 1:00)

This session will inform on the need for experimental ecosystem accounts and the benefits of organizing ecosystem-related information in an accounting system. It will discuss how the SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounts provides the conceptual framework for organizing information on the ecosystems and their relationship to human and economic activity.

Opening statement and welcome remarks

Shamshad Akhtar, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Opening addresses - Linking Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services to Economic and Human Activity

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

Thomas E. Lovejoy, Biodiversity Chair, Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the Environment and Professor, George Mason University

Walter Radermacher, Director-General, Eurostat

The opening addresses will present the policy perspective, the scientific perspective as well as the statistical perspective on ecosystem accounting.

Overview of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

Peter Harper, Chair of UNCEEA and Deputy Australian Statistician

This presentation will provide a non-technical overview of the scope and content of the conceptual framework of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and address those policy questions that the ecosystem accounting can inform.

Panel discussion with the keynote speakers and general discussion

Session 2 Global policy demand for ecosystem accounts (2:30PM - 4:00PM)

Moderator: Peter Harper, Chair of UNCEEA and Deputy Australian Statistician

This session will present the growing demand for information on ecosystem services and ecosystem capital from an international policy perspective. It will start by presenting the demands coming out of Rio +20 on ecosystem accounts and CBD and then describe the various operational initiatives.

Panel discussion

Post Rio+20

David O'Connor, Chief, Policy Analysis and Network Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

International policy demand on ecosystem management and environmental assessment (PEI, HDI, Climate Change, REDD, Biodiversity Framework, etc.)

Charles McNeill, Senior Policy Adviser, Environment and Energy Group, United Nations Development Programme

International policy demand on ecosystem management and environmental assessment (TEEB, ProEcoserv, Green Economy, etc.)

Pushpam Kumar, Chief, Ecosystem Services Economics Units, Division of Environment Programme Implementation, UNEP

Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) and Natural Capital Accounting

Glenn-Marie Lange, Lead, Policy and Economics Team, Environment Department, the World Bank

Implementation of experimental Simplified Ecosystem Capital Accounts for Europe

Jean Louis Weber, Adviser, European Environment Agency

Discussion (led by the moderator)

Session 3 National policy demand for ecosystem accounts (4:30PM - 6:00PM)

Moderator: Charles McNeill, Senior Policy Adviser, Environment and Energy Group, United Nations Development Programme

This session will present the growing demand for information on ecosystem services and ecosystem capital from a national policy perspective.

Panel discussion

Ecosystem policy in countries

Peter Cosier, Director Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, Australia

Ceo Gaudet, Special Adviser to the Director General of Economic Analysis, Environment Canada

Laksmi Dhewanthi, Assistant Deputy Minister for Environmental Economics, Ministry of Environment, Indonesia

Tracey Lyn Cumming, Resource Economics and Stewardship Policy Adviser, South African National Biodiversity Institute, South Africa

Catherine Connolly, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK

Discussion (led by the moderator)

Session 4 Conclusions from the first day of the seminar (9:00AM - 9:30AM)

Moderator: Geert Bruinooge, Deputy Director-General, Statistics Netherlands

This session will summarize the discussion on the international and national policy demand for ecosystem accounts.

Session 5 Physical ecosystem accounts (9:30AM - 11:00AM)

Moderator: Wadih Scandar Neto, Director of Geoscience, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)

This session will discuss the conceptual framework of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting as well as provide practical examples of how selected parts of the accounts have been implemented in countries, in particular related to biodiversity and carbon. It will provide an opportunity to obtain a better understanding of current practices in the compilation of the accounts, the scientific methods used and the relationship of the accounts to international indicator initiatives.

Conceptual foundation of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
Carb Obst, SEEA Editor

Panel discussion

Ben ten Brink, Project Leader, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL)
Judith Ajani, Senior Fellow Australian National University
Mark Eigenraam, Director of EcoMarkets, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Government of Victoria, Australia

Discussion (led by the moderator)

Session 6 Monetary ecosystem accounts (11:30AM - 1:00PM)

Moderator: Art Ridgeway, Assistant Chief Statistician, National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field Statistics, Statistics Canada

This session will discuss the monetary accounts in the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and the benefits of integrating the monetary information in an accounting framework. Various valuation techniques applied to valuing ecosystem services and capital and their consistency with the national accounts principles will also be discussed, as well as the feasibility of valuation of ecosystem services and capital in the context of official statistics.

Monetary accounts in the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
Glenn-Marie Lange, Lead, Policy and Economics Team, Environment Department, the World Bank

Panel discussion

Geoffrey Heal, Professor, Columbia University
Rob Vos, Director, Development Policy and Analysis Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Rodney Smith, Professor, University of Minnesota
Peter van de Ven, Head of National Accounts Division, OECD

Discussion (led by the moderator)

Session 7 Role of official statistics in the implementation of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (2:30PM - 5:00PM)

Moderator: Steve Landefeld, Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, USA

This session will discuss the role of official statistics and possible institutional cooperation in the development of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. Senior statisticians will reflect on the policy demands at the national level and their plans to meet those demands.

Panel discussion

Peter Harper, Chair of UNCEEA and Deputy Australian Statistician

Wadih Neto, Director of Geoscience, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)

Art Ridgeway, Assistant Chief Statistician of Canada

Francisco Guillen, Deputy Director General of National Accounts, INEGI, Mexico

Geert Bruinooge, Deputy Director General Statistics Netherlands

Mohammed Al-Marzouqi, Director, Shared Services Department, Qatar Statistics Authority

Andrei Tatarinov, Director, Department of National Accounts, Rosstat, Russia

Discussion (led by the moderator)

Session 8 Future work/Formulation of final conclusion (5:30PM - 6:00PM)

Moderator: Andrei Tatarinov, Director, Department of National Accounts, Rosstat, Russia

Discussion: Development of overall strategy

A final plenary session will discuss recommendations on the roles of the different communities, and an overall strategy for testing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and for advancing the research agenda to be presented to the UN Statistical Commission at its 44th session.

Selected countries and international agencies

Closing

Thursday, 29 Nov 2012

The third day will provide a forum for senior statisticians to reflect on the outcome of the international seminar regarding the implications for the statistical community in advancing the research agenda for the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss the implementation strategy of the SEEA Central Framework which will be presented to the Statistical Commission at its 44th session in February 2013.

Session 9 NSOs and the testing of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (9:30AM - 11:00AM)

Moderator: Pushpam Kumar, Chief, Ecosystem Services Economics Units, Division of Environment Programme Implementation, UNEP

This session will discuss a strategy for testing ecosystem accounts and advancing the research agenda. It will also discuss how to manage demands on the NSOs to provide statistics on ecosystems and manage expectations on the feasibility of what can be provided in the context of official statistics.

Thoughts on strategy for testing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
Peter Harper, Chair, UNCEEA and Deputy Australian Statistician

Communication strategy for the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
Art Ridgeway, Assistant Chief Statistician, National Accounts and Analytical Studies Field Statistics Canada

Discussion

Session 10 Implementation strategy of the SEEA Central Framework (11:30AM - 1:00AM)

Moderator: Ivo Havinga, Chief, Economic Statistics Branch, UNSD

This session will discuss the implementation strategy of the SEEA Central Framework and its communication strategy. It will also inform on the implementation of the FDES.

Implementation strategy of the SEEA Central Framework and communication strategy
Geert Bruinooge, Deputy Director-General Statistics Netherlands and the Chair of the Task Force on the Implementation of the SEEA Central Framework

Core set of tables and accounts
Peter van de Ven, Head of National Accounts, OECD

Implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics
Eszter Horvath, Chief, Environment and Energy Statistics Branch, UNSD

Discussion

Closing