



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 8: Principles of valuation for Ecosystem Accounting

Chapter 9: Accounting for ecosystem services in monetary terms

Chapter 10: Accounting for ecosystem assets in monetary terms

**Chapter 11: Integrated and extended accounting for ecosystem services and
assets**

Comments Form

Deadline for responses: 6 July 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 twelve 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 8

Question 1: Do you have comments on the principles proposed to underpin monetary valuation for the revised SEEA EEA, including the use of exchange values and net present value approaches?

The principles are presented in a consistent and impressive framework.

Question 2. Do you have any suggestions for topics to include in Annex 8.1?

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Question 3. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 8?

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Questions related to Chapter 9

Question 4. Do you have comments on the range of valuation methods proposed for use in estimating exchange values of ecosystem services?

Computable general equilibrium models should be listed as an approach to estimate exchange values.

Concerning non-use values, it is stated in the Technical Recommendations Consultation Draft in 6.50 “At this point, there are relatively few studies in this area of valuation from the perspective of ecosystem services. Further, there is an open question of the extent to which non-use values can be captured within an exchange value concept.” This should be included in the text.

Question 5. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 9?

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Questions related to Chapter 10

Question 6. Do you have comments on the definitions of entries for the ecosystem monetary asset account including ecosystem enhancement, ecosystem degradation and ecosystem conversions?

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Question 7. Do you have comments on the recommendations concerning the selection of discount rates for use in NPV calculations in ecosystem accounting?

Discount rates are subject to ongoing discussions as they pose significant challenges in case of negative interest rates or specific rates chosen differently depending on compiler preferences. To ensure international comparability and method consistency, the choice of specific discount rates in net present value approaches should be subject of detailed guidelines and this should clearly be stated in the revised SEEA-EEA.

Question 8. Do you have comments on Annex 10.1 describing the derivation and decomposition of NPV?

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Question 9. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 10?

As in Chapter 9, we suggest to present alternative methods to evaluate ecosystem assets in monetary terms alongside the NPV. Our experience on the valuation of timber stocks shows that in our situation the stumpage value method was more appropriate, practical and based on far fewer assumptions than the NPV.

Questions related to Chapter 11

Question 10. Do you have comments on the proposed structure of the extended balance sheet that integrates the monetary values of ecosystem and economic assets?

We suggest to replace the “of which”-positions in Table 11.2 with a comprehensive nomenclature which allows a direct link to the asset account of the SNA and a transparent aggregation of all detail positions. Furthermore, we suggest to use the SNA codification wherever possible and to extend this codification wherever necessary.

Question 11. Do you have comments on the approaches to assigning the ownership of ecosystem assets that underpins the structure of the extended sequence of institutional sector accounts?

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Question 12. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 11?

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