



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 3: Spatial units for Ecosystem Accounting

Chapter 4: Accounting for Ecosystem Extent

Chapter 5: Accounting for Ecosystem Condition

Comments Form

Deadline for responses: 30 April 2020

Send responses to: seea@un.org

Name:	Riaan Grobler/Brenda Mphakane
Organization & country:	Statistics South Africa, South Africa

The comment form has been designed to facilitate the analysis of comments. There are nine 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

Question 1: Do you have any comments on the definition and description of ecosystem assets and ecosystem accounting areas and the associated measurement boundaries and treatments?

None

Question 2. Do you have any comments on the use of the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology as the SEEA Ecosystem Type Reference Classification?

It is difficult to provide comments at this stage on the IUCN Global Ecosystem typology, as the process of testing/matching the SA National Ecosystem typology to the IUCN Global Ecosystem typology is now only at the starting phase (to provide feedback by 12 June 2020 as communicated in the UNSD webinar of 20 April 2020).

Question 3. Do you have any comments on the recording of changes in ecosystem extent and ecosystem condition, including the recording of ecosystem conversions, as described in chapters 4 and 5?

None

Question 4. Do you have any comments on the three-stage approach to accounting for ecosystem condition, including the aggregation of condition variables and indicators?

None

Question 5. Do you have any comments on the description and application of the concept of reference condition and the use of both natural and anthropogenic reference conditions in accounting for ecosystem condition?

None

Question 6. Do you have any comments on Ecosystem Condition Typology for organising characteristics, data and indicators about ecosystem condition?

The accumulated stocks of various pollutants in water would include the chemistry e.g phosphate, nitrate, TDS etc, concentration? Since CO2 concentration should not be seen as a condition metric in this instance?

Question 7. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 3?

Relates to chapters 3, 4 and 5. The practical application/compilation/guidance of the theory as discussed in both chapter 3, 4 and 5. If we want to champion the NCA, then we would have to advocate for a more practical angle for country compilation guidance, to supplement the existing more 'theoretical' frameworks. Especially for countries that are starting or is in the beginning of the NCA process. Taking one step back. For example, If a country is at the starting process, what typically would be the basic data sources needed in order to start, for example, work towards the compilation for ecosystem extent and ecosystem condition? If that data does not exist, how do you go about the collection of that data. And what would be some basic practical steps in the compilation process, e.g how do you go from compiling a land and ecosystem account to calculating an ecosystem change index or indicator, etc. This could also be supplemented with some country case studies, as the countries will experience different obstacles, and find different practical solutions for those obstacles.

Figure 3.1.b Vertical structure of marine ecosystems also covers the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)?

Paragraph 3.37: *Complementary accounts for marine ecosystems include Fishery Accounts?*

Paragraph: 3.58: *Which data will be sufficient to delineate EAs if land cover/use are not sufficient?*

Question 8. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 4?

Paragraph 4.11 Can we have an example in a table scenario? Like those used during training?

Talking about the overall constraint so this is not necessarily possible?

If discrepancies are possible, how can this be managed?

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

None