



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

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
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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?

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

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

The reference list has five cultural ecosystem services when paragraph 6.72 lists six.

It may be worth mentioning the alignment between *appreciation services* with existence and bequest values commonly used in the context of valuation. Assuming here the *maintenance of ecosystem service option* corresponds to option values relating to future use, but some explanation in the text would be helpful.

In the case of solid waste remediation services, it would be helpful to list examples of when it is intermediate or final service, either in the table or in the text.

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?

In the case of amenity services, since they encompass multiple services (recreation, visual aesthetics, reduction of air and noise pollution) there is a potential for double-counting of services. The “mutually exclusive and separable” criteria of paragraph 6.42 does not automatically apply in this case. The text should clearly describe how and when amenity services can be included in ecosystem service accounts: either when recreation, visual aesthetics, reduction of air and noise pollution services are not also accounted for, or when the survey method can clearly separate local from more remote beneficiaries.

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

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

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?

The treatment of exports is inconsistent between ecosystem services. It is not clear why the ecosystem services embodied in the export of biomass products (para. 7.37) shouldn't be recorded as exports, when the users are clearly located outside the EEA. This also violates the supply and use equality assumption.

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

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)