



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?

Overall, compliments for the editor to bring all this material together in these four chapters. It is a significant improvement with regard to the old SEEA EEA and the technical recommendations. In our opinion, valuation of ecosystem services and ecosystem assets and the associated monetary accounts are an important and integral component of SEEA ecosystem accounting. Important to note that these chapters describe the concepts, definitions that we recommend should be used also to ensure international comparability, but that in practice, of course, many challenges remain with regard to compilation.

Chapter 8 is important as it introduces the key principles for monetary valuation. The focus on exchange values and the NPV approach is the right approach for SEEA EA, as it ensures consistency with the SNA, a key characteristic of SEEA.

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

This is an important annex. Particularly as it will explain the difference between the exchange value versus welfare value approach. OK if this is a very technical annex, but it should also address what this would mean in practice, i.e. that the welfare values approach will produce higher numbers than the exchange value approach, and that they may be used for different purposes.

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

Par. 8.1 can still be strengthened with regard to why monetary accounting is useful (at the same time adding it is not 'essential' to SEEA EA that compilers can also do only the physical accounts.

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?

This is a good overview of valuation methods that can be used to estimate exchange values.

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

Valuation of intermediate services should be addressed. In some cases the value of intermediate services (when it can be valued) is not automatically included in the value of the final service. How to deal with that should be described.

The section on the valuation of cultural services still could be improved.

Based on the forthcoming chapters 6 and 7, the valuation chapters should be checked on consistency.

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?

Par 10.7 :

A link can also be made to entries in the ecosystem extent account (Chapter 4). The additions and reductions shown in that account in physical terms will align with the additions and reductions in monetary terms that are recorded under ecosystem conversions. → maybe some additional guidance can be added how this works out (what are the additions and what the reductions)

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

no

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

This is a very useful annex. It would be good to test this in practice to see if it still can be improved.

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

Overall the chapter is very clear and concise.

NPV formula in par. 10,35. This one may look 'scary' to new compilers. What may be added that with some assumptions it can be very much simplified, i.e. assuming that the stream of future of flows is constant and/ or the asset life is indefinite. Can also be added as a note.

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?

No. structure of the extended balance sheets is ok.

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?

ok

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

no