



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

Name:	Pekka Hurskainen
Organization & country:	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Finland

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?

The paragraph 6.18 is a bit confusing. It first states that “it is generally agreed that the focus of measurement for accounting purposes should be on **outputs** produced by economic units (e.g., medical care) rather than on **outcomes** (e.g. health)”. But in the next sentence, it is stated that “It will generally be the case that the measurement of **outcomes** will reflect the measurement of well-being”, and in the beginning of chapter 6.19 it says “For ecosystem accounting, the focus is on recording **flows of ecosystem services as contributions to benefits**”.

So, in ecosystem service accounting, are these flows, which is in the focus, outputs or outcomes?

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

The reference list is otherwise OK, but I see some overlap in the cultural services: **recreation-related services** and **amenity services**. The definition of the first one is clear, but the second also includes “...biophysical characteristics and qualities of ecosystems, that provide benefits including **recreational opportunities**”. It seems like recreation is included in both, perhaps the description should be revised to avoid confusion.

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?

No comments

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

The table in annex 6.1 is very helpful in understanding the overall concept and logic chain.

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?

No comments.

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

In table 7.1, ecosystem service “ecosystem and species appreciation services” is mentioned twice.