



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION  
UNITED NATIONS



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

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## System of Environmental-Economic Accounting— Ecosystem Accounting

### *Global Consultation on the complete document: Comments Form*

**Deadline for responses: 30 November 2020**

Send responses to: [seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org)

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The comments 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: [seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org).

All documents can be found on our website at: <https://seea.un.org/content/global-consultation-complete-draft>

In case you have any questions or have issues with accessing the documents, please contact us at [seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org)

## General comments

### **Question 1: Do you have comments on the overall draft of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting?**

Generally speaking, we have no comments on the overall draft of SEEA EA, and are looking forward to seeing the concrete methods of measuring ecosystem services and the country examples of its application in policy-making in the coming complementary handbooks. Meanwhile, we hope to translate it into Chinese, and publish it with copyright authorized by UN next year, when it is finalized.

It can be said that this draft has been advanced distinctly. I hope it will become an agreed international standard in the year of 2021.

Below I'd like to raise one question and put forward one recommendation for clarification and for your consideration related to Chapter 6. The question and recommendation are raised by Madam WANG Hongwei, Professor, National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

The others mainly concerning possible typos are raised by Madam QIU Qiong. For your reference.

## Comments by sets of chapters

### **Question 2. Do you have comments on Chapters 1-2 of the draft SEEA Ecosystem Accounting?**

I think there may exist some typos:

1.20 At the end of P4, the last words "Inter-governmental and science" should be replaced by "Intergovernmental Science-Policy".

A1.2 In Line 4 of A1.2, the first "that" should be replaced by "than".

A1.16 In Line 1 of its last paragraph, the word "are" should be deleted.

A1.20 In Line 3, the word "principle" should be substituted by "principal".

2.5 In Line 4, the last number "2010" should be replaced by "2009".

2.28 In Line 5, the bracket "(" should be deleted.

2.35 The last but one sentence, should be complemented since it is not complete.

2.38 In Line 3, before the word "each", there should be a comma ","; In Line 5, before the word "since", there also should be a comma ",".

2.46 In the last but one line, "(v)" should be deleted, since in Line 4, it is said "into four types". Please check the consistency for the whole draft.

2.48 In the last but one line, ", or" should be deleted; otherwise supplement should be made after the word "or".

2.49 In the last but one line, we should delete the word "described" or "introduced".

### **Question 3. Do you have comments on Chapters 3-5 of the draft SEEA Ecosystem Accounting?**

The possible typos:

Table 3.1 Is there should be a period at the end of each note or source below the tables or figures? If there should be, please ensure that there is a period “.” at the end of each note or source in order to keep consistency through the whole text, e.g., under Table 7.3. The same for the footnote, e.g., Note 25, 26, 34, etc. Also the same for the colon in Annex 3.1.

3.72 In Line 3, “build up areas” should be substituted by “built up areas”.

A3.14 At the end of Line 2 in paragraph of “Topography and geomorphology”, a period “.” should be added.

A3.21 At the end of A3.21, should be there a period?

A3.2 At the end of Annex 3.2, SM1 is classified as two SM1.1: “SM1.1 Anchialine caves” and “SM1.1 Sea caves”. If the two SM1.1 is of the same connotation, only one of them should be retained. If “Anchialine caves” and “Sea caves” is not of the same connotation, the “SM1.1 Sea caves” should be corrected as “SM1.3 Sea caves”.

4.17 At the end of this paragraph, either “is not” be changed as “must be” or the last sentence should be completed.

4.38 In Line 3, the word “influence” should be replaced by the word “influenced”.

5.8 In Line 4, before word “physical” there should be the word “of”.

5.32 In Line 7, before word “individual” there should be the word “of”.

5.33 In Line 8, is the word “foundation-species-based” correct?

5.34 In Line 8, after “(e.g., surface albedo)”, there should be a period.

Table 5.3 In the column of “Measurement unit” corresponding Variable 4, “no. species” should be replaced by “no. of species”.

5.67 In Line 7, the word “examples” should be substituted by word “example”.

5.84 In Line 8, the word “then” should be replaced by word “than”.

5.106 i. In Line 4, “forest to woodland” or “forest to grassland”?

#### Question 4. Do you have comments on Chapters 6-7 of the draft SEEA Ecosystem Accounting?

One question raised by Professor WANG Hongwei:

How to draw the boundary between nature and economy? For example, according to SEEA (E) EA, for the contribution of trees in the provisioning services provided by a forest, which of the followings is correct? 1. Calculated in terms of standing trees before they are felled. 2. Calculated in terms of logs after they are felled.

(自然与经济的边界怎么划分? 比如森林提供的供给服务中的林木贡献, 是以未伐倒前的立木计算, 还是以伐倒后的原木计算?)

One recommendation proposed by Professor WANG Hongwei:

We think ecosystem services provided by grasslands, in the case of China, should be based on a reasonable load of livestock rather than on the biomass of the harvested (dry) grass. It is because in China, there are parts of grasslands where grass grows low and it cannot be harvested, however, livestock can be kept there. The other reason is that data on the amount of hay available for harvest are usually hard to be obtained.

(草原提供的生态系统服务, 在中国的情况下, 宜采用合理载畜量而不是收割的(干)草量: 因为中国有一部分草地的草长得低, 无法收割获得干草但能载养牲畜; 而且各地可收割的干草量数据, 难以获得。)

The possible typos:

6.18 ii. In Line 2, “from it use” or “from using it”, or “from using them “?

6.21 In Line 6, should the word “outcomes” be replaced by the word “outputs”?

6.32 In Line 3 of the last paragraph, “(iii)” should be deleted.

Table 6.1 At the end of the last line in the table, the comma “,” should be substituted by a period “.”.

Table 6.2 At the end of Column “Ecological”, the Semicolon “;” should be deleted.

6.37 (iii) should correspond to “factors determining use”, while (iv) corresponding to “the ecosystem services and the common metric for measurement”. Also In Line 4, “(iv)” should be replaced by “(vi)”.

Table 6.3

At the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> category corresponding to the part of biomass provisioning services and under the column of “Provisioning services”, there should be added with a bracket “)”.  
At the end of the paragraph corresponding to the part of biomass provisioning services and under the column of “DESCRIPTION”, there should be added with a period “.”.

On P111, corresponding to the category of “Soil quality regulation services”, after the word of “soils” in Line 4, there should be added with a comma “,”.

On P111, In Line 3 of Category “Soil erosion control services”, the word “include” should be corrected as “including”.

6.119 In Line 3, “in line with case two above” should be replaced by “in line with case (ii) above”.

6.128 At the end of this paragraph, there should be added with a period “.”.

Annex 6.1

Corresponding to category “Mainly forest and woodland” and under the column of “Ecological”, the last “;” should be deleted; also Corresponding to category “Mainly forest and woodland” but under the column of “Users”, the last “;” should be deleted.

Corresponding to category “Cropland” and under the column of “Users”, in Line 2, the word “include” should be corrected as “including”.

7.6 In Line 5, before the last word “each”, there should be added with a comma.

7.29 At the end of Line 2, there should be added with a comma after the word “farmer”.

7.41 In Line 1, the word “commonly” should be corrected as “common”.

7.42 The same as that in 7.41.

**Question 5. Do you have comments on Chapters 8-11 of the draft SEEA Ecosystem Accounting?**

8.2 In Line 12, after the word “filtration”, there should be added with a bracket “)”.

8.30 In Line 5, after the first word “estimating”, there should be added with a word “of”.  
Or in Line 4, the last word of “the” is deleted.

In Line 2 of Note 62, after the word of “Payments”, there should be added with a period “.”.

9.11 In the last sentence, after the word “the same as”, there should be added with a word “that”.

9.33 Close to the end of Line 7 and after the word “price”, there should be added with the word “that”.

9.42 The last sentence “in this would be included” is difficult for me to understand from the perspective of grammar. Hope it can be expressed clearer for the non-native English speakers.

9.43 The two commas in the last sentence should be deleted.

9.45 In Line 3, the word “was” should be deleted.

9.46 The comma after the word “context” in the last line should be deleted.

9.61 In Line 1, should the word “account” be replaced by the word “table”?

**Question 6. Do you have comments on Chapters 12-14 of the draft SEEA Ecosystem Accounting?**

I have not read through Chapter 11 to Chapter 14 yet. If permitted, I'd like to go on with feeding back to you part of the possible typos in Chapter 11, 12, 13 and 14 in early December this year.