



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION  
UNITED NATIONS



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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?**

- It is better to explain the clause 8.13 in more detail, which deals with two approaches where the unit price is not available and if it is possible, to give two examples for comparing the two approaches and to indicate which one is preferred and what are the two approaches to the non-produced assets.
- According to chapter 8, paragraph 8.5, the monetary valuation of ecosystem services and assets is challenging. How countries should overcome this challenge? Should they use their own experience or experts can meet a standard way?
- Chapter 8 is related to ecosystem services and its valuation but it doesn't say **anything about what** are ecosystems. It is better to give some examples on the ecosystem services and ways of valuation.

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

- This annex is very good for more clarification and it gives an appropriate point of view on applying the manual.
- Computational monetary valuation recommendations in ecosystem accounting

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

- This chapter can focus more on the welfare effects of calculating monetary value in the form of tangible examples.
- It is good to give an example about the valuation of ecosystem assets and services. For example, it would be better to name some assets and services and evaluate them (and indicate whether the assets are exchangeable or not).
- Para. 8.30 talks about calculation changes in quality and quantity. However, for more clarification, it is good to give some examples.

### **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?**

- According to table 9.1(cont.), the costs for saving the ecosystem from extinction are missing. Protecting the part of the ecosystem that is exposed to extinction (or extinct) creates so many costs. Part of these cost valuates in asset services but another part of it should be recognized as use. For example, the resuscitation of Urmia Lake costs a lot in a period of about 20 years and the ban for tourist admission creates costs that are not computed in the asset section.
- Example given in paragraph 9.6 is understandable for receiving cultural service in other countries. Now, the question is how they can be defined for the provision of services or regulating and maintenance services?
- It is useful to give an example on how to make a map mentioned in 9.14

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

- It seems that this chapter should have practical examples.
- It is a very good manual and explains issues very well but making putting them into practice is difficult and needs some practical courses.
- It is more applicable if there are some numerical examples about valuation for the example given in 9.31.

### **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?**

- No, the definitions are comprehensive

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

It seems that the derivation and decomposition of NPV should be clearer than what were presented.

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

- It seems that the derivation and decomposition of NPV should be clearer than what was presented.
- The example in annex 10.1 is good and it describes ways of calculation well.

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

- It seems that, this chapter should have some practical examples too.
- It is would be better to describe the ecosystem enhancement in more detail. What is ecosystem enhancement and what is its definition? It needs more clarification.

### **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?**

- In addition to providing definitions of the proposed structure extended balance sheet that integrates the monetary values of the ecosystem and economic assets, it is suggested that the method of integration be explained in more detail or with some numerical examples.

**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?**

- In Section 11.57, the type and manner of ownership are described in more detail under the boundary between public and private ownership.

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

- In general, the contents of this chapter are complete.
- Understanding this chapter is more difficult than the previous chapters and giving some examples will be useful for better understanding. Although some examples have been presented in Annex 11.1 but providing more examples in the main text can be useful as well.