



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

2019 Forum of Experts in SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, 26-27 June 2019, Glen Cove, NY

Session paper

Session 5a: Urban areas

Session concept note

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All documents related to the Forum of Experts can be found on the event website at:
<https://seea.un.org/events/2019-forum-experts-seea-experimental-ecosystem-accounting>

Disclaimer:

This paper has been prepared by the authors listed above as part of the work on the SEEA EEA Revision coordinated by the United Nations Statistics Division and in preparation for the 2019 Forum of Experts in SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, 26-27 June 2019, Glen Cove, NY. The views expressed in this paper do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations.



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Session 5A: Urban Areas
Thursday, 27 June 2019, 8:30 am
Meeting room: Nassau
Chair: François Souldard

Objectives:

The objectives of this session are to:

- Review the questions raised by WG1 Discussion Paper 1.2 and the comments received on this paper as part of the international review.
- Share country-based examples and experiences and the data issues surrounding the compilation of ecosystem accounts for urban areas.
- Discuss and provide recommendations on the above topics.

Proposed session agenda:

8:30 am - Introduction

- Summary of Working group 1 Discussion Paper 1.2 and comments received (François Souldard)

8:50 am - Country examples highlighting accounting concepts and methods

- Accounting for urban areas in Europe (Joachim Maes)
- Integrating ecosystem extent and condition accounts using a flexible spatial concept: Conceptual issues and illustrations from the URBAN EEA project in the Oslo region (Per Arild Garnåsjordet)
- Discussion and identification of main issues

9:45 am - Data issues, status and recommendations

- Digital platforms for municipal ecosystem accounting – testing the URBAN TEP in Oslo (David Barton)
- Access to public open space in cities – SDG 11.7.1 (Steven King)
- Discussion and recommendations

Discussion questions:

1. Following the presentations on Discussion Paper 1.2, the country examples and data issues, does this group have more input on the issues and questions raised in WG1 Discussion Paper 1.2?
 - Further guidance should be provided on the EAA for urban areas (e.g. delineation of outer boundary, city size thresholds or other)
 - Comments about functional and structural characteristics that are most important for an urban ET classification structure and how might they be ordered in a hierarchy

- Additional comments on the scale or size of urban ecosystem asset that should be identified
 - Preferences for reporting on urban green/blue assets in the extent or condition tables
 - Other comments or issues
2. How can we address differences in the data availability, policy needs and differences in focus between countries and regions in SEEA EEA?
 3. To what extent can we align the urban/built ET classification in a way that facilitates use for other reporting needs (e.g., SDGs)?
 4. Do aspects of ecosystem accounting for urban areas (definitions, units, scale, presentation of tables etc.) conflict with national reporting requirements, and if so to what extent is this an issue/how can it be resolved?
 5. Other discussion issues as needed including specific questions on the country-examples and data issues presentations.