



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION  
UNITED NATIONS



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

---

## 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)

|                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Name:                   | CHRISTINE MUKAMI MAGU               |
| Organization & country: | KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS |

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?**

The complete draft of the SEEA EA is well received. It represents an international standard in an area of a lot of interest. Getting an international standard in any area, particularly ecosystem accounting, is exciting for statisticians. It means we will, henceforth, input measures to account for ecosystems. The data will be useful for national policy making, and internationally, it will be possible to compare indicators across countries and learn best practices particularly to do with the Sustainable Development Goals reporting (goals 13, 14, 15). Further, the standard will bring cohesiveness and harmonize existing efforts and methodologies currently on going, across the globe. There will be need for utmost collaboration amongst all stakeholders involved at both a national and regional level. Fortunately, most NSO's are also coordinators of their National Statistical System and it will be possible for them indeed, in most cases, to act as 'data stewards' and coordinate all stakeholders within their boundaries of operation towards production of these accounts.

In Africa, we have already established a Natural Capital Accounts Community of Practice and we are ready to take on the new challenges envisaged by the standard. Amongst all the individual benefits of SEEA EA accounts, the ultimate goal, in my view, of the standard, will be the extended SUT. This will clearly define the values of all ecosystem services and will be easy to pick out. The technical notes on thematic accounts, especially, will be critical towards actual compilation of the accounts.

One of the areas that could be better clarified in the manual is the link between SEEA EA and SEEA Central Framework. This will greatly assist nations, especially developing nations with limited resources, decide on areas to strengthen their efforts between SEEA EA and SEEA Central Framework. Some of the countries had already started working on SEEA Central Framework accounts and it will be good to clearly clarify on whether this previous work is to be integrated into the SEEA EA accounts or at what point SEEA EA work should begin in these countries.

Another area of concern is on reporting and capacity building. While the idea of using global data sets as a starting point is welcome, ultimately, from experience, country sourced data is the best source of data and is more reliable than global estimates, hence it will be important to encourage production of these accounts nationally. To this end, there is utmost need to build capacity among the data producers and users of these statistics. One of the primary data producer for NSO's is the private sector. Some of these institutions do not keep records of most of the ecosystem services they use in their

day to day activities, particularly in developing countries. There will be need to create awareness for these institutions to be able to report accurate data. Similarly, data producers and users at both Government and private sector need to be enlightened on these methodologies. Lastly, there is also need to build capacity among policy makers to ensure use of the information to develop and implement robust environmental policies.

Finally, the ideas proposed in this standard are very capital intensive. There will be need to get buy in from Governments to ensure budgets are made available for sustainability of accounts production and frequent updating of the accounts.

I thank you.

### **Comments by sets of chapters**

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

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

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

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

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

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

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

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

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

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)