



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 3: Spatial units for Ecosystem Accounting

Chapter 4: Accounting for Ecosystem Extent

Chapter 5: Accounting for Ecosystem Condition

Comments Form

Deadline for responses: 30 April 2020

Send responses to: seea@un.org

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Name: | Thomas Ochuodho, PhD |
| Organization & country: | University of Kentucky |

The comment form has been designed to facilitate the analysis of comments. There are nine 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

Question 1: Do you have any comments on the definition and description of ecosystem assets and ecosystem accounting areas and the associated measurement boundaries and treatments?

No comment.

Question 2. Do you have any comments on the use of the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology as the SEEA Ecosystem Type Reference Classification?

Under “Terrestrial” realm, there are seven Biomes (T1-T7). I suggest that “woodlands” be added to T1 as part of “Tropical–sub-tropical forests”. If we leave out “woodlands” out, this may make it difficult to account for them. There are vast “woodlands” as part of “Tropical–sub-tropical forests” just like what is indicated under T2. These woodlands may not be part of what is under T4 (Savannahs and grasslands).

Note:

I had opportunity to work in Kenyan “woodlands”. These are distinct from forests, savannah, and grasslands.

Question 3. Do you have any comments on the recording of changes in ecosystem extent and ecosystem condition, including the recording of ecosystem conversions, as described in chapters 4 and 5?

Table 4.1: Ecosystem extent account:

From my reading and understanding, it may be a little confusing at to what is “Natural regression” vs. “Managed regression” following examples given under paragraph 4.13. Can bushfires caused by humans be classified as “Managed”? Is the emphasis on what is “influencing” or “causing” the expansion or regression? We know that extinction is a natural process but it may be caused by humans through hunting so can we can it managed or natural?

Some clear-cut clarity is needed here to avoid different regions reporting the same event under different categories.

Question 4. Do you have any comments on the three-stage approach to accounting for ecosystem condition, including the aggregation of condition variables and indicators?

No comment

Question 5. Do you have any comments on the description and application of the concept of reference condition and the use of both natural and anthropogenic reference conditions in accounting for ecosystem condition?

No comment

Question 6. Do you have any comments on Ecosystem Condition Typology for organising characteristics, data and indicators about ecosystem condition?

No comment

Question 7. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 3?

No comment

Question 8. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 4?

No comment other than what I have provided above.

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

No comment