



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

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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?

The definition is clear, however examples should be given to assist statisticians who do not have environmental studies background. The boundaries are clearly defined as well.

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

The IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology Classification should be harmonized with specific country classifications for comparable reporting.

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?

The recording seems clear however ecosystem Classification should be harmonized with specific country classifications for comparability. Some countries may not be familiar with internationally adopted classifications.

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?

While the three-stage approach to accounting appears to be clear, there are possibilities of encountering measurement challenges for example the loss of coral reefs due to the effects of climate change. There can be temporal measurement limitations which may require complex modelling.

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 as some of the issues are as alluded to in Question 4.

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

There is a chance of developing a wide range of indicators. Is there a standard approach of ranking the variables? If member states work with different indicators how possible is it to draw comparisons? These are some of the pertinent issues that need attention.

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

No other comments

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

There is need for step by step examples of the accounting processes as in other manuals, e.g. 2008 SNA. This would assist in establishing how the indicators are prioritised and define the measurement scope.

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

As in Question 8