



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION  
UNITED NATIONS



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

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## 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)

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Organization & country:	United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

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 United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) supports the SEEA Ecosystems Accounting document and its presentation to the United Nations Statistical Commission. We have followed with interest the development of this framework as we believe ecosystem accounting components can further support the measurement of tourism and, with it, provide much needed information for policy around tourism at national and especially sub-national levels.

UNWTO and its Committee on Tourism Statistics, with the support of UNSD and the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, is advancing the development of a Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism which integrates information on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of tourism at national and subnational levels. An important pillar of this work is linking tourism measurement and accounting (the Tourism Satellite Account) to the SEEA, including the Central Framework and Ecosystem Accounting, in order to support the production of data that is increasingly relevant to the tourism community.

## Comments by sets of chapters

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

UNWTO is very pleased to see reference to Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST) as one of the statistical standards and handbooks that are relevant to the work on ecosystem accounting. Indeed, MST draws to an important extent from SEEA CF and EA for measuring the environmental dimension of tourism's sustainability.

### **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?**

In tourism measurement, the concept of "visitor" is central. IRTS 2008: "A visitor is a traveller taking a trip to a main destination outside his/her usual environment, for less than a year, for any main purpose (business, leisure or other personal purpose) other than to be employed by a resident entity in the country or place visited. These trips taken by visitors qualify as tourism trips. Tourism refers to the activity of visitors". It may be considered to clarify whether the term "visitor" (e.g. visitor to a natural park) is used in the same way in this text.

**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?**

Table 14.7 "SDG indicators that have full alignment with the SEEA" could also mention indicator 12.b.1 on the implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability (operationalized through the level of implementation of relevant SEEA and Tourism Satellite Account tables).