



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 6: Ecosystem services concepts for accounting

Chapter 7: Accounting for ecosystem services in physical terms

Comments Form

Deadline for responses: 20 August 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 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 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

Questions related to Chapter 6

Question 1: Do you have comments on the concepts and definitions for ecosystem services, benefits and associated components of the ecosystem accounting framework?

There have already been much talk and discussions on various concepts and definitions in the field of ecosystems and their services, so the information given in chapter 6 is clear and informative.

It is important to emphasize the possible overlapping of goods and benefits already included in SNA and also to understand that the reality of ecosystem services is that there are many non SNA benefits which are really important (air filtration, flood management, habitat for fauna and etc.) but are hardly measurable.

Question 2. Do you have comments on the content and descriptions in the reference list of selected ecosystem services?

The provided content is clear and there are no further comments.

Question 3. Do you agree with the proposed treatments for selected ecosystem services described in Section 6.4 for biomass provisioning services, global climate regulation services, cultural services, water supply and abiotic flows?

We agree with all the proposed treatments and do not have any further comments on this topic.

Question 4. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 6?

While the accounting of provisional ecosystem services are clear, the services related to recreational and cultural activities arise much more difficulties as many of them might be very hard to measure in any form of units and the data might be somewhat subjective and in some cases maybe hard to compare. Nevertheless the information provided in chapter 6 is well put together, easily understandable and informative.

Questions related to Chapter 7

Question 5. Do you have comments on the proposed recording approaches for ecosystem services supply and use tables described in section 7.2?

All of the proposed recording approaches for ecosystem supply and use tables seem appropriate and logical and we do not have any further comments.

Question 6. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 7?

Chapter 7 thoroughly explains ecosystem supply and use accounts in physical terms with a good explanation of how to deal with exports and imports of ecosystem services and also stresses the importance of spatial composition of ecosystem services supply and usage by different economic units. The chapter is understandable easily enough and most of the information provided is not entirely new so there will be no further comments.