



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Classification of Environmental Functions

Global Consultation

Comments Form

Deadline for responses: 31 December 2022

Send responses to: seea@un.org

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The comment form has been designed to facilitate the analysis of comments. There are three 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 website at: <https://seea.un.org/content/global-consultation-classification-environmental-functions>

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 proposed structure of the Classification of Environmental Functions?

No, we do not have any comments on the proposed structure.

Question 2. Do you have any comments on the explanatory notes and on the heading reference?

The proposed heading of the class *4.3.1 Reforestation, afforestation and forest-related land management* does not fully correspond to the contents of the class as described in the explanatory notes. The heading seems not to cover the whole silviculture activity; *reforestation and afforestation* are only part of it.

According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020. Terms and Definitions (<https://www.fao.org/3/I8661EN/i8661en.pdf>)

AFFORESTATION - Establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding on land that, until then, was under a different land use, **implies a transformation of land use from non-forest to forest**; Activities, measures and products aimed at restoration, maintenance, replenishment or development of new forest areas.

REFORESTATION - Re-establishment of forest through **planting and/or deliberate seeding on land classified as forest**.

These two definitions do not include silviculture activities where a forest already exists.

We propose the following heading:

Silviculture and forest-related land management

or

Silviculture, reforestation, afforestation and forest-related land management

Question 3. Do you have any other comments on the Classification of Environmental Functions?

We support the proposed Classification of Environmental Functions as it offers an integrated framework to ensure the collection and reporting of information on environmental activities and transactions according to users needs.

At the same time, we would like to point out that questionnaires on environmental accounts currently reported to Eurostat use the CEPA/CREMA classification, hence adjustment to the new classification will be required. This change may result in additional burdens for countries.