



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 structure?

Generally agreeable with the proposed structure of the Classification of Environmental Functions structure.

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

For the explanatory notes, suggest to provide more definitions, operational rules and guidance notes for the CEF codes. Else, it might be up for individual to interpret the functions, e.g. what are to be considered as 'energy efficient appliances and machinery' (CEF 1.3.2) and 'more water efficient appliances' (CEF 2.2.2).

For the 'Introduction to classification of environmental functions (CEF)', it might be useful to provide a few examples and the reasons why certain activities and transactions are to be excluded from CEF. This will help users to better delineate the activities and transactions to be included in or excluded from the CEF.

CEF 1.1 mentions the exclusion of climate change adaptation measures. However, one can argue that flood prevention serves an environmental purpose as it prevents inundation of infrastructure which could leak out chemicals etc. into the environment as well as to protect water from contamination. On adaptation measures for heat waves, intelligent passive design of structures could help decrease the energy load needed for cooling. As such, there might be a need to provide further elaboration on what climate change adaptation measures are to be excluded in the 'Introduction to classification of environmental functions (CEF)'.

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

There is increasing attention on certain activities and transactions that may be perceived to serve an environmental purpose such as sustainable financing, provision of carbon credit trading activities, public transport services on electric vehicles, etc. UNSD can consider reviewing such activities in the future.

Other than having correspondence tables with CEPA/CreMA, it may be useful to have correspondence tables with other major statistical classifications such as ISIC and CPC or Eurostat's NACE and CPA. Although such correspondences are likely to be indicative due to the nature of CEF.

If there is international reporting requirement on environmental activities and transactions, it can be synergized with CEF or have a bridging table to illustrate the relationship between the reporting requirements and CEF.

To make the CEF more multi-purpose and flexible, (often regarded) climate change transitional activities can be identified. This would facilitate measurement of climate change transitional activities and make CEF more relevant for policy evaluation.