



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

# Overview of the Natural Capital Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services project

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# Outline

- Partnership Initiative
- Objectives
- Workstreams and deliverables
- Project management structure
- Expectations of this workshop

# Partnership initiative

- Implementing partners
  - > United Nations Statistics Division
  - > United Nations Environment Programme
- Sponsor
  - > European Union
  - > Partnership Instrument
- Five partner countries
  - > Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa
- Project duration
  - > 3 years from 2017-2019

# Overall objectives

- Advance the knowledge agenda on environmental-economic and ecosystem accounting
- Initiate pilot testing of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, ecosystem valuation and environmental-economic analysis with a view to:
  - > improving the measurement of natural biotic resources, ecosystems and their services at the (sub)national level
  - > mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystems in (sub)national level policy-planning and implementation

# Work streams

- Piloting ecosystem accounts (in each of the 5 partner countries) for selected areas (national and/or regional)
- Developing guidelines and methodology
- Indicators
- Business accounting (sustainability reporting)
- Communication and outreach
- Training and capacity development

# W1: Piloting ecosystem accounts

Approach:

- Flexible: (no blueprint), depending on country needs
- Mainstreaming: accounts should inform policy
- Inclusive: build on existing work programs and projects and consolidate past experiences

Deliverables:

- National plan that document assessment results and programme of work in advancing environmental-economic and ecosystem accounting
- Compilation of selected ecosystem accounts in physical terms based on policy priorities
- Economic valuation of ecosystem services and natural capital
- Policy applications / scenario analysis
- Compilation of selected ecosystem-related indicator based on policy priorities

## W2: Guidelines and methodology

- Objective: (contributing to) developing guidelines and methodology
  - > Standards
  - > Practical guidelines
- Synergy: between country and global work programme
  - > Results from pilots linked to research agenda and will contribute to standards
- Deliverables / outputs:
  - > Annual global forum on advancing ecosystem accounting
    - Contribute to issues on research agenda
    - Learn from experiences from other countries



# Research agenda

- **Research area 1: Spatial areas**
  - > Spatial units and their delineation (priority)
  - > Treatment of the atmosphere, the connection to global systems and residual flows
- **Research area 2: Ecosystem condition**
  - > Indicators of ecosystem condition (priority)
  - > Links between ecosystem assets (and their condition) and the supply of ecosystem services (ecological production functions) (priority)
- **Research area 3: Ecosystem services**
  - > Selection and measurement of ecosystem services (priority)
  - > The role of the different ecosystem services classifications (priority)
  - > Intermediate services and dependencies between ecosystems
- **Research area 4: Valuation and accounting treatments**
  - > Recording activity that maintains or restores ecosystem condition
  - > Valuation of ecosystem services and assets (priority)
  - > Relating market land values to ecosystem asset values (priority)
  - > Defining and measuring degradation



# International bodies for SEEA

## United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting (UNCEEAA)

*The governing body for the mainstreaming and implementation of the SEEA. Established by the UN Statistical Commission at its 36th Session in 2005.*

Chair: Bert Kroese, Statistics Netherlands || Secretariat: UNSD

Technical Committee of the SEEA  
Central Framework

Technical Committee of the SEEA  
Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

London Group on Environmental Economic Accounting

Forum of Experts on SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

## W3: Indicators

- Objective: align indicator programs with SEEA, both international and national
- Deliverable: an indicator set based on SEEA Environmental and Ecosystem accounts, in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
  - > Phase 1: assessment
  - > Phase 2: consultation mechanism
  - > Phase 3: in country testing -> using the developed ecosystem accounts

## W4: Business accounting

Objective: contribute to alignment between NCA and corporate sustainability reporting

- Liaise with national companies to use results of the NCA project
- Organize workshop(s) on alignment of corporate sustainability reporting and NCA
- Bring the results to global processes (e.g. Intergovernmental WG -ISAR – UNCTAD/UNEP; GRI; IIRC etc.)

# W5: Communication and outreach

Objective: awareness raising, demonstrating value added of NCA (regional; national and global)

- Deliverables:
  - > Development of a global knowledge platform on SEEA
    - Newsletters
    - Archive of publications
  - > National website
  - > National forums / workshops
    - Demonstrate and consult on progress
    - Outreach for broader engagement

# W6: Training and capacity building

Objective: enhance capacity and enlarge the community of practitioners

Deliverables:

- Training modules for ecosystem accounting in support of capacity development (E-learning)
- Regional training workshops
- National training workshops
- In country technical support (consultants) to project team

# Project management structure

- Global:
  - > Steering Committee
  - > Project team
  - > Advisory board (tbd)
- Partner countries -> establish a national coordination mechanism
  - > National steering committee
  - > Technical committee
  - > Project management unit, co-led by two Co-directors:
    - Senior-level representation from the statistics office
    - National expert (to be hired by the project)
  - > Project team

# Expectations of this workshop

- Official launch of the project
- Initial stocktaking and assessment:
  - > Local and national policy demands and indicator programs
  - > Past and existing national programs and international initiatives (SDGs, China TEEB National Plan, etc.)
- Technical discussions
  - > Scoping of the next phase of the ecosystem accounting
  - > Links with global research program for update of SEEA EEA by 2020



**THANK YOU**

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