



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

# NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROJECT

## Inception Mission

31 October– 3 Nov 2017

Beijing, China



United Nations



## Background

1. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity have launched the project “Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services” in China, a 3-year partnership project funded by the European Union. Other partner countries in the project are Brazil, India, Mexico and South Africa.
2. Building on internationally agreed methodology (the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, in short SEEA EEA) and on the development of national competences, the project will initiate pilot testing of the SEEA EEA in partner countries, in order to advance the knowledge agenda on natural capital accounting.
3. The project’s main objective in the partner countries is to mainstream natural capital accounting and valuation of ecosystem services in data driven decision and policy making and is expected to influence policy-makers at national, regional and local level.
4. An inception mission will take place from 31 October to 3 November in Beijing, China, during which the project team will launch the project in Beijing and organize stakeholder consultation meetings to reach out to national and local authorities and other relevant stakeholders from civil society and private sector.
5. The objectives of the inception mission are:
  - a. To officially launch the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project in China;
  - b. To identify, in consultation with national and local authorities and other relevant stakeholders, how the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting could support sustainable development policy initiatives in China, hereby building on existing initiatives and programmes currently taking place in China;
  - c. To discuss and agree on the project management arrangements and the work programme for the project;
6. The project team will comprise of representatives of UNSD and UN Environment.

7. The mission has four main components:
  - a. Preparatory meetings on 31 October 2017 between NBS China, the EU delegation to China and the project team to discuss project related matters and the organization of the stakeholder consultation meeting.
  - b. A stakeholder consultation meeting on 1-2 November 2017 to reach out to national and local authorities, corporate sector and other relevant stakeholders, and to identify how natural capital accounting could support sustainable development policy initiatives in China
  - c. A debriefing and planning session on 3 November 2017 between NBS China, EU delegation in China and the project team to identify the short-term and medium-term action plan
  - d. Bilateral consultations with relevant stakeholders, if necessary

## Provisional agenda

**Tuesday, 31 Oct 2017**

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### **Preparatory meetings**

Venue: Meeting room 317, East Building of NBS,  
57 Yuetan Nanjie, Xicheng District

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9.00-10.00	Meeting between UN Environment (China office) and project team
10.00-12.30	Consultative meeting between NBS, EU Delegation and project team to discuss <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The creation of the project management unit</li><li>- Arrangement for the hiring of the national expert for the project</li><li>- Project implementation and work programme</li><li>- Organization of the stakeholder consultation meeting</li><li>- Press release</li><li>- Other project related matters</li></ul>
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 17.00	Further bilateral meetings with relevant stakeholders for consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CRAES</li><li>- Other stakeholders</li></ul>

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Wednesday, 1 Nov 2017

**High -level stakeholder consultation meeting,**

Venue: Multi-function Hall, 3rd floor, West Building of NBS

75 Yuetan Nanjie, Xicheng District.

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Morning session, 9.00-12.30

**High level segment**

Moderator: *National Bureau of Statistics of China, Dong Lihua*

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9.00-9.45

1. Opening remarks and launch of the project
    - Li Xiaochao, Deputy Commissioner of the National Bureau of Statistics of China
    - Vicky Pollard, First Counsellor – Environment and Climate Change at the EU Delegation to China
    - Ivo Havinga, Assistant Director, UN Statistics Division
    - Neville Ash, Director, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre
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9.45-10.00

2. EU perspective on Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (*Vicky Pollard, EU Delegation to China*)
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10.00-10.15

3. Overview of the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project (*Ivo Havinga, UNSD*)
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10.15-10.30

Discussion

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10.30-11.00

Break

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11.00-11.20

4. Overview of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (*Bram Edens, UNSD*)
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11.20-11.40

5. Opportunities for mainstreaming SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting into policy making (*Salman Hussain, UN Environment*)
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11.40-12.30 Discussion

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12.30- 13:30 lunch

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Afternoon session, 13.30-17.00 **Policy consultation**

Moderator: *UN Environment, Salman Hussain*

*Main objectives of this session are: 1) to gain a better understanding of China's policy priorities in the environmental-economic domain; 2) to clarify the use of the SEEA EEA as measurement framework in informing the presented policy priorities*

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13.30-15.00 6. Policy perspective and related indicator frameworks in China

a. Sustainable Development Goals

*(Xiong Zhe, National Development and Reform Commission)*

b. China TEEB National Plan and Progress *(Xu Jing, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences)*

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15.00-15.30 Break

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15.30-17.00 Plenary discussion on linking SEEA with policy initiatives

- How can this SEEA project build on the previously discussed initiatives?
  - What elements of the SEEA EEA have most potential to inform policy?
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**High -level stakeholder consultation meeting,**

Venue: Multi-function Hall, 3rd floor, West Building of NBS

75 Yuetan Nanjie, Xicheng District.

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Morning session, 9.00-12.30 **Technical segment**

Moderator: *UNSD, Ivo Hovinga*

*Main objectives of this session - statistical perspective and related initiatives*

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9.00-9.10	Opening remarks and brief recap (NBS; UNSD)
9.10-9.40	7. Brief introduction of Pilot Compilation of Natural Resource Balance Sheets in China ( <i>Shi Faqi, National Bureau of Statistics of China</i> )
9.40-10.10	8. Study on China's Forest Resource Accounting and Green Economy Evaluation Framework ( <i>Zhang Zhitao, State Forestry Administration</i> )
10.10-10.40	9. Preliminary Research on Ecological Services Valuation in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region respective ( <i>Han Mingchen, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Bureau of Statistics</i> )
10.40-11.10	Break
11.10-12.30	10. Plenary discussion on the SEEA EEA framework, data sources and its implementation status
12.30-13.30	lunch

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Afternoon session, 13.30-17.00 **Project plan and programme of work**

Moderator: *National Bureau of Statistics of China, Dong Lihua*

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13.30-15.30

11. Discussion on the proposed work programme

- UNSD presentation on work packages and deliverables of the project
- Discussion on the proposed work programme
  - What are the key policy priorities?
  - What are measurement and statistical priorities?
  - Available information on valuation of ecosystem services
  - Monitoring / reporting needs on ecosystem related indicators
- Prioritisation of accounts to develop
  - Which type of SEEA EEA accounts (e.g. carbon; biodiversity, condition)
  - Identification of pilot areas (national, regional or local scale)
- Discussion on the establishment of the project links with current work programmes in China
- Discussion on the project management unit and national steering committee

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15.30-16.00

Closing – by EU, NBS, UNSD and UN Environment

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Friday, 3 Nov 2017

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**Debriefing and planning**

Venue: EU Delegation to China

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9.00- 10.15                      Debriefing of EU Brussels

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10.30-12.30                      Meetings between NBS and the project team to discuss outcome of the stakeholder consultation meeting and to identify short-term and medium-term action plan

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