



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

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

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# Outline

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

# Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project

- Implementing partners
  - > United Nations Statistics Division
  - > United Nations Environment Programme
- Sponsor
  - > European Union
  - > Partnership program
- 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 macro-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

# Workstreams

- 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: developing guidelines and methodology
  - > Standards (SEEA EEA; Technical Recommendations)
  - > 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: assess how the SEEA is able to inform indicator programs, both international and national
- Deliverable: an indicator set based on SEEA Environmental and Ecosystem accounts, in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
  - > Fase 1: Assessment
  - > Fase 2: Consultation mechanism
  - > Fase 3: In country testing -> using the developed ecosystem accounts

# W4: Business accounting

Objective: contribute to alignment between NCA and corporate sustainability reporting (nowadays explosion of corporate reporting standards)

- 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. 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

# Milestones in Mexican context

Mexico well positioned:

- Already a well-established environmental accounting program
- Already successfully piloted ecosystem accounting in ANCA project (1<sup>st</sup> phase)
  - > Build on these experiences (in terms of consolidating; expanding and mainstreaming)

Milestones for the coming phase of the project in Mexico:

- Deepening the assessment / stocktaking (a.o. this workshop)
- (update) National plan / develop the project plan
  - > Scoping of types of accounts
  - > Planning and organization
- Establish coordination mechanism
- Organize a national forum

# Expectations of this workshop

- Official launch of the project
- Stocktaking / assessment:
  - > Policy demands and indicator programs
  - > Existing programs and initiatives
    - Discuss how the SEEA could provide the underlying framework
- Technical discussions
  - > Results from INEGI's pilot accounts
  - > Scoping of the next phase of the ecosystem accounting in Mexico
- Next steps



**THANK YOU**

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