

Expert meeting on Ecosystem Accounting

11-13 May 2011

Venue: European Agency, Conference Room,
Kongens Nytorv 6, Copenhagen, Denmark

Provisional Agenda

Wednesday, 11 May 2011 (16:30 -)

16:30 Registration of the participants

17:00 Welcome by Jock Martin, Head of programme, EEA

18:00 Dinner at EEA

Thursday 12 May 2011 (9:00 – 18:00)

Session 1: Co-Chair: Ivo Havinga, UNSD and Jock Martin, EEA

The conceptual framework for ecosystem accounting – some issues

This session will discuss the main features of the conceptual framework for ecosystem accounting. It will discuss the main issues in ecosystem accounts. The discussion on each issue is introduced by a short presentation presenting the conceptual issue and a proposal for addressing it followed by example of practical implementation. Ample time will be left to discuss the issues. Participants are encouraged to express their views on the issues.

- *Land cover classification (EEA)*

The paper will discuss the classification of land cover types starting from the Land Cover Classification System (LCCS 3). It will also discuss how the classification can be applied at different scales and would be the appropriate level of detail. It will also provide examples on specific land cover such as forests and mangrove. The paper will also provide examples of classification of land cover changes used by the EEA and the IPCC/LULUCF.

- *Statistical units in ecosystem accounting* The paper will discuss the definition of the statistical units for ecosystem accounting, notably the socio-ecological land cover units (SELU) and their attributes (e.g. relief and climate). (EEA/UNSD)

The case of Australia and coastal ecosystem accounts in Europe (Andrus Meiner t.b.c.) illustrating how the concept has been applied will be presented.

- *Ecosystem assets (EEA/UNSD)*

The paper will discuss the possible proxy variables that describe the ecosystems as assets in terms of their capacity to providing services. It will also discuss possible aggregation of physical variables to obtain indices of the health of the ecosystem.

Different approaches to aggregation will be presented. These include, for example:

- A presentation on ecosystem health using biodiversity currency (Jane Mc. Donald, Australia tbc.)
- A simplified approach to ecosystem capital – “the cube” (Jean Louis Weber, EEA)
- Tools for multi criteria analysis, e.g. the use of Bayesian Belief Network (Roy Haines-Young , t.b.c.)

- *Classification of ecosystem services*

The paper/presentation will present the proposed Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) and compare CICES with other existing classifications, such as the classifications presented in TEEB, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the Natural Capital Project). It will also discuss how to integrate the specific scales of ecosystems into CICES. (Roy Haines-Young t.b.c)

Friday 13 May 2010 (9:00 – 18:00)

Session 2: Chair: Glenn-Marie Lange, the World Bank

Valuation of ecosystem services

This session will provide an overview of the analytical frameworks that the ecosystem accounting could inform (e.g. WAVES, CBD Secretariat, UNEP Ecosystem services accounts project, Natural Capital Project, Europe Beyond GDP, Australia, Quebec, Colombia). This session will discuss valuation methods for ecosystem services and assets which are market based and can be scaled up at the macro-level. It will discuss priority in implementation in terms of ecosystem assets and services including full cost accounting. Country experiences on how valuation of ecosystem assets and services have been applied will be presented. Possible presentation include the valuation of benefits by sector – rent based vs. value added based and examples of valuation of regulatory services

Session 3: Chair: Ivo Havinga

Wrap up session and conclusions

This session would discuss a roadmap to reaching a consensus on the conceptual framework on ecosystem accounting leading to the meeting of the UNCEEA in June 2012 and going forward until the submission of the SEEA experimental accounts and their application in 2013 to the UN Statistical Commission.