



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Virtual Expert Forum on SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting 2020

Session 4: Thematic accounts and indicators

9 & 10 November 2020

online

Draft agenda

Version: 6 November 2020

[all EST (NY) times]

7:00-7:20 Introduction and framing of the discussion

Session structure:

- 7:00-7:05: Rules of engagement
- 7:05-7:20: Welcome message and setting the scene
 - i. Welcome message: Stefan Schweinfest, UNSD
 - ii. Overview of the revision process: Alessandra Alfieri, UNSD

7:20-7:40 Overview of thematic accounts (Chapter 13 of the SEEA EA draft)

Session objective: Inform participants of the general principles outlined in the SEEA EA [draft of Chapter 13](#) on thematic accounting.

Session structure:

- 7:20-7:30: Presentation on thematic accounts – Carl Obst, UNSD consultant
- 7:30-7:40: Q&A and general discussion

7:40-10:00 Discussion on specific thematic accounts

Session objective: Inform participants of the details on the respective thematic accounts and country examples of compilation of thematic accounts. Discuss the policy relevance and the role of the accounts, and relevant indicators that can be derived from the accounts. Participants will be divided into four breakout groups related to the thematic accounts – biodiversity, climate change, oceans and urban areas.

Overall structure:

- 7:40-9:30: Discussion in four breakout groups:
 - i. Accounting for biodiversity
 - ii. Accounting for climate change
 - iii. Accounting for oceans
 - iv. Accounting for urban areas
- 9:30-10:00 Debrief

Suggested structure for country presentations:

- i. Overview, structure of the accounts developed
- ii. Data used to populate
- iii. Results, key aggregates and indicators (tables)
- iv. Applications and policy relevance of the accounts (if applicable)

Suggested questions for the plenary debrief:

- What is the role of the thematic account for national (or regional/local) policy and how to achieve that?
- What are the most important aggregates and indicators that can be derived from the thematic account?
- How can we engage the relevant national and international communities that have a stake in the compilation and the use of the thematic account?
- In the light of our discussion what changes might be made to the draft text in the SEEA EA?

Group 1: Accounting for biodiversity

Background reading: [Section 13.3 on Accounting for biodiversity](#)

Part 1: Conceptual discussion on accounting for biodiversity chaired by Trond Larsen, Conservation International (45 min)

- Introductory presentation on the accounting for biodiversity and the thematic account draft in the draft SEEA EA – Steve King, UNEP-WCMC (10 min)
- Reflections on the introductory presentation and accounts for biodiversity in the draft SEEA EA by: Simon Ferrier (CSIRO, Australia) and Thomas Brooks (IUCN) (10 min each)
- General discussion (15 min)

Part 2: Examples of biodiversity accounts and their policy applications chaired by Rosimeiry Portela, Conservation International (1h5min)

- Country presentations (10min each)
 - Brazil biodiversity accounts – Leonardo Bergamini, IBGE
 - Netherlands biodiversity accounts – Patrick Bogaart, Statistics Netherlands
 - South Africa species accounts – Aimee Ginsburg, SANBI
- Moderated discussion on policy relevance and role of accounting for biodiversity:
 - Initial reflections on policy applications of the accounts for biodiversity by Jillian Campbell (CBD) (10 min)
 - General discussion (25 min)

Group 2: Accounting for climate change

Background reading: [Section 13.4 on Accounting for climate change](#)

Objectives of the breakout group:

- inform a wider audience about the SEEA (CF and EA) as far as it relates to climate (e.g. SEEA EA Chapter 13 - climate change section)
- discuss the role of SEEA in informing climate change policies.

Part 1: Conceptual discussion on accounting for climate change chaired by Bram Edens, UNSD (60 min)

- Overview presentation on the relevance of SEEA (CF and EA) for informing climate change – Sjoerd Schenau, Statistics Netherlands (15 min)
- Overview presentation on the IPCC Guidelines, NDCs and its relationship with the SEEA – Richard Houghton, Woodwell Climate Research Center (15 min)
- Presentation on the Work of the Conference of European Statisticians' Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics and SEEA – Angelica Tudini, Istat (10 min)
- General discussion (20 min)

Part 2: Examples of carbon accounts and their policy applications chaired by Sjoerd Schenau, Statistics Netherlands (tbc) (50 min)

- Country presentations (10 min each)
 - Liberia example of carbon accounting – Miroslav Honzak, Conservation International
 - Accounting for the ecosystem service of climate regulation: case study from Australia – Heather Keith, Griffith University
 - Mexico example of carbon accounting – Luis Miguel Galindo, UNAM
- Moderated discussion on policy relevance/role of accounting for climate change (20 min)
 - Initial reflections on country examples
 - General discussion

Group 3: Accounting for oceans

Background reading: [Section 13.5 on Accounting for the ocean](#)

Part 1: Introduction and setting the scene

- Introduction to the breakout session - Gemma Van Halderen, ESCAP (10 min)
- Introductory presentation on accounting for ocean accounts as presented as outlined in Chapter 13 – Michael Bordt, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (10 min)

Part 2: Country and institutional dialogue chaired by Ken Findlay, Cape Peninsula University of Technology

- Country presentations (5 min each)
 - Thailand - Kanjana Phumalee, NSO Thailand
 - Viet Nam – video presentation plus brief highlights by Viet Anh Hoang, ISPONRE
 - Australia – Crystal Bradley, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
 - Portugal - Ana Ramos, Statistics Portugal
- First reflections on country presentations by institutions: OECD, UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, WWF (2 min each)
- Moderated discussion and Q&A (22 min)

Part 3: Panel discussion chaired by Messan Agbaglah, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (40 min)

- Panel:
 - Gemma Van Halderen, ESCAP
 - Changsu Song, Chinese Academy of Sciences
 - Eli Fenichel, Yale University
- Questions for panelists:
 - What are the most important aggregates and indicators that can be derived from the thematic account?
 - In the light of our discussion, do you have any additional comments to what is currently outlined in the draft text in the SEEA EA (Section 13.5)?
 - Do you think it would be useful to have standardized guidelines on accounting for oceans, such as the SEEA-Ocean?
- Q&A and discussion

Group 4: Accounting for urban areas

Background reading: [Section 13.6 on Accounting for urban areas](#)

Objectives of the breakout group:

- i. Economic importance of urban natural capital
- ii. Urban ecosystem accounts in support of SDG #11 at national level
- iii. Unique challenges:
 - i. Organizing collaboration NSO-municipal govts.
 - ii. Accounting and asset boundaries
 - iii. high spatial and temporal resolution – remote sensing req.
 - iv. combined extent-condition accounts
 - v. highly modified ecosystems - degradation and restoration
 - vi. valuation - zero rent municipal services, open access amenities.
- iv. Trade-offs in compiling SNA compatible accounts that are relevant to municipal land use planning
- v. Indicator dashboards for municipal policy-support

Part 1: Conceptual discussion on accounting for urban ecosystem services chaired by Jonathon Khoo, ABS (50 min)

- Introductory presentation on urban ecosystem thematic accounting in Chapter 13 – Francois Soulard, Statistics Canada (15 min)
- Introductory presentation on challenges and opportunities for municipal land use planning and policy – David N. Barton, NINA Norway (15 min)
- Using urban thematic accounting for SDG reporting – Nao Takeuchi, UN-Habitat (10 min)
- General discussion and Q&A (10 min)

Part 2: Examples of urban ecosystem accounts and their policy applications chaired by David N. Barton, NINA Norway (60 min)

- Country presentations (10 min each)
 - United Kingdom: ecosystem accounts for urban areas – Colin Smith, DEFRA
 - China: Valuing natural capital amidst rapid urbanization: assessing the gross ecosystem product (GEP) of China’s “Chang-Zhu-Tan” megacity – Baolong Han, Chinese Academy of Sciences
 - United States: Integrating physical land cover, land use, and monetary valuation, perspective on urban areas – Scott Wentland, BEA
- Moderated discussion on policy relevance/role of accounting for urban areas (30 min)
 - Initial reflections on country and city examples by discussants (5’ each):
 - Roy Remme, Natural Capital Project
 - Davide Geneletti, University of Trento
 - General discussion

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7:00-7:15 Introduction and framing of the discussion

Session structure:

- 7:00-7:15: Introduction to the day chaired by Bhanumati, MOSPI India
 - i. Setting the scene – Alessandra Alfieri, UNSD
 - ii. Perspective from the official statistical community – Neil Wilson, ONS UK
 - iii. Perspective from the biodiversity community – Thomas Brooks, IUCN

7:15-7:35 Overview of Chapter 14

Session objective: Inform participants of the overall progress on the revision in the area of indicators, ensure understanding of the basic content of Chapters 14 and outline the outstanding issues for the finalization of the Chapter.

Session chair: Bhanumati, MOSPI

Session structure:

- 7:15-7:25: Presentation on relevant section from Chapter 14 – Julian Chow, UNSD
- 7:25-7:35: Q&A and general discussion

7:35-8:30 Discussion on related indicator frameworks

Session objective: Inform participants on demand for SEEA EA to support global monitoring framework and discuss ongoing efforts from countries and international communities to mainstream SEEA EA for global and national indicator reporting.

Session chair: Neil Wilson, ONS UK

Session structure:

- 7:35-8:10: Panel discussion (10 min each)
 - i. **Global monitoring framework:** Update on the monitoring framework for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework – Jillian Campbell, CBD
 - ii. **Country experience:** Possibilities of using SEEA EA for reporting to International Conventions – Experience from India – Bhanumati, MOSPI India
 - iii. **Global data initiatives:** Linking data and indicators with the SEEA EA – An overview of GEOBON EBV & EESV framework – Laetitia Navarro and HyeJin Kim, GEOBON
- 8:10-8:30: Q&A and general discussion

8:30-9:50 Discussion on key indicators in breakout groups

Session objective: Breakout group discussions to review suggested key indicators from respective core accounts proposed in Chapter 14 and inform participants of practical examples from countries in using SEEA EA to derive indicators.

Session chair: Bhanumati, MOSPI India

Session structure:

- 8:30-9:30: Discussion in breakout groups
- 9:30-9:50: Debrief

Breakout groups:

#	Core account	Presenter (15 min)	Moderator/notetaker
1	Ecosystem extent	Mandy Driver, SANDI South Africa	Jessica Chan
2	Ecosystem condition	Joachim Maes, EU JRC	Marko Javorsek
3	Ecosystem services	Becky Chaplin-Kramer, Stamford University and HyeJin Kim, GEOBON	Julian Chow
4	Monetary accounts	Rocky Harris, DEFRA UK	Bram Edens

9:50-10:00 Closing

Closing by Alessandra Alfieri, UNSD