



Area B2: SEEA EEA (a) Opening and short update on progress made

**Session 7 (area B2) of the 14th UNCEEA meeting, New York,
24-25 June 2019**

**Anton Steurer, Eurostat - Environmental statistics and
accounts; Sustainable development**

Background on revision

- SEEA EEA 2012 highly successful in starting ecosystem accounts worldwide
- Knowledge advancing fast;
- In 2017 UNSC endorsed UNCEEA work programme, incl. SEEA EEA revision;
- In June 2017, UNCEEA established a plan to advance the revision;
- **Timeframe:** complete revision by end 2020, endorse (ideally elevate to statistical standard) at 2021 UNSC
- **Funding** to put in place an editor and other resources was a key element to conduct the revision.



Progress made

- SEEA EEA Technical Committee established and held several (12) virtual and physical meetings -> to be extended to become editorial board for revision;
- **Technical Recommendations in support of the SEEA EEA** were finalised, approved by TC and UNCEEA and white cover version published in Dec. 2017;
- **Efforts to secure funding** were successful. *Thanks to: Eurostat, the UK ONS, the UK DEFRA, the ABS and the Australian Dept. of Energy and Environment.* Parallel EU project (NCAVES) has significant synergies for revision
- Editor (Carl Obst) in place

Progress made (2)

- Key issues for revision were identified;
- 5 working groups started working a year ago. Work of these groups now largely complete;
- Several successful expert meetings, for example:
 - **Forum on ecosystem valuation organised by the German Federal Office for Nature Protection, Bonn, April 2018**
 - **Forum of experts, New York, 18-20 June 2018**
 - **Expert meeting on advancing the measurement of Ecosystem Services, New York, 22-24 January 2019**
- Next steps: discuss outcomes of working groups at forum of experts this week, drafting of chapters to begin this summer, global consultations in 2020

Context

Favourable conditions continued to develop, including:

- Donor funding of significant number of implementation projects: NCAVES with Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa; WAVES(+), funding within the EU, nationally in several countries, new multi-country programmes being discussed
- Significant policy interest and momentum incl. upcoming post 2020 biodiversity strategy and SDGs
- Ecosystem accounting more and more an accepted approach
- Links back to national accounts established

Session 7 overview

- This overview as a warm-up and to give context;
- Two project presentations to highlight the practical aspects and links to policy:
 - **EU INCA project**
 - **UN-run EU funded NCAVES project**
- Detailed update on revision process, in particular the next steps, outreach, etc., based on which:
- Discussion around a series of questions, including:
 - **If you are happy with the process and plans and what could be improved**
 - **Are we on track to drop the “experimental” from the name**
 - **Are we doing enough to reach different communities (including the statisticians)**