



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

International Seminar on Natural Capital Accounting

12-14 November 2019

Beijing, China



Concept note

I. Background and objective

1. China is one of the project countries for the “Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services” (NCAVES) jointly implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) in collaboration of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with funding by the European Union.
2. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China is leading the project nationally. Building on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA), the project will strengthen and support the national compilation of natural resource balance sheet on land, forest and water and pilot ecosystem accounts following the SEEA EEA approach in both physical and monetary terms in pilot provinces of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Guizhou Province. The project will also conduct scenario analysis, with an objective to calibrate the ecosystem compensation standards in Xijiang basin for the reference of regional ecosystem compensation policy making.
3. This event is organized as part of the NCAVES project funded by the European Union and as part of the project on strengthening statistical capacity development in China and other partner countries funded by the Chinese Government. The objectives of the events are to:
 - a. Explore the emerging opportunities for Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) to support national priorities in China, including the deliberations at CBD CoP 2020
 - b. Present early highlights from China’s work on natural capital accounting
 - c. Facilities sharing of experiences and lesson learnt from NCAVES project countries the mainstreaming and implementation of the NCA
 - d. Deepen participants understanding of the accounting principles and methodology in ecosystem accounts based on the SEEA EEA, with a focus on ecosystem valuation and scenario modelling analysis

II. Organizers

4. This event is hosted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China and organized jointly with UNSD, UN Environment and the European Union. It will be held in Beijing, China from 12-14 November 2019.

III. International Participants

5. National representatives from various government line ministries and research institutes at the national and provincial level in China involved will be invited by NBS to attend the event. High-level government officials in China will be invited to attend the national meeting on 12 November. Up to 20 international participants will be invited by UN to attend the event. Up to five participants will be invited from each project country (Brazil, India, Mexico and South Africa), including representatives) from the National Statistical Office and other agencies involved in the implementation of the project.

IV. Organization

6. The event is organized into two parts, a one-day high-level seminar (12 November) followed by a training workshop on SEEA EEA (13-14 November)
7. The high-level seminar on 12 November will present early highlights from China work's on NCAVES project implementation and discuss the emerging opportunities for Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) to support national priorities in China, including the deliberations at CBD CoP 2020 in Kunming. The forum will also provide opportunity for project countries to share their experiences and lesson learnt in implementing and mainstreaming NCA in their respective countries.
8. The training workshop on SEEA EEA will built on the previous discuss the conceptual framework of the SEEA EEA based on the recently developed Technical Recommendations of Ecosystem Accounting. The programme of the workshop will be organized around four themes:
 - a. Valuation of Ecosystem Services in the SEEA EEA
 - b. Asset valuation in the SEEA EEA
 - c. Applying the accounts in Scenario Modelling
 - d. NCAVES project country sharing on experiences in SEEA EEA implementation