



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Regional Training Workshop on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

6-8 November 2017

Beijing, China



Concept note

I. Background and objective

1. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), UN Environment, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity have launched the project “Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services”, a 3-year partnership project funded by the European Union. Building on internationally agreed methodology (the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, in short SEEA EEA) and on the development of national competences, the project will initiate pilot testing of the SEEA EEA in partner countries to advance the knowledge agenda on natural capital accounting.
2. Adoption and implementation of the SEEA EEA will require significant training of statistician and non-statistical professional in the National Statistical Systems. This training workshop is organized as part of the above-mentioned 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 workshop aims to enhance the capacity of the participating countries in implementing ecosystem accounting.
3. The objectives of the training workshop are:
 - a. To help participants acquire knowledge and skills to deepen their understanding of the accounting principles and basic data needs for compiling ecosystem accounts and valuing ecosystem services based on the SEEA EEA;
 - b. To facilitate experience sharing among participating countries; and
 - c. To support countries to set up a strategy for the SEEA-EEA implementation

II. Organizers

4. The workshop will be jointly organized by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and United Nations Environment and the European Union in close collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), countries and other international organizations. The workshop will be held in Beijing, China from 6-8 November 2017.

III. Participants

5. Two participants will be invited from each country: one statistician from the National Statistical Office and one statistician or non-statistical professionals from the line ministry involved in compiling environment accounts and supporting statistics and policy-making on sustainable development and environmental issues (such as the ministry of environment, Ministry of agriculture, ministry of planning and other relevant government agencies).

IV. Organization

6. The workshop will devote three days with international experts to 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. *Overview of the SEEA EEA and its implementation strategy:* The training will cover the concept and accounting structure of the SEEA EEA, the implementation strategy and its application to integrated policy making.
 - b. *Core ecosystem accounting framework:* The core SEEA EEA ecosystem accounting framework will be explained. The training will cover accounts for ecosystem extent, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services in depth, as well as topic of spatial units and classifications.
 - c. *Valuation of Ecosystem Services:* The training will cover concepts and approaches of the valuation of ecosystem services used for ecosystem accounting purpose. Valuation approaches for other policy and analytical purpose may also be further explored.
 - d. *Thematic Accounts:* The module will cover the thematic accounts for carbon and biodiversity, which are standalone topics of interest in their own right and of direct relevance in the measurement of ecosystems and in assessing policy response.
7. During the 3-day training participants will also discuss and share their experiences on the implementation of the SEEA EEA. The training may explore further technical issues related to the SEEA EEA, including the ecosystem-related indicators for Sustainable Development Goals and the SEEA Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry.

V. Contact Persons

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Provisional agenda

6 November 2017 (Monday)

Day 1, 9.00-17.30

Moderator: TBC

9.00-9.30	1. Opening and welcome statement by NBS, UNSD, UN Environment and EU <i>Representative from NBS</i> <i>Representative from EU</i> <i>Bram Edens, UNSD</i> <i>Salman Hussain, UN Environment</i>
9.30-9.40	2. The SEEA EEA and other standards <i>Julian Chow, UNSD</i>
9.40-10.30	3. Key concepts in ecosystem accounting <i>Francois Soulard, Statistics Canada</i> <i>Bram Edens, UNSD</i>
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.00	Key concepts in ecosystem accounting (continued)
12.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	4. Spatial units and classifications <i>Francois Soulard, Statistics Canada</i>
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-17.30	5. Ecosystem extent accounts <i>Julian Chow, UNSD</i>

7 November 2017 (Tuesday)

Day 2, 9.00-17.30

Moderator: TBC

9.00-10.15

6. Ecosystem condition accounts

Bram Edens, UNSD

10.15-10.45

Coffee break

10.45-12.00

7. Accounting for flows of ecosystem services

Bram Edens and Julian Chow, UNSD

12.00-14.00

Lunch

14.00-15.30

8. Thematic accounts – carbon and biodiversity

Julian Chow, UNSD

Francois Soulard, Statistics Canada

15.30-16.00

Coffee break

16.00-17.30

9. Modelling and scenario analysis

Salman Hussain, Monica Lopez and Kavita Sharma, UN Environment

8 November 2017 (Wednesday)

Day 3, 9.00-17.30 **Segment on Valuation of Ecosystem Services and analysis**

Moderator: TBC

9.00-10.15	10. Valuation of ecosystem services – key concepts <i>Bram Edens, UNSD</i>
10.15-10.45	Coffee break
11.00-12.00	11. Valuation of ecosystem services in policy making – country examples <i>Bram Edens, UNSD, Francois Soulard, Statistics Canada, Salman Hussain, Monica Lopez and Kavita Sharma, UN Environment</i>
12.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.15	12. Pilot ecosystem accounts and policy: opportunities for mainstreaming - Panel discussion - Short presentations by countries, followed by discussion <i>Salman Hussain, Monica Lopez and Kavita Sharma, UN Environment Bram Edens, UNSD</i>
15.15-15.45	Coffee break
15.45-16.30	Pilot ecosystem accounts and policy (continued)
16.30 -17.00	13. Closing
