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Dear Colleague,

**Revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012—
Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA)**
Global consultation of individual chapters

The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012—Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA) revision process was launched in 2018 as agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its 49th session. The UNSC at its 51st session, last March “emphasized the importance and urgency of providing a standardized methodology for ecosystem accounting that reflects the progress made over the revision and reinforces the role of national statistical offices as data stewards; and supported the aspiration to elevate the revised SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting to SEEA Ecosystem Accounting”.

The revision of the SEEA EEA, undertaken under the guidance of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting, has the aspiration of providing an agreed statistical framework for ecosystem accounting, including agreed terminology, concepts, definitions and classifications for ecosystem assets and services in both physical and monetary terms using an accounting approach. After an extensive process of engaging with experts from different disciplines including national accountants, environmental economists, scientists and geospatial information experts, 5 groups were established and a set of 26 technical papers addressing issues on the research agenda were drafted with the participation of over 100 experts. These papers went through a broad review involving approximately 600 experts. On the basis of the results of these consultations and under the guidance of the Technical Committee on the SEEA EEA, the draft chapters of the SEEA EEA are being drafted and will be revised on the basis of the comments received through the global consultation.

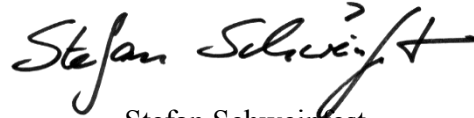
I am pleased to launch the global consultation on the SEEA EEA. The global consultation will involve two phases: the consultation on individual chapters that will take place progressively until June 2020 and the consultation on the complete document expected to take place before the end of 2020. The enclosed document describes the revision process and its timeline as well as a general overview of the SEEA EEA.

Draft chapters of the revised SEEA EEA will be progressively distributed in batches covering related topics, starting with Chapters 3-5 on ecosystem units, ecosystem extent and ecosystem condition respectively. All comments on the above chapters should be provided using the accompanying comments form, to be sent to seea@un.org by **30 April 2020**. The other chapters will be distributed as they become available with a commenting period lasting approximately 6 weeks. The comments received will be made public on our website at <https://seea.un.org/content/seea-experimental-ecosystem-accounting-revision>, which will continue to serve as a repository of the technical papers prepared during the revision process, presentations and minutes of meetings.

Considering the topics covered, I would encourage you to consult with experts from the ministry of environment and related line ministries, academia, mapping agencies and non-governmental organizations in your country that are active in the measurement of land cover/land use, ecosystem extent and condition. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact my colleague Ms. Alessandra Alfieri, Chief, Environmental-Economic Accounts Section (E-mail: seea@un.org).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and look forward to your contribution to the SEEA EEA revision process.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest
Director

United Nations Statistics Division/DESA