

STAT 224(106)

26 October 2020

Dear Colleague,

**Revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
Ecosystem Accounting**
Global consultation on the complete draft

We are pleased to launch the global consultation on the complete draft of the Environmental-Economic Accounting—Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA). The document reflects the inputs received during the global consultation on the core substantive chapters that took place between March and August 2020 as well as the consultations with a number of experts through the various sessions of the Forum of Experts on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, the London Group on Environmental Economic Accounting, bilateral consultations with the Inter-governmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and other experts in various fields.

The SEEA Ecosystem Accounting 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.”

As requested by the Statistical Commission, the revision of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, undertaken under the guidance of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting (UNCEE), aimed to develop 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.

The current draft is the result of significant efforts with 100 experts drafting technical papers as inputs into the revision process and 600 reviewing and commenting on draft papers and chapters. More than 200 sets of comments were received from the consultation on the draft chapters. A large number of experts from national statistical offices contributed in kind by drafting substantive parts of the documents, reviewing it several times, testing the methodologies proposed and engaging in several multidisciplinary technical groups. Active

engagement and participation of experts from governmental and non-governmental organizations, academia and think tanks ensured that the current draft reflects the state-of-the-art thinking in the statistical, scientific, economic and geospatial fields. Such an open, inclusive and collaborative multidisciplinary process resulted in raising awareness and buy in of a number of technical groups working in the ecosystem and biodiversity measurement space. Biophysical guidelines and valuation guidelines are being developed in parallel to the drafting of the SEEA EA to support the compilation of the accounts. A data solution to support countries implementation is also being developed. The website seea.un.org reflects the richness of the contributions and engagement throughout the revision process.

We are pleased to distribute the complete SEEA Ecosystem Accounting for your review and comment. All comments on the publication should be provided using the accompanying comments form, to be sent to seea@un.org by **30 November 2020**. The comments received will be made public on the SEEA website at <https://seea.un.org/content/global-consultation-complete-draft>.

Considering the topics covered, we would encourage you to consult broadly with relevant experts in your government, as well as academia, mapping agencies and non-governmental organizations that are active in the compilation of data and statistics related to ecosystems, biodiversity, climate change, land use planning, etc. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Ms. Alessandra Alfieri, Chief, Environmental-Economic Accounts Section (E-mail: seea@un.org).

We 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 revision process of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting.

Yours sincerely,



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Bert Kroese, Chair
 United Nations Committee of Experts on
 Environmental-Economic Accounting and
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