



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION  
UNITED NATIONS



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

---

## System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 – Experimental Ecosystem Accounting Revision

### First Global Consultation on:

**Chapter 3: Spatial units for Ecosystem Accounting**

**Chapter 4: Accounting for Ecosystem Extent**

**Chapter 5: Accounting for Ecosystem Condition**

### *Comments Form*

**Deadline for responses: 30 April 2020**

**Send responses to: [seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org)**

Name:	Caroline Daguét, Frédéric Poisson et Sabrina Courant
Organization & country:	Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, Québec, Canada

The comment form has been designed to facilitate the analysis of comments. There are nine guiding questions in the form, please respond to the questions in the indicated boxes below. To submit responses please save this document and send it as an attachment to the following e-mail address: [seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org).

All documents can be also found on the SEEA EEA Revision website at:  
<https://seea.un.org/content/seea-experimental-ecosystem-accounting-revision>

In case you have any questions or have issues with accessing the documents, please contact us at [seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org)

**Question 1: Do you have any comments on the definition and description of ecosystem assets and ecosystem accounting areas and the associated measurement boundaries and treatments?**

**FR :** Définition et description de « ecosystem assets » : Dans le paragraphe 3.12 du chapitre 3, est-ce que les particularités de la roche mère ou de ses affleurements sont considérées afin de déterminer à quel point la définition d'un écosystème descend loin vers le sol/les sédiments et la roche mère (*How far the ecosystem extends downwards is very much dependent on the nature of the soil/ sediment and bedrock*) ? Par exemple, en Amérique du Nord, est-ce que les affleurements de serpentine (et leurs caractéristiques abiotiques reflétées au niveau du sol et auxquelles est associée une flore endémique) peuvent faire l'objet d'une distinction particulière, d'un « ecosystem asset » distinct? Il semble que ce soit le cas puisque, à l'annexe 3.1, « Lithology » fait partie des éléments qui peuvent être considérés dans la liste des « Key drivers and characteristics of ecosystems » pour les écosystèmes terrestres. Il serait peut-être pertinent d'ajouter une référence à l'annexe 3.1 au sein du paragraphe 3.12, afin d'avoir tout de suite accès à une liste plus complète des éléments considérés?

**EN:** Definition and description of “ecosystem assets”: In paragraph 3.12 (Chapter 3), are the peculiarities of bedrock or its outcrops considered in order to determine “How far the ecosystem extends downwards is very much dependent on the nature of the soil/ sediment and bedrock”? For instance, in North America, can serpentine outcrops (and their abiotic characteristics reflected in the soil, to which an endemic flora is associated) be the subject of a specific distinction? It seems to be the case since Annex 3.1, “Lithology” is one of the elements listed under “Key drivers and characteristics of ecosystems” for terrestrial ecosystems. Perhaps it would be appropriate to add a reference to Annex 3.1 within paragraph 3.12, in order to provide immediate access to a more complete list of elements considered?

**Question 2. Do you have any comments on the use of the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology as the SEEA Ecosystem Type Reference Classification ?**

No comment.

**Question 3. Do you have any comments on the recording of changes in ecosystem extent and ecosystem condition, including the recording of ecosystem conversions, as described in chapters 4 and 5?**

No comment.

**Question 4. Do you have any comments on the three-stage approach to accounting for ecosystem condition, including the aggregation of condition variables and indicators?**

**FR :** Tel que mentionné dans la « Note to reviewers » sous le paragraphe 5.82, nous accueillons favorablement la proposition de renforcer et d'étayer le lien entre comptabilité écosystémique et comptabilité de la biodiversité. En effet, les trois éléments constitutifs de la biodiversité devraient être considérés dans une approche globale qui soit claire tout en permettant les nuances, afin de bien tenir compte de toute situation particulière qui pourrait sortir de la compréhension générale de la biodiversité.

**EN:** As mentioned in the "Note to reviewers" below paragraph 5.82, we agree that more details need to be provided regarding the connection between ecosystem accounting and accounting for biodiversity. Indeed, all three elements of biodiversity should be considered in a comprehensive approach for accounting that is clear yet nuanced, allowing for the inclusion of situations that may fall "outside the box" of general understanding regarding biodiversity.

**Question 5. Do you have any comments on the description and application of the concept of reference condition and the use of both natural and anthropogenic reference conditions in accounting for ecosystem condition?**

No comment.

**Question 6. Do you have any comments on Ecosystem Condition Typology for organising characteristics, data and indicators about ecosystem condition?**

**FR :** Il pourrait être intéressant d'avoir accès à une liste d'indicateurs potentiels à considérer dans l'évaluation de la condition des écosystèmes par type d'écosystème (« ecosystem asset (EA) » ou « ecosystem type (ET) ») selon la typologie de la condition des écosystèmes (« ecosystem condition typology (ECT) »).

**EN:** It could be interesting to have access to a list of potential indicators of ecosystem condition per ecosystem asset (EA) or ecosystem type (ET) according to the Ecosystem Condition Typology (ECT).

**Question 7. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 3?**

No other comment on Chapter 3.

**Question 8. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 4?**

No other comment on Chapter 4.

**Question 9. Do you have any other comments on Chapter 5?**

No other comment on Chapter 5.