



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting Revision: Webinar on valuation in ecosystem accounting

14 November 2018, 8:00am NY time

Concept note



United Nations

SEEA EXPERIMENTAL ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING REVISION

WEBINAR ON STATE OF PLAY ON VALUATION FOR ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

In all discussions on environmental-economic and natural capital accounting, the issue of valuation is the most common area of contention. Therefore, in the SEEA EEA revision process, a key aspect is building a clear rationale and approach concerning the valuation of ecosystem services and ecosystem assets from a SEEA perspective in order to best support decision-making.

To support a broader common understanding of the issues at play in valuation and the progress that has been made to date, a special webinar is planned for 14 November 2018. The target audience is senior members of the SEEA and SNA measurement communities who will play a key role in advancing the ecosystem accounting measurement agenda. The feedback from the webinar will contribute to clarifying the focus of the SEEA EEA revision research agenda and in developing a common understanding of the potential of ecosystem accounting.

Invitees

UNCEEA members

Advisory Expert Group on NA members

SEEA Central Framework and EEA Technical Committee members

Selected experts in environmental valuation

Key topics

The key topics on valuation to be covered in the webinar are:

- Background to the approaches to valuation in the wider literature (beyond SEEA)
- Describing the ecosystem accounting model with respect to valuation – ecosystem services and ecosystem assets; transactions and units
- Clarifying the SNA approach to valuation of non-monetary transactions
- Distinguishing alternative valuation concepts: exchange values and welfare values
- Describing different contexts for the application of different valuation concepts, including integration with the national accounts
- Mapping out the range of non-market valuation techniques and their potential application in the SEEA
- Describing the proposed set of ecosystem accounts and integrated/extended national accounts in monetary terms

Key questions

Questions that might be considered in discussion on valuation:

- What are the demands for data in monetary terms at government level and for which policy contexts?
- On the understanding that the monetary valuations in the revised SEEA EEA will be based on exchange values, how should the connections to alternative valuation concepts be considered?
- What is the role of the official statistics community in establishing standardized measurement approaches for monetary valuations where prices are not observed?
- What is the role of the national accounts community in supporting development of valuation concepts and techniques in the revised SEEA EEA?

Proposed Webinar structure (1.5-2 hours)

1. Introduction to the SEEA EEA Revision process (5 mins)
2. Summary of conceptual approach to valuation in SEEA EEA (20 mins)
3. Progress in discussion of valuation since SEEA EEA (10 mins)
 - a. Experiences at country level
 - b. SEEA EEA Technical Recommendations
 - c. Bonn workshop and Expert Forum engagement and outcomes

4. Key issues to be discussed in SEEA EEA revision process (5 mins)
5. Open discussion / Q&A (45 mins)
6. Proposed next steps and timing of work and consultation (10 mins)

Background reading

- SEEA EEA Technical Recommendations, Chapter 6, 7 and 8
(https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/technical_recommendations_in_support_of_the_seea_eea_final_white_cover.pdf)
- Document from Carl Obst to Bonn Workshop
(https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/documents/Valuation_Bonn/ecosystemaccountingvaluationprinciples_bonnworkshop.pdf)