



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Main outcomes of Bonn Expert meeting on Ecosystem Valuation in the context of Natural Capital Accounting

*Building Bridges between Policy, Welfare Economics and Accounting -
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Context

- Hosted by German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)
- Strong policy demand: Aichi Target 2 and Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020,
 - Countries: map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services, including economic valuation and integration into accounting and reporting systems.
 - Stocktaking important, also in context of Revision
- Lot of interest: 100 participants; 25 countries;
- Policy makers; statisticians; academics



Substantive outcomes 1 (2)

- Demand to reflect broader range of values in complementary accounts
 - > Enrich the debate looking at changes over time
 - > Assumed market mechanisms are crucial when doing non-market valuation
 - > Range of values not only as problem but as informative
- ES valuation literature often not representative enough for accounting needs
- The ecosystem accounting approach provides added value

Substantive outcomes 2 (2)

- Cost based approaches have progressed
 - > No longer in opposition but rather as complementary
 - > Acknowledgement of the use of ES to inform policy debate
 - > Shift from costs to restore a previous state -> costs to reach a socially agreed state
 - > Various different types of costs need to be better defined
- General support for NPV towards valuing ecosystem assets
- Broad agreement to cost-caused allocation of degradation costs
- Need to determine appropriate recording of ecosystem disservices
- Support for using time use information for estimating ES

Process outcomes

- There is an excellent foundation for describing concepts and methods appropriate for ecosystem accounting
- Given the high policy demand, the timing for developing a revised SEEA EEA is ripe
- The purpose of ecosystem accounting needs to be made clearer
- Clear benefit of focus on individual ecosystem services.
- There is a need to engage users broadly in the revision process
- Not overpromise, stay realistic, set priorities.

Outcomes and next steps

- Succeeded in bridging between the various disciplines.
- An excellent commencement to the revision of the SEEA
- Continue the discussions started at Bonn in Glen Cove
 - > WG 4 on valuation
 - > Several of the break-outs
- Develop “policy and valuation guidelines” (in support of SEEA EA)
- Discussion platform to support the revision process

Thank you!

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