



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Forum of Experts in SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting 2018

Final agenda

18 – 20 June 2018

Glen Cove, New York, USA

Monday, 18 June 2018

8:30-9:00 **Registration** (*in front of Embassy meeting room*)

9:00-10:00 **Session 1: Opening of the Forum of Experts** (*meeting room: Embassy*)

This session marks the opening of the Forum of Experts with opening statements, welcoming remarks, and introductions, including short statements and presentations from a range of supporting agencies and initiatives. These include UN, CBD, IUCN, European Commission, IPBES, Natural Capital Coalition, UN Statistics Commission and World Bank.

Chair: Lisa Bersales (Philippine Statistics Authority)

10:00-10.40 **Session 2: Background and context for the SEEA EEA revision** (*meeting room: Embassy*)

This session will provide introductory information about the SEEA EEA revision and the operation of the Forum, including presentations on

- SEEA history, context, connections to other process and revision process (Alessandra Alfieri, UNSD)
- Progress on the valuation of ecosystem services (Bram Edens, UNSD)
- Process and structure for the Forum of Experts (Carl Obst, UN consultant)

Chair: Lisa Bersales (Philippine Statistics Authority)

10:40-11:10 *Coffee break*

11:10-12:30 **Session 3: Overview of the revision issues** (*meeting room: Embassy*)

This session will provide all participants with a common introduction and starting point to the SEEA's approach to ecosystem accounting and the associated revision issues that have been identified as requiring research and discussion through the revision process.

11:10-11:30 Introduction to ecosystem accounting principles (Anton Steurer, Eurostat)

11:30-12:30 Introduction to the revision issues

- Spatial units (Sjoerd Schenau, Statistics Netherlands)
- Ecosystem condition (Joachim Maes, EU JRC)
- Ecosystem services (Lars Hein, Wageningen University)
- Valuation (Rocky Harris, DEFRA, UK)
- Principles of classifications for ecosystem accounting (Julian Chow, UNSD)

Chair: Anton Steurer (Eurostat)

12:30-13:30

Lunch

13:30-14:15 Introduction to the revision issues (continued)

14:15-16:30 Session 4: Breakout session #1

This is the first of 5 breakout sessions to be held through the Forum. Sessions #1, #3 and #5 will all focus on discussion of topics and issues of relevance to the individual research areas, i.e. spatial units, ecosystem condition, ecosystem services and valuation. The aim of these sessions will be to introduce the research issues in more detail, clarify issues, discuss selected topics and identify solutions, and determine priorities and next steps. Breakout sessions #2 and #4 will be cross-cutting in nature.

Area #1: Spatial units (*meeting room: Terrace*)

Introductory presentations:

- Carlos Zambrana-Torrel (EcoHealth Alliance): IUCN habitat classification
- Francisco Jimenez Nava (INEGI, Mexico): Key principles of classification of land in Mexico

Discussion topic: User needs and key principles for developing a classification of ecosystem types

Chair: Sjoerd Schenau (Statistics Netherlands)

Area #2: Ecosystem condition (*meeting room: Maple*)

Introductory presentation: Joachim Maes (EU JRC): Measuring the condition of Europe's ecosystems

Discussion topics:

- (i) What are the main or different components (or categories) of a condition account and what are the links between them?
- (ii) What are the requirements in an indicator framework to measure ecosystem condition with the specific purpose of ecosystem accounting?

Discussant: Bethanna Jackson (Victoria University)

Chair: Joachim Maes (EU JRC)

Area #3: Ecosystem services (*meeting room: Embassy*)

Introductory presentations:

- Lars Hein (Wageningen University): Defining ecosystem services for ecosystem accounting
- Jan-Erik Petersen (EU EEA): Outcomes from discussion on the classification of ecosystem services

Discussion topics:

- (i) The structure of an ecosystem services classification.
- (ii) Establishing a set of key ecosystem services.

Discussants:

- Ken Bagstad (USGS, United States)

- Carl Obst (UN consultant)

Chair: Lars Hein (Wageningen University)

Area #4: Valuation (*meeting room: Sycamore*)

Introductory presentation: David Barton (NINA, Norway): Reflections on ecosystem accounting approaches to valuation

Discussion topic: Approaches for considering different types of markets and institutional arrangements to support non-market valuation for ecosystem accounting.

Discussant: Ole Gravgard Pedersen (Statistics Denmark)

Chair: Rocky Harris (UK DEFRA)

15.15-15.30 *Coffee break*

16:30-17:30 Session 5: Data and tools for ecosystem accounting (*meeting room: Embassy*)

In plenary, this session will discuss options for biophysical modelling and valuation for ecosystem accounting. It will present an assessment of different models and then the future directions of three specific models (ARIES, InVest, LUCI) will be discussed.

Presenter:

- Ken Bagstad (USGS, United States)

Panel:

- Ferdinando Villa (ARIES, Basque Centre for Climate Change)
- Lisa Mandle (InVest, NatCap Project, Stanford University)
- Bethanna Jackson (LUCI, Victoria University)

Chair: Rosimeiry Portela (Conservation International)

17:30-18:00 Session 6: Wrap-up – Breakout session #1 (*meeting room: Embassy*)

In plenary, feedback from the chairs of breakout session #1 will be provided.

18:00-21:00 *Dinner*

18:15-19:15 Side event: Meeting on the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project (*meeting room: Oak*)

Closed meeting (by invitation only)

Tuesday, 19 June 2018

9:00-9:30 Session 7: Ecosystem accounting initiatives (meeting room: Embassy)

This session will provide an opportunity to rapidly complete a “tour de table” and identify the various ecosystem accounting projects and initiatives taking place around the world. This facilitated process will allow individual projects to provide a very short description of their work (<1 minute) and hence highlight the range of projects that are underway or planned.

Chair: Lisa Wardlaw-Kelly (ABS)

9:30-11:00 Session 8: Breakout session #2 – Ecosystem types

Breakout session #2 will provide an opportunity for experts from the different research areas to interact, in this case via the lens of specific ecosystem types. Five different groups have been proposed with 2 or 3 speakers for each group kicking off the discussion. For each group the discussion should cover key policy issues and indicators, defining the relevant spatial areas, measuring condition and describing the key ecosystem services and valuation options.

Group #1: Forests (meeting room: Terrace)

Introductory presentations:

- Heather Keith (Australian National University): Lessons from Central Highlands accounts for forests
- Madhu Verma (UN consultant): Factoring forest intangibles in accounting framework: experience from India

Chair: Glenn-Marie Lange (World Bank)

Group #2: Agricultural land (meeting room: Maple)

Introductory presentations:

- Douglas Muchoney (FAO): Defining agro-ecological units
- Neville Crossman (UNCCD consultant): Measurement of land degradation
- Patrick Bogaart (Statistics Netherlands): Carbon account for the Netherlands

Chair: Douglas Muchoney (FAO)

Group #3: Freshwater ecosystems including wetlands (meeting room: Embassy)

Introductory presentations:

- Amanda Driver (SANBI, South Africa): Pilot ecosystem accounts on condition of water resources
- Joachim Maes (EU JRC): Measures of global surface water
- Francois Soulard (Statistics Canada): Testing the Global Surface Water Dataset for Canada

Chair: Claire Brown (UNEP-WCMC)

Group #4: Marine and coastal ecosystems (*meeting room: Sycamore*)

Introductory presentations:

- Soile Oinonen (SYKE, Finland): Linking the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and ecosystem accounts
- Anthony Dvaskas (Stony Brook University): Applying SEEA EEA to marine and coastal areas

Chair: Michael Bordt (UN ESCAP)

Group #5: Urban ecosystems (*meeting room: Oak*)

Introductory presentations:

- David Barton (NINA, Norway): Ecosystem accounting for Oslo
- Emily Connors (ONS, UK): Urban accounts in the UK

Chair: tbc

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30-11:45 Session 9: Indicators and SEEA EEA (*meeting room: Embassy*)

In plenary, this session will tease out the potential to establish sustainability and related indicators from the ecosystem accounting framework.

Presenter:

- Steven King (UNEP-WCMC): Measuring sustainability indicators using the SEEA EEA

Chair: Markus Lehmann (CBD)

11:45-12:00 Session 10: Integration of ecosystem valuation (*meeting room: Embassy*)

In plenary, this session will present some ideas on how to integrate ecosystem services valuation in the World Bank work.

Presenter:

- Raffaello Cervigni (World Bank): Towards assessing and valuing ecosystems services at the global scale: the World Bank Global Program for Sustainability (GPS)

Chair: Markus Lehmann (CBD)

12:00-12:30 Session 11: Wrap-up – Breakout session #2 (*meeting room: Embassy*)

In plenary, feedback from the chairs of breakout session #2 will be provided.

12:30-13:30 *Lunch*

13:30-15:00 Session 12: Breakout session #3

This breakout sessions will return to the material and discussions from Breakout session #1 where groups were organized by the four SEEA EEA Revision research areas. The following topics are for discussion in this breakout session.

Area #1: Spatial units (*meeting room: Terrace*)

Introductory presentations:

- Roger Sayre (USGS, United States): Defining ecosystem types
- Francois Soulard (Statistics Canada): Classification of ecosystem types: Experiences and perspectives from Statistics Canada

Discussion topic: Options for a core set of classes of ecosystem types

Area #2: Ecosystem condition (*meeting room: Maple*)

Introductory presentations:

- Simon Ferrier (CSIRO): The role of biodiversity indicators in condition measurement
- Carlos Zambrana-Torrel (EcoHealth Alliance): IUCN Red List of Ecosystems
- Neil Cox (IUCN): IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Discussion topics:

- (i) How to define reference values for ecosystem condition indicators when data about the pristine condition are not available?
- (ii) To aggregate or not to aggregate? What are the advantages and disadvantages of aggregated condition indicators - for an ecosystem type and across ecosystem types?

Area #3: Ecosystem services (*meeting room: Embassy*)

Discussion topics:

- (i) Establishing the set of key ecosystem services (continued from breakout session #1)
- (ii) Selected issues in ecosystem service definition and measurement

Discussant: Neville Crossman (UNCCD consultant)

Area #4: Valuation (*meeting room: Sycamore*)

Introductory presentation:

- Rocky Harris (UK DEFRA): Key ecosystem services for valuation

Discussion topic: Establishing the set of key ecosystem services – a valuation perspective

Discussant: Anton Steurer (Eurostat)

15:00-15:30

Coffee break

15:30-17:00 Session 13: Country experiences (meeting room: Embassy)

In plenary, this session will hear from a range of countries on their experience in testing and implementing the SEEA EEA. Topics of interest include highlights of work completed so far, challenges, future plans and issues that should be addressed in the revision process.

Presentations are expected from: Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Mexico, and the Philippines.

Chair: Wadzi Mandivenyi (DEA, South Africa)

17:00-17:30 Session 14: Wrap-up – Breakout session #3 (meeting room: Embassy)

In plenary, feedback from the chairs of breakout session #3 will be provided.

17:30-18:15 Session 15: Data and tools for ecosystem accounting (meeting room: Embassy)

In plenary, this session will present different tools that can be used for ecosystem measurement at global levels.

Presenters:

- Keith Gaddis (NASA): NASA's remote sensing capability
- Douglas Muchoney (FAO): FAO tools
- Timothy Wright (CI): Trends.Earth

Chair: Matthew Collins Omondi (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics)

18:15-21:00 *Dinner*

Wednesday, 20 June 2018

8:30-10:00 Session 16: Breakout session #4 – Cross-cutting issues

In this breakout session the focus will be on issues that cut across the four research areas. Here five issues have been selected to form the focus of discussion, in all cases considering some of the more challenging areas of the research agenda. For each issue 1 or 2 introductory presentations will be provided before a structured discussion of the issue.

Group #1: Establishing classes for ecosystem types – is there a minimum number of classes to support measurement and decision support? (*meeting room: Terrace*)

Presentation: Trond Larsen (CI)

Chair: Francois Soulard (Statistics Canada)

Group #2: Describing the set of key ecosystem services for modelling and valuation (*meeting room: Maple*)

Presentation: Neville Crossman (UNCCD consultant)

Chair: Juha Siikamaki (IUCN)

Group #3: Approaches to aggregation for measures of ecosystem condition and ecosystem services (*meeting room: Embassy*)

Presentation: Bethanna Jackson (Victoria University)

Chair: Claire Brown (UNEP-WCMC)

Group #4: Linking the measurement of ecosystem services and ecosystem condition –options for defining capacity for ecosystem accounting (*meeting room: Terrace*)

Presentation: Balint Czucz (European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity)

Chair: Per Arild Gernasjordet (Statistics Norway)

Group #5: Integrated accounting treatments and recording degradation for ecosystem accounting (*meeting room: Oak*)

Presentations:

- Bram Edens (UNSD)
- Pablo Campos (Spanish National Research Council)

Chair: Raffaello Cervigni (World Bank)

10:00-10:30 *Coffee break*

10:30-11:00 Session 17: Organizing data for ecosystem accounting (*meeting room: Embassy*)

In plenary, this session will present some options and issues in the organization of data and the potential to establish compilation systems for ecosystem accounting.

Presenters:

- Jan-Erik Petersen (EU EEA)
- Richard Mount (ABS, Australia)

Chair: Miriam Barbuda (IBGE)

11:00-11:30 Session 18: Wrap-up – Breakout session #4 (*meeting room: Embassy*)

In plenary, feedback from the chairs of breakout session #4 will be provided.

11:30-12:30 Session 19: Breakout session #5

In this breakout session the focus will return to the four research areas – spatial units, ecosystem condition, ecosystem services and valuation – and provide the opportunity for experts to bring

together the findings from the discussions in the previous days, assess the potential advances that can be made, determine research priorities and identify experts who can assist in taking this work forward.

Area #1: Spatial units (*meeting room: Terrace*)

Area #2: Ecosystem condition (*meeting room: Maple*)

Area #3: Ecosystem services (*meeting room: Embassy*)

Area #4: Valuation (*meeting room: Sycamore*)

12:30-13:30

Lunch

13:30-15:30 Session 20: Moving forward (*meeting room: Embassy*)

In this final session, a range of contributions will establish the pathway forward beyond the Forum. Before the final word from the organizers there will be

- A panel session involving leading UN and international agencies on the connections of the SEEA EEA revision to other global statistical and measurement initiative considering how these relationships can be further advanced.
- A summary of key findings from a technical perspective and open discussion with all experts led by the research area leads and the editor.
- A description of the process for engagement with experts through the revision process by Alessandra Alfieri (UNSD).

15:30-15:45 Session 21: Closing of the Forum of Experts 2018 (*meeting room: Embassy*)