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UNSD SEEA-EEA revision 2020

Area 1: Spatial units; introduction

Sjoerd Schenau, Patrick Bogaart, Edwin Horlings UNSD export forum; New York; 18 June 2018.

Spatial units within SEEA-EEA

... delineate Ecosystem Assets

- ... provide stocks and generate flows in accounting terms
- ... form the conceptual base for aggregation:
 - to (administrative) accounting units
 - over Ecosystem Types
- ... comprise relatively homogeneous combination of
 - Vegetation type, soil type, hydrology, geomorphology, climate
 - Land use, management, ownership etc.
 - Basket of ecosystem services generated



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Main revision issues

- 1. Establish **generic principles** for defining ecosystem type classes.
- 2. Develop an international standard classification of ecosystem types for both **terrestrial** and **marine** areas, and **integrate** them.
- 3. Develop guidelines for **urban** or **rural** areas characterized by a mosaic of primary ecosystem types.



Key characteristics of an effective revision

- Credible
 - The classification must be scientifically sound
- Salient
 - The classification must be **relevant for policy needs**
- Legitimate
 - The process must be respectful of stakeholders' divergent values and beliefs



1. Establishing clear principles

Build upon UNSD standards for classification

- 1. Consistent conceptual basis
 - Link to landscape-ecological theory
 - Link to socio-economic practice
- 2. Hierarchical structure
 - Implements flexibility, allows divergent user needs
- 3. Well-defined, mutually exclusive and exhaustive categories
- 4. Statistical balance



2. Develop a standard classification

Take note of existing classifications

	IGBP	FAO	Maes	SEEA-EEA	CBS (Statistics Netherlands)	Corine (CLC)
Forest and (semi-)natural	1 Evergreen Needleleaf forest	4 tree covered areas	Woodland and forest	Forest tree cover	22 Coniferous forest	312 Coniferous forest
	3 Deciduous Needleleaf forest					
	2 Evergreen Broadleaf forest					311 Broad-leaved forest
	4 Deciduous Broadleaf forest				21 Deciduous forest	
	5 Mixed forest				23 Mixed forest	313 Mixed forest
					5 Bushes and hedges bordering fields	
		7 mangroves				
	6 Closed shrublands		Heathland and shrub	Shrubland, bushland, heathland		
	7 Open shrublands	5 shrubs covered areas				
					24 Heath land	322 Moors and heathland
						323 Sclerophyllous vegetation
	8 Woody savannas					224 Transitional woodland shrub
	9 Savannas					324 Iransicional Woodland-shrub
				Natural vegetation associations and mosaics		
	10 Grasslands	3 grassland	Grassland	Pastures and natural grassland	27 (semi) Natural grassland	321 Natural grasslands



2. Develop a standard classification

- Take note of **existing classifications**.

- Optimal outcome: build upon best existing elements,
- while respecting our own framework / principles.
- Example discussion points:
 - Which are the **core** attributes (used for delineation) vs
 - **Auxiliary** attributes (included in attribute table)?
 - How do we align with both SEEA-CF classifications (land cover and land use) and local land-related classifications?
 - How do we link with **atmospheric** units?



3. Dealing with urban and rural areas

How to deal with land characterized by spatial **mosaic** of elementary ecosystem types ?



3. Dealing with urban and rural areas

- Characterized by spatial mosaic of elementary ET
- How to include in classification?
 - Include in ecosystem type hierarchy?
 - Mark using special attributes?
- How to operationalize?
 - Delineation rules for urban & rural areas

Next steps

- Get input from the forum!
 - \rightarrow Break out 1: General principles and user needs
 - \rightarrow Break out 3: Options for an ecosystem type classification
- Finalise workplan for WG1
- Start working on the issue papers
- Involve expert group



Questions?

