



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROJECT

Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

20-21 September 2017

Pretoria, South Africa



Background and objectives

1. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), UN Environment, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity have launched the project “Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services” in South Africa, a 3-year partnership project funded by the European Union. Other partner countries in the project are Brazil, China, India, and Mexico.
 2. Building on internationally agreed methodology (the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, in short SEEA EEA) and on the development of national competences, the project will initiate pilot testing of the SEEA EEA in partner countries to advance the knowledge agenda on natural capital accounting.
 3. The project’s main objective in the partner countries is to mainstream natural capital accounting and valuation of ecosystem services in data driven decision and policy making and is expected to influence policy-makers at national, regional and local level.
 4. The project will build upon the work done as part of the Norwegian funded project on Advancing Natural Capital Accounting (ANCA). In particular, the specific interdepartmental group that was created as part of the ANCA project will continue to serve a similar function in this project and support the various project activities.
 5. A stakeholder consultation meeting will take place from 20-21 September in Pretoria, South Africa, during which the project team will launch the project in South Africa and organize stakeholder consultation meetings to reach out to national and local authorities and other relevant stakeholders from civil society and private sector.
 6. The objectives of the stakeholder consultation meeting are:
 - a. to officially launch the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project in South Africa;
 - b. to identify, in consultation with national and local authorities and other relevant stakeholders, how the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting could support sustainable development policy initiatives in South Africa, hereby building on existing initiatives and programmes currently taking place in South Africa;
 - c. to discuss and agree on the project management arrangements and the work programme for the project.
 7. The project team will comprise of representatives of UNSD and the UN Environment.
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Provisional agenda

High-level stakeholder consultation meeting

Venue: Statistics South Africa

Morning session, 9.00-12.30 **High level segment**

9.00-9.40	1. Opening remarks and launch of the project
9.40-10.00	2. EU perspective on Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services
10.00-10.15	3. Overview of the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project
10.15-10.30	Discussion
10.30-11.00	Break
11.00-11.15	4. Overview of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
11.15-11.45	5. Current work programme on environmental-economic accounting in South Africa
11.45-12.30	Discussion
12.30-13.30	Lunch

Afternoon session, 13.30-17.00 **Policy consultation**

Main objectives of this session are: 1) to gain a better understanding of South African's policy priorities in the environmental-economic domain; 2) to clarify the use of the SEEA EEA as measurement framework in informing the present policy priorities.

Plenary discussion on linking SEEA with policy initiatives

- *How can this SEEA project build on past and present initiatives*
- *What elements of the SEEA-EEA have most potential to influence policy change in South Africa*

13.30-15.00 6. Policy perspective and related indicator frameworks in South Africa

- a. Sustainable Development Goals
- b. Advancing Natural Capital Accounting project
- c. Relevant international and national initiatives

15.00-15.30 Break

15.30-17.00 d. Local government for sustainability
e. Discussion

21 September 2017 (Thursday)

Venue: Statistics South Africa

Morning session, 9.00-12.30 **Technical segment**

Main objectives of this session - statistical perspective and related initiatives

9.00-9.10	Opening remarks and brief recap
9.10-9.40	7. Status of implementation of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in South Africa and other related initiatives related to ecosystem accounting
9.40-10.10	8. Overview of data availability, gaps, information quality and data sharing arrangement
10.10-10.40	9. Initiatives on Valuation of Ecosystem Services in South Africa
10.40-11.10	Break
11.10-12.30	10. Plenary discussion on the SEEA EEA framework, data sources and valuation of ecosystem services
12.30-13.30	Lunch

13.30-15.30

11. Discussion on the proposed work programme

- a. UNSD presentation on work packages and deliverables of the project
- b. Discussion on the proposed work programme
 - What are the key policy priorities?
 - What are measurement and statistical priorities?
 - Available information on valuation of ecosystem services
 - Monitoring / reporting needs on ecosystem related indicators
- c. Prioritisation of accounts to develop:
 - Which type of SEEA EEA accounts (e.g. carbon; biodiversity, condition)
 - Identification of pilot areas (national, regional or local scale)
- d. Discussion and establishment of the project links with current work programmes in South Africa
- e. Establishment of project management unit and national steering committee

15.30-16.00

- Closing – by EU, SSA, UNSD and UN Environment
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