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| UNLOGO  DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  STATISTICS DIVISION  UNITED NATIONS |  |
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**SEEA EEA Revision**

**Expert Consultation Comment Form**

**Working Group 5: Valuation**

**Deadline for responses: 17 January 2020**

**Send responses to:** [**seea@un.org**](mailto:seea@un.org)

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| Your name: |  |
| Your country/organization: |  |
| Contact (e.g. email address): |  |

To submit responses please save this document and send it as an attachment to the following e-mail address: [seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org).

The comment form has been designed to facilitate the analysis of comments. There are nine guiding questions in the form, please respond to the questions in the indicated boxes below.

The following paper is the subject of this review and were distributed together with the review request:

* *Discussion paper 5.5: Ecosystem disservices and externalities*

All papers can be also found at the SEEA EEA Revision website at: <https://seea.un.org/content/seea-experimental-ecosystem-accounting-revision>

In case you have any questions or have issues with accessing the documents, please contact us at [seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org)

**Question 1: Do you agree with the distinction introduced in the paper between externalities and ecosystem (dis)services, and how these are defined?**

*The paper distinguishes between externalities and ecosystem (dis)services: the former originate from statistical units (e.g. households, companies etc.), the latter exclusively from ecosystems. Externalities can be positive and negative, the former we see as ecosystem services, the latter as ecosystem disservices.*

*There remain externalities (e.g. playing music irritating neighbours) that are outside of the scope of SEEA EEA (and the SNA), as the measurement scope of SEEA EEA is about externalities that originate from or impact on ecosystems.*

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| Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.) |

**Question 2. Do you think that entries for negative externalities should be explicitly recorded in the SEEA EEA? If so, as part of the core tables, or as supplementary tables? What do you think of the recording proposals? If no, should the relationship between externalities and the SEEA EEA be discussed in the text, explaining how information in the accounts can support measurement of externalities and how analysis of broader welfare effects can be linked to the accounts?**

*DP 5.5 explains that the transaction-based nature of the SNA (and SEEA) in principle rules out externalities. The extension of the production boundary in SEEA EEA allows recording ecosystem services (positive externalities originating from ecosystems), but what to do with negative externalities? In case we would record negative externalities, the paper proposes a number of recording options, distinguishing between externalities that have an effect over multiple periods, from externalities that only have a current period impact.*

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**Question 3. Do you think ecosystem disservices should be within the scope of the revised SEEA EEA? What do you think of the recording proposal?**

*DP 5.5 explains that ecosystem disservices can, in theory, be recorded as a supply (and use) of negative ecosystem services. This would make them visible in the accounting framework, however, introducing negative numbers in extended SUTs causes various awkward effects (e.g. it can hamper the potential to perform Input Output analysis).*

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**Question 4. Do you have any other comments on the draft papers?**

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| Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.) |