



**United
Nations**



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Forum of Experts on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting

7 and 8 December 2021
online

Draft agenda

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[all EST (NY) times]

7:00-7:30 Session 1: Opening, introduction and framing of the discussion

The Forum will be officially opened with motivational welcome messages to set the scene.

- Rules of engagement
- Welcome message and setting the scene
 - Elliott Harris, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist
 - Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director Natural Capital, European Commission
- Objectives and agenda of the Forum – Alessandra Alfieri, UNSD

7:30-8:30 Session 2: Highlights from the NCAVES project

In this session, the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services Project (NCAVES) is concluding its activities. Project countries, Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and South Africa, will outline the results of the pilot project and share lessons learnt from implementing the SEEA EA over the past 5 years. The project outputs on the global workstreams in particular with regard to the development of guidelines supporting the implementation and business accounting will also be presented.

- Project introduction presentation – Bram Edens, UNSD
- Video summary of the project
- Ecosystem accounting in-country implementation in the project countries: Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa
- Highlights on global workstreams:
 - Bram Edens, UNSD
 - Salman Hussain, UNEP
- Questions and answers

8:30-9:20 Session 3: Examples and applications of ecosystem accounts (parallel groups)

This session will showcase specific examples and applications of ecosystem accounts in countries. The session will be organized in four thematic parallel groups each covering different aspects of ecosystem accounting. Country presentations will highlight different approaches taken by countries so as to facilitate sharing of experiences and discussion on lessons learnt.

Group 1: Ecosystem accounts – chair: Lars Hein, Wageningen University, Netherlands

- Spanish forest condition and the EU forest condition pilot - Fernando Santos, Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain
- Ecosystem services assessment at catchment scale, learnings from Ireland – Catherine Farrell, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

- Results of the ecosystem accounting pilot in Karnataka state - T.V. Ramachandra, Indian Institute of Science

Group 2: Scenario analysis – chair: [TBD]

- Economic case for ecosystem management and restoration interventions to achieve land degradation neutrality in South Africa - Jane Turpie, Anchor Environmental
- Practical example on scenario analysis - Onil Banerjee, IADB
- Raffaello Cervigni, World Bank [TBD]

Group 3: Institutionalization of accounts – chair: [TBD]

- From experimentation to mainstream: taking ecosystem accounting forward in South Africa - Riaan Grobler, Statistics South Africa
- Towards the institutionalization of ecosystem accounts in China by 2025 – Zhiyun Ouyang, Chinese Academy of Science
- Ecosystem Accounting and Institutional coordination: the Italian experience - Aldo Femia, Istat, Italy

9:20-10:05 Session 4: Panel lessons learned from ecosystem accounting implementation

Panellists from countries that have compiled ecosystem accounts will share their main lessons learned in the implementation of ecosystem accounting and their priorities for the future.

- Introduction by chair of the panel – Anne Teller, European Commission
- Discussants to provide their views on lessons learned from implementation of ecosystem accounting in their countries and their priorities for the future.
 - Vivian Ilarina, Philippine Statistics Authority
 - Francois Soulard, Statistics Canada
 - Eli Fenichel, U.S. White House Office of Science & Technology Policy
 - [TBD]
 - [TBD]
- General debate and Q&A

Questions for panellists:

- *What were the top 3 lessons learned from your experience implementing the ecosystem accounts?*
- *What are your country's priorities for next steps in the short and medium term related to ecosystem accounting implementation?*

[all EST (NY) times]

7:00-7:15 Session 5: Putting the SEEA EA implementation strategy into practice

The SEEA EA implementation strategy will be presented to set the scene for the subsequent discussions.

- Introduction to the SEEA EA implementation strategy – Alessandra Alfieri, UNSD

7:15-8:00 Session 6: Key global initiatives and their links to the SEEA EA

In this session, key global initiatives related to the SEEA EA will be introduced with the aim to highlight their relationship with SEEA EA and, in turn, how the SEEA EA support them.

- Chair: Greg Peterson, Statistics Canada
- Introductions of the key initiatives:
 - Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework– Jillian Campbell, UN CBD
 - The WCC resolution on accounting for biodiversity and IUCN data – Juha Siikamaki and Thomas Brooks, IUCN
 - UN decade on ecosystem restoration – Tim Christophersen, UN Environment
 - Business accounting – Mark Gough, Capitals Coalition
 - Climate change agenda [TBD]
- Questions and answers

8:00-9:00 Session 7: Operationalizing the implementation strategy (in breakout groups)

In this session, participants will discuss in breakout groups, issues related to the implementation and compilation of specific ecosystem accounts in order to identify priorities and strategies to operationalize the implementation strategy. Main outcomes and highlights from the discussion in each group will be summarized in a plenary debrief at the end of the session.

- *8:00-8:45: Discussions in breakout groups.* In each group, an initial presentation on the topic of discussion will be followed by a moderated discussion aiming to identify priorities and strategies on how to progress the implementation of ecosystem accounts for each particular issue.
- *8:45-9:00: Plenary debrief.* Chairs of the breakout groups will debrief the plenary with the main outcomes and highlights from the discussion in each group.

| # | Issue | Chair |
|---|--------|---|
| 1 | Forest | Fernando Santos Martin, Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain |
| 2 | Oceans | Anthony Dvarskas, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| 3 | Carbon | Jonathon Khoo, Australian Bureau of Statistics |

9:00-9:50 **Session 8: Global data solutions and the data and model interoperability strategy**

This session will aim to introduce the [data and model interoperability strategy](#) for the SEEA and discuss methods on how to operationalize the strategy. It will aim to discuss what interoperable data and models mean in practice and how interoperability applies both at national and global levels.

- Introduction by chair of the panel – Marc Paganini, European Space Agency
- Presentation of the interoperability strategy – Ken Bagstad, US Geological Survey
- Discussants to provide their view on how to operationalize the SEEA interoperability strategy in relation to the different global data initiatives and the challenges that they see in making the data interoperable:
 - Bruno Smets, VITO Belgium
 - Steve Brumby, Impact Observatory / UN Biodiversity Lab
 - David Keith, IUCN GET (video)
 - GEO BON [TBC]
 - NASA [TBC]
- General discussion

9:50-10:00 **Session 9: Next steps and closing**

The Forum will close by summarizing the discussions and drawing up the next steps for the implementation of the SEEA EA.

- Alessandra Alfieri, UNSD