UNSD SEEA-EEA revision 2020

Area 1: Spatial units; introduction

Sjoerd Schenau, Patrick Bogaart, Edwin Horlings

London group meeting, October 2018

Overview

- Spatial units in SEEA EEA

- Main revision issues

- Issue papers

- Members of the WG

- Timeframe

Spatial areas 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

4
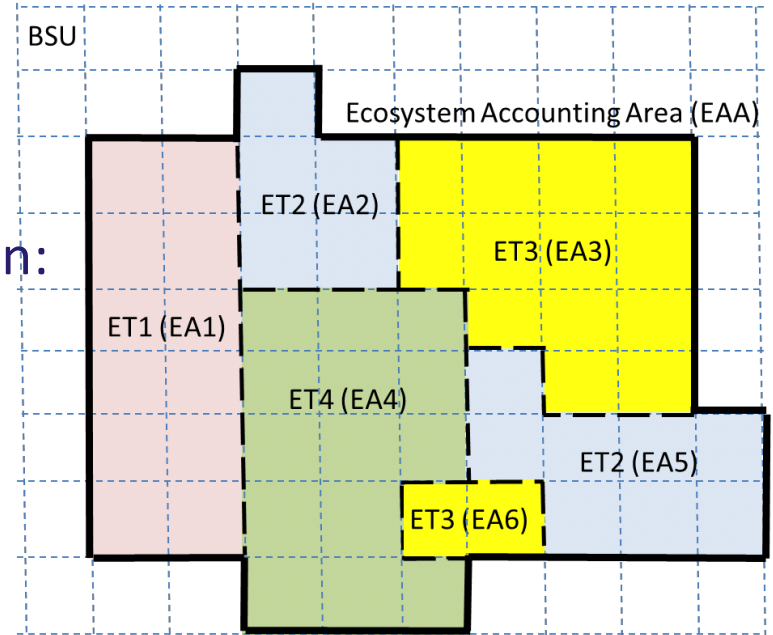
Main goal of research area 1 : spatial units

To establish statistically and accounting relevant classifications for ecosystem types for SEEA EEA.

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.

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**.
  - Optimal outcome: build upon best existing elements,
  - while respecting our own framework / principles.
- **Main 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?

Inventory of international and national classifications of land use, land cover, ecosystem types

Land cover	Land cover classification SEEA EEA CF (Annex C, p. 299)
	FAO, Land Cover Classification System (LCCS)
	CORINE Land Cover (CLC)
	EUNIS habitats classification
Land use	Land use classification (interim) SEEA EEA CF (Annex C, p. 289-299)
	FAO, World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020, Classification of land use (LU) for the agricultural census
	FAO, Indicative Crop Classification,
Ecosystem types	EEA, Ecosystem types of Europe, which combines the Corine based MAES ecosystem classes with the non-spatial EUNIS habitat classification
	MAES, Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES)
	Sayre et al. (2014)

Link with atmosphere and marine ecosystems
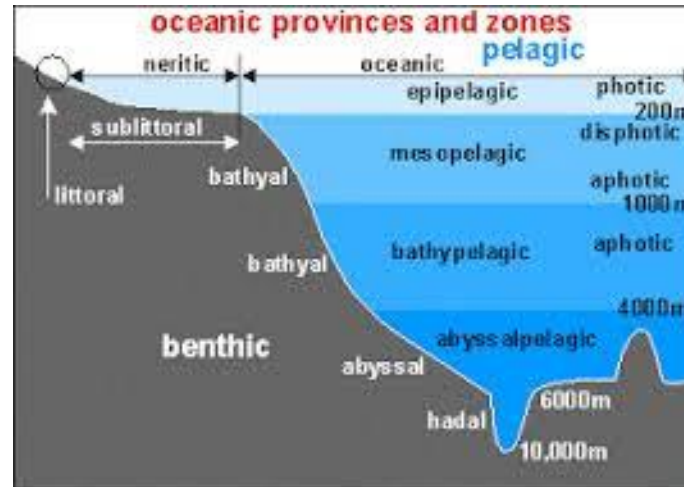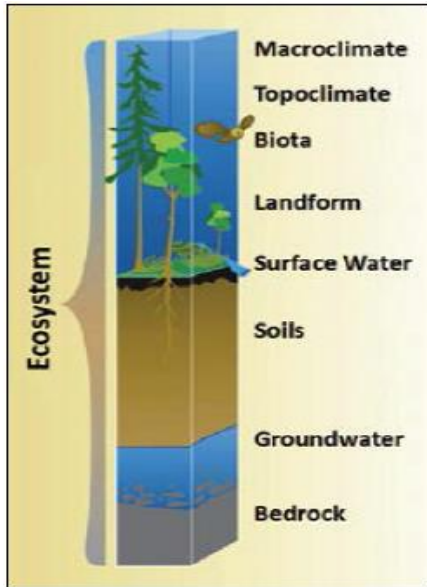
Source: Sayre et al. (2014), p. 8, after Bailey (1996).

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?

- Urban, rural, nature areas could be seen as an additional layer ?

- Or include in ecosystem type hierarchy?

- Mark using special attributes?

– How to operationalize?

- Delineation rules for urban & rural areas

Issue papers

- **Discussion paper 1.1:** Conceptual base for classification of ecosystem types for ecosystem accounting

- **Discussion paper 1.2:** Review of existing classification schemes for ecosystem types

- **Discussion paper 1.3:** Proposed hierarchical classifications schemes for terrestrial, wetlands, freshwater, coastal and oceanic ecosystems

- **Discussion paper 1.4:** Delineation of urban areas for ecosystem accounting

- **Discussion paper 1.5:** Describing the spatial connection between ecosystem types and the atmosphere and the marine environment

Members of WG 1

- Sjoerd Schenau (Area Lead), Edwin Horlings, Patrick Bogaart (Statistics Netherlands)

- Roger Sayre (USGS)

- Francois Soulard (Statistics Canada)

- David Keith, Carlos Zambrana (IUCN)

- Keith Gaddis (NASA)

- Doug Muchoney, Francesco Tubiello (FAO)

- Trond Larsen (Conservation International)

- Jessica Chan (UNSD)

Timeframe

Month	Milestones	Deliverables
April 2018	Start of work	
May 2018		
June 2018	Final set of issues to be determined following discussion at Expert Forum	Short 2-5 page note containing extensive clarification and description of the revision issues first drafts of work program and plans
July 2018		Final draft work program First draft issue papers 1 and 2
August 2018		
September 2018		Revised issue papers 1 and 2
October 2018	Discussion at the London Group meeting	First draft issue paper 5
November 2018	Face to face meeting of WG1 in Paris	First draft issue paper 3 with options to be discussed
December 2018		
January 2019		
February 2019		
April 2019	Second Forum of Experts on Ecosystem Accounting	Issue papers 1-5 ready

Thank you for your attention!