



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Natural Capital Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services project

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- Overview of the project
- Activities in 2017
- Global events in 2018
- Project implementation in China

Outline

Partnership initiative

- Implementing partners
 - United Nations Statistics Division
 - United Nations Environment Programme
- Sponsor
 - European Union
 - Partnership Instrument
- Five partner countries
 - Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa
- Project durations of 3 years from 2017



Overall objectives

- Advance the knowledge agenda on environmental-economic and ecosystem accounting
- Initiate pilot testing of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, ecosystem valuation and environmental-economic analysis with a view to:
 - improving the measurement of natural biotic resources, ecosystems and their services at the (sub)national level
 - mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystems in (sub)national level policy-planning and implementation



Work streams

- Piloting ecosystem accounts (in each of the 5 partner countries) for selected areas (national and/or regional)
- Developing guidelines and methodology
- Indicators
- Business accounting (sustainability reporting)
- Communication and outreach
- Training and capacity development



The Sustainable Development Goals 'wedding cake'
<http://eatforum.org/event/eat-stockholm-food-forum-2016/>

W1: Piloting ecosystem accounts

Approach:

- Flexible: (no blueprint), depending on country needs
- Mainstreaming: accounts should inform policy
- Inclusive: build on existing work programs and projects and consolidate past experiences

Deliverables:

- National plan that document assessment results and programme of work in advancing environmental-economic and ecosystem accounting
- Compilation of selected ecosystem accounts in physical and monetary terms based on policy priorities
- Economic valuation of ecosystem services and natural capital
- Policy applications / scenario analysis
- Compilation of selected ecosystem-related indicator based on policy priorities

W2: Guidelines and methodology

- Objective: (contributing to) developing guidelines and methodology
 - > Standards
 - > Practical guidelines
- Synergy: between country and global work programme
 - > Results from pilots linked to research agenda and will contribute to standards
- Annual global forum on advancing ecosystem accounting
 - > Contribute to issues on research agenda
 - > Learn from experiences from other countries



Research agenda

- Revision structured around **four research areas**:
 - > **Spatial areas**: Classification of ecosystem types
 - > **Ecosystem condition**: Characteristics and indicators of ecosystem condition
 - > **Ecosystem services**: The description and classification of ecosystem services
 - > Accounting treatments and valuation:
 - Valuation concepts for ecosystem services and ecosystem assets
 - Valuation methods for key ecosystem services
 - Accounting for ecosystem capacity, degradation and enhancement
- There is also a number of **cross cutting domains**, such as oceans and marine ecosystems, freshwater ecosystems, urban ecosystems, etc..
- Testing and experimentation of specific topics (e.g. SDG indicator 6.6.1 on freshwater extent and 6.3.1 on land degradation)

International bodies for SEEA

United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting (UNCEEAA)

The governing body for the mainstreaming and implementation of the SEEA. Established by the UN Statistical Commission at its 36th Session in 2005.

Chair: Bert Kroese, Statistics Netherlands || Secretariat: UNSD

Technical Committee of the SEEA
Central Framework

Technical Committee of the SEEA
Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

London Group on Environmental Economic Accounting

Forum of Experts on SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

W3: Indicators

- Objective: align indicator programs with SEEA, both international and national
- Deliverable: an indicator set based on SEEA Environmental and Ecosystem accounts, in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
 - > Phase 1: assessment
 - > Phase 2: consultation mechanism
 - > Phase 3: in country testing -> using the developed ecosystem accounts

W4: Business accounting

Objective: contribute to alignment between NCA and corporate sustainability reporting

- Liaise with national companies to use results of the NCA project
- Organize workshop(s) on alignment of corporate sustainability reporting and NCA
- Bring the results to global processes (e.g. Intergovernmental WG -ISAR – UNCTAD/UNEP; GRI; IIRC etc.)

W5: Communication and outreach

Objective: awareness raising, demonstrating value added of NCA (regional; national and global)

- Deliverables:
 - > Development of a global knowledge platform on SEEA
 - Newsletters
 - Archive of publications
 - > Website
 - > National forums / workshops
 - Demonstrate and consult on progress
 - Outreach for broader engagement

W6: Training and capacity building

Objective: enhance capacity and enlarge the community of practitioners

Deliverables:

- Training modules for ecosystem accounting in support of capacity development (E-learning)
- Regional training workshops
- National training workshops
- In country technical support (consultants) to project team

Country activities in 2017



- Project launched in each partner country
- Inception missions were undertaken for in-country assessments
- Discussions of the national work programme to advance Natural Capital Accounting initiated and work plan drafted

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Global activities in 2017

- Technical Recommendations of the SEEA EEA published
- Regional Training Workshop on the SEEA EEA in Asia-Pacific jointly organized with the National Bureau of Statistics of China
- 2nd Policy Forum on Natural Capital Accounting jointly organized with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the World Bank.



Global events in 2018

- Follow up mission to 5 partner countries
- Expert meeting on Ecosystem Valuation in the context of Natural Capital Accounting (24-26 April, Bonn)
- Forum of Experts in Ecosystem Accounting (18-20 June, New York, USA)
- Regional Training Workshop on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in Latin America region (26-30 November, Rio de Janeiro)
- 3rd Policy Forum on Natural Capital Accounting (tbc)

Outcome of the 1st Inception Meeting

- The project team undertook an initial mission to China in November 2017, including a high-level stakeholder consultation meeting with national partners and a regional training workshop on SEEA EEA.
- Following on the outcome of the mission, the project will work in parallel on the following two workstream to advance the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in China:
 - > Strengthen and support the national compilation of natural resource balance sheet on land, forest and water;
 - > Pilot ecosystem accounting following the SEEA EEA approach in both physical and monetary terms in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Guizhou Province

Objectives

- To discuss and agree on the programme of work for the project and the way forward
- To assess the policy priority and existing work on ecosystem assessment, address technical issues and discuss the initial programme of work to implement ecosystem accounts in Guangxi and Guiyang using the SEEA EEA approach
- To address methodological issues related to natural resource balance sheet and ecosystem accounting programme

THANK YOU

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