



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROJECT

Assessment Mission

21 – 29 May 2018
China



United Nations



Background

1. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity have launched the project “Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services” in China, a 3-year partnership project funded by the European Union. Other partner countries in the project are Brazil, India, Mexico and South Africa.
2. 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:
 - a. Strengthen and support the national compilation of natural resource balance sheet on land, forest and water;
 - b. Pilot ecosystem accounting following the SEEA EEA approach in both physical and monetary terms in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Guizhou Province
3. A follow up assessment mission will take place from 21-29 May 2018, during which the project team will visit the two pilot provinces to design the pilot studies and to address technical issues. A technical meeting will also be organized in Beijing to address methodological issues related to the natural resource balance sheet programme at the national level. It is envisaged that the compilation of the accounts will begin after the mission.

Objective

4. The objectives of the inception mission are:
 - a. To discuss and agree on the national plan and programme of work for the project
 - b. To design the pilot studies and to address technical issues in piloting integrated and spatially explicitly ecosystem accounts in the two pilot provinces
 - c. To address methodological issues related to the natural resource balance sheet programme at the national level.
 - d. An initial programme of work for the next two years will be presented for discussion, feedback and input.
5. It is envisaged that the mission has the following components:

- a. A visit to Guangxi on 21-23 May to the regional bureau of statistics and other stakeholders in Guangxi, 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 using the SEEA EEA approach
 - b. A visit to Guizhou on 24-25 May to the regional bureau of statistics and other stakeholders in Guizhou, 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 Guizhou using the SEEA EEA approach
 - c. A technical meeting on 28 May in Beijing with NBS to discuss national plan for the project implementation and to address methodological questions related to the compilation of the natural resources balance sheet and ecosystem accounts
 - d. A debriefing and planning session on 29 May between NBS China, EU delegation and the project team in Beijing to discuss the outcome of the mission and next step, and bilateral meeting with other relevant line ministries and institutions
6. The project team will comprise of representatives of UNSD, UN Environment, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the project international consultant, namely: Julian Chow (UNSD), Kavita Sharma (UN Environment), Michael Bordt (ESCAP) and Lars Hein (International consultant)
 7. Prior to the mission, NBS will share existing studies on ecosystem accounts/assessment in the two pilot provinces, and a list of technical and conceptual questions concerning the compilation of the natural resource balance sheet programme and piloting of ecosystem accounts that need to be addressed.
 8. The project team will team will prepare a draft report providing an overview of existing academic work on ecosystem services/accounting on China with a focus on the 2 selected provinces of China and, available global data sources for ecosystem accounts that may be useful. The project team will also prepare an initial written answer to several of the technical and conceptual question raised.
 9. NBS will invite staff from relevant line ministries and institutions to participate in the stakeholder meeting and capacity development workshop in Guangxi and Guizhou and the technical meeting in Beijing as needed.

Agenda

Sunday, 20 May 2018 (Nanning)

The project assessment team arrives at Nanning Wuxu Airport by flight CZ3278 (China Southern Airline) from Beijing, and stay at Nanning International Hotel (No.88 Minzu Avenue, Qingxiu District, Nanning City, Tel: 0771-2111862/211888).

Monday, 21 May 2018 (Nanning)

Venue: Nanning International Hotel

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| 9.00-12.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The project team briefs the pilot projects<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Overview of Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project in China (UNSD and UN Environment)▪ ESCAP work on ocean accounting (Michael Bordt)➤ The project team introduces the methodology of compiling ecosystem accounts in physical and monetary terms following the SEEA EEA approach<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Overview of the SEEA EEA (Julian Chow, UNSD)▪ Classification of ecosystem extent (Michael Bordt, ESCAP)▪ Measuring and valuing ecosystem services (Lars Hein, International consultant)➤ Discussion, question and answers |
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12.00 - 14.00	Lunch
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14.00 – 17.00	Making a field trip at Nakao River Wetland Park
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Tuesday, 23 May 2018 (Nanning, Guiyang)

Venue: Nanning International Hotel

9.00-12.00	Technical presentation and discussion on the existing work on ecosystem services assessment in Guangxi by key stakeholders such as Department of Forestry, Commission of Tourism Development and so on
12.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 17.00	Making a site visit to Guangxi Planning Exhibition Hall and Anthropology Museum of Guangxi

Wednesday, 23 May 2018 (Nanning, Guiyang)

Venue: Nanning International Hotel

9.00-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Discussions on addressing the methodological issues and challenges in existing ecosystem service assessment in Guangxi➤ Detailed discussions on implementing the ecosystem account in Guangxi focusing on data sources and compilation issues➤ Debriefing session to discuss the outcome and next step➤ Concluding session
12.00 – 17.00	The project assessment team arrives at Guiyang by flight CZ6419 (15:00-16:05) from Nanning, and stay at Guizhou Hotel.

Thursday, 24 May 2018 (Guiyang)

Venue: Guizhou Hotel

9.00-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The project team briefs the pilot projects and introduces the methodology compiling ecosystem accounts in physical and monetary terms following the SEEA EEA approach➤ The statistics Bureau of Guizhou and other relevant stakeholders introduce the implementation of the pilot project➤ Technical presentation and discussion on the existing work on ecosystem services assessment in Guizhou by key stakeholders
12.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 17.00	Investigating the ecological management and construction of Guan Shan Lake

Friday, 25 May 2018 (Guiyang)

Venue: Guizhou Hotel

9.00-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Discussions on addressing the methodological issues and challenges in existing ecosystem service assessment in Guizhou➤ Detailed discussions on implementing the ecosystem account in Guizhou focusing on data sources and compilation issues➤ Debriefing session to discuss the outcome and next step
12.00 - 16.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Heading to Guiyang Longdongbao Airport by car➤ Leaving for Beijing Capital Airport by flight CZ 3687 (15.10-16.55) or CA4165(16:20-19:10)

Saturday , 26 May 2018 (Beijing)

Venue: Tangla Hotel, Beijing

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| 9.00-12.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Debriefing session on the outcome of the visit to Guangxi and Guizhou➤ Preparation for the technical meeting on the compilation of the national resource balance sheets and ecosystem accounts➤ Bilateral meeting with relevant stakeholders (e.g. CRAES) (to be confirmed) |
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Monday, 28 May 2018 (Beijing)

Venue: Conference room 310, the Eastern building of the NBS

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| 9.00-12.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The project team briefs the outcome of the visit to Guangxi and Guizhou➤ NBS briefs the progress in compiling the natural resource balance sheets and the pilot ecosystem accounting programme in Guangxi and Guizhou, and the technical issues encountered➤ Q&A for the compilation of the national resource balance sheet and ecosystem accounts |
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12.00 - 14.00	Lunch
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| 14.00 – 17.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Discussions on the national plan for the implementation of the project➤ Discussions on the next steps for 2018➤ De-briefing Session |
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Tuesday, 29 May 2018 (Beijing)

Venue: to be confirmed

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| 9.00-12.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Debriefing meeting with EU to discuss the outcome of the mission and the next step➤ Bilateral meeting with Chinese Academy of Science, Chinese Research Academy of Environment Sciences |
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12.00 - 14.00	Lunch
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| 14.00 – 17.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Bilateral meeting with other stakeholders (to be confirmed) |
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