



SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting – introduction to Session 3b

**Session 3b of the 11th UNCEEA meeting, New York, 22-24
June 2016**

**Anton Steurer, Eurostat unit E2 - Environmental statistics
and accounts; Sustainable development**

Purpose of session 3b:

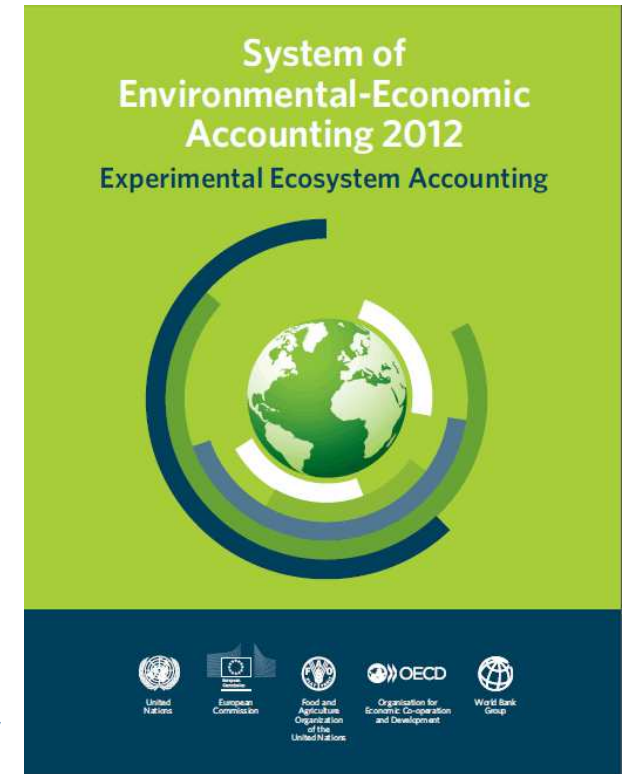
Way forward towards revising the SEEA EEA handbook by 2020

- Key issues in advancing the testing and experimentation (role of NSIs, cooperation with geospatial agencies, technical guidance ...)
- SEEA EEA research agenda and issues to be resolved before revision can be completed (see cover note for list) – do you volunteer to lead some issues, e.g. as part of London Group work
- Time table for revision (see cover note) – do you agree?
- Funding of an editor – can you contribute?

Background

- *SEEA EEA was finalised in 2012*
- *Novel approach – experimental*
- *Successful in starting lots of tests around the world, many ongoing*
- *Knowledge advances very fast so a revision should be planned now*

- *Expert meeting on **classifications** 20-21 June 2016 in NY*
- *Specific work on SEEA EEA **Technical Recommendations** (further clarifies some conceptual issues in the SEEA EEA and provides practical guidance – to be finalised by end 2016*





Expert meeting on ecosystem services classification 20-21 June 2016, NY

- **Small group from US EPA, EEA, academics, statisticians**
- **Discussed CICES and FEGS/NESCS developed by US EPA**
- **Meeting advanced understanding, recognised different uses (national, sectoral, local) and agreed testing in one area**
- **Interdisciplinary - terms hard (service, good, benefit....)**
- **ESS = final i.e. benefit humans but classification lists *potentially final* as real use is context dependent**
- ***intermediate* ESS problematic term - different meanings**
- **Classifications modular (separate for ESS, assets, users)**
- **Separate classification for abiotic (e.g. subsoil)**
- **Initials ideas to further improve CICES identified, timing should include testing and align with SEEA EEA revision.**
- **Next testing, clarify terms, agree principles for classification**



Issues for research agenda (no ranking but ordered from physical to monetary to dissemination)

- 1 Spatial units and their delineation**
- 2 Indicators of ecosystem condition (including the role of composite condition indicators)**
- 3 Selection and measurement of ecosystem services**
- 4 Treatment of atmosphere, the connection to global systems and residual flows**
- 5 The role of the different ecosystem services classifications**
- 6 Ecosystem disservices**
- 7 Intermediate services and dependencies between ecosystems**



Issues for research agenda - cont

- 8 Articulation of the links between ecosystem assets (and their condition) and the supply of ecosystem services**
- 9 Role of thematic accounts**
- 10 Recording activity that maintains or restores ecosystem conditions**
- 11 Valuation of ecosystem services and assets (including potential to use restoration costs in the valuation of ecosystem services)**
- 12 Relating market land values to ecosystem asset values**
- 13 Defining and measuring degradation**
- 14 Presentation of accounts – tables and maps**



Issues for discussion

- **1 – Role of NSOs and strengths in testing and implementing SEEA EEA. Best way to cooperate with others.**
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- **2 – Do you agree with the research agenda topics, any missing? Which should have priority? On which topics are you willing to lead or contribute?**
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- **3 – Is the revision timetable realistic? Could some elements of SEEA EEA become a statistical standard in 2020? An editor will be needed 2018-2020 – could you help funding (ideally from your 2017 budget)?**