SEEA EEA
Technical Recommendations

12th UNCEEA meeting
New York, USA
Outline

• Background
• Summary of comments and key issues emerged received from the 2nd broad consultation
• Process of finalization
Background

- Developed as part of the Advancing Natural Capital Accounting (ANCA) project jointly implemented by UNSD, UN Environment and CBD and funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

- Present updates and extensions of ecosystem accounting concepts, methods and structure, building on SEEA 2012 Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA) and providing practical guidance on SEEA EEA implementation.
Drafting of the SEEA EEA Technical Recommendations started in 2015 on the basis of a series of technical papers addressing compilation and methodological issues related to ecosystem accounting.

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<td>April 2015</td>
<td>Expert Forum on Ecosystem Accounting</td>
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<td>Dec 2015</td>
<td>1st broad consultation</td>
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<td>Dec 2016</td>
<td>Peer-reviewed by a selected number of experts and practitioners</td>
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Summary of comments from the 2nd broad consultation

• Over 100 pages of comments received with positive feedback

• Point to growing convergence and maturity in discussion around the key issues in ecosystem accounting (e.g. delineation of spatial areas; structure of ecosystem accounts)

• Many would like to see additional examples and more straightforward step-by-step guidance
Key issues emerged

1. The need for clearer discussion of the connection between land use and land cover in the delineation of spatial units and assessment of ecosystem condition.

2. Ongoing tension in describing the boundaries for ecosystem services, including the boundary between services and benefits and the definition of intermediate services.

3. The balance of discussion surrounding the use of non-exchange values with the SEEA EEA framework.
Finalization process

• Proposed approach
  > Consultants Carl Obst and Lars Hein prepare proposed responses to the full set of comments by end June.
  > The SEEA EEA Technical Committee to meet in mid July to determine the appropriate responses
  > the Technical Recommendations to be updated by end July based on the decisions of the Technical Committee

• Note
  > Issue that cannot be resolved quickly will be noted as requiring further research and may be undertaken as part of the SEEA EEA revision process in the coming 3 years
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Issues for Discussion

• UNCEEA members are requested to consider the proposed approach to finalizing the Technical Recommendations

• Specific comments on the summary of responses from the consultation round would also be welcome and should be forwarded to UNSD no later than Monday 26 June.
THANK YOU
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