



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

SEEA EEA Revision: Status of work on Ecosystem services

Introduction to draft Ecosystem services chapters for the SEEA EEA Virtual
Expert Forum

24 August 2020



United Nations



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Overview of ecosystem services chapters



United Nations

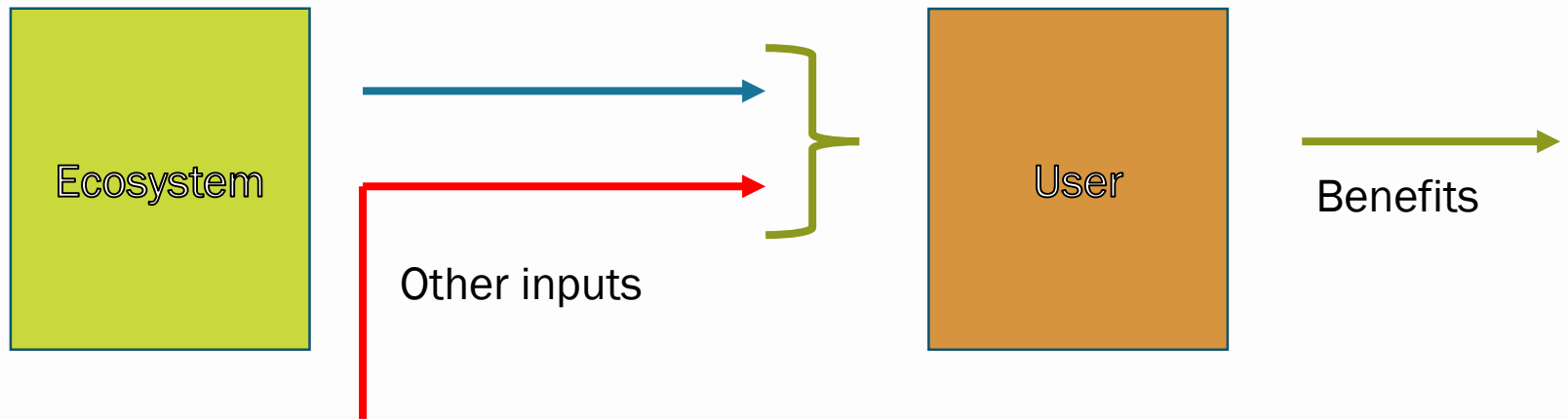
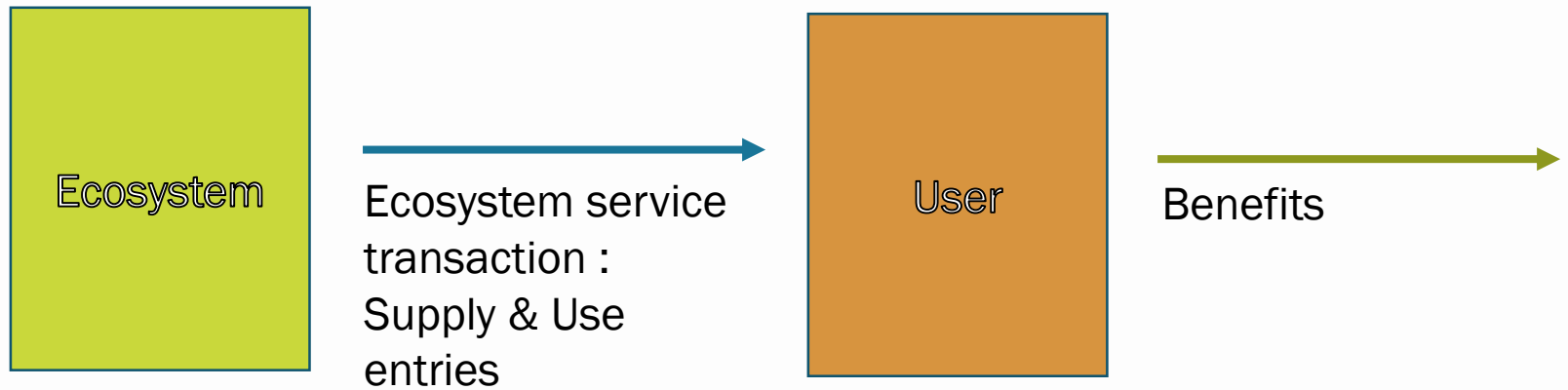
Links to the revision process

- Discussion on ecosystem services concepts and definitions has been long-standing in a SEEA context and more broadly
- Working groups #3 and #4 formed to consider the issues from both a general/conceptual perspective and from an individual ecosystem perspective
- Workshop on selected ecosystem services in January 2019
- Numerous versions of discussion papers through 2018, 2019 and early 2020
- Complementary guidance developing on biophysical modelling
- Current draft chapters aiming to synthesise and balance varying perspectives on different ecosystem services

Chapter 6: Key aspects and issues

- Definition of ecosystem services for accounting as reflecting the contribution of ecosystems – distinct from benefits
- Benefits defined as goods and service ultimately used and enjoyed by people and which contribute to well-being – SNA and non-SNA benefits
- Recognise final and intermediate services and abiotic flows
- Describe logic chain linking ecosystems to users (annex 6.1)
- Reference list of 28 different ecosystem services
- Proposed treatments for
 - > Biomass provisioning (crops and livestock)
 - > Climate regulation
 - > Cultural services
 - > Water supply
 - > Abiotic flows

Ecosystem services and benefits



Chapter 7: Key aspects and issues

- Describes structure of ecosystem services supply and use account in physical terms
- Summary of general supply and use principles
- Proposed treatment of use of ecosystem services that contribute to non-SNA benefits distinguishing individual and collective consumption
- Examples of recording treatments for various contexts (incl. ES contributions to SNA and non-SNA benefits, intermediate services, abiotic flows)
- Treatment of exports and imports of ecosystem services
- Consideration of spatial allocation and measurement baseline



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Consultation topics



United Nations

Key topics for consultation

- Concepts and definitions of ecosystem services, benefits, users, etc
- Reference list both in terms of coverage of ES and proposed definitions/descriptions
 - > Note need to develop links to existing classifications (CICES, NESCS)
- Treatments in section 6.4 for various services and abiotic flows
- Recording approaches for supply and use table entries
 - > Note need to finalise a treatment on recording of cultural services when a business (e.g. mountain guide) is involved
- Note ongoing discussion on the definition and measurement of capacity and the links to the description of valuation techniques



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Thank you



United Nations