2019 Forum of Experts in SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, 26-27 June 2019, Glen Cove, NY

Session paper
Session 4a: Advances in biophysical modelling for ecosystem accounting

Session concept note

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All documents related to the Forum of Experts can be found on the event website at:
https://seea.un.org/events/2019-forum-experts-seea-experimental-ecosystem-accounting

Wednesday 26 June 16.00-17.30
Session 4a: Advances in biophysical modelling for ecosystem accounting (parallel session ~ 50 people in attendance)
Coordinator: Bram Edens (UNSD)
Chair: Rosimeiry Portela (Conservation international)

Biophysical modelling of ecosystems and the services they provide is important to support the development of accounts.

The objectives of this session are twofold:
1) Guidelines on biophysical modelling for ecosystem accounting are being developed in support of country implementation. The session will present the status of development of the guidelines in order to obtain feedback from country representatives on the guidance we are developing.
2) Developments in biophysical modelling of ecosystem services are occurring rapidly. The session aims to share some recent innovations and discuss how such developments could be used in support of accounting.

Session outline:

1. Rosimeiry - introductory remarks (3-5 minutes)

2. Guidelines for biophysical modelling (30 min)
Presentation - Stephanie Tomscha (Victoria University of Wellington) – *10 minutes*
Discussion - 20 *minutes*
-break into tables; solicit feedback on country needs for guidance, scope and approach of the guidelines
-report back

3. Innovations in modelling (50)
- The ARIES webtool - Ferdinando Villa – *20 minutes* (pre-recorded)
- LUCI Toolbox for SEEA - Bethanna Jackson (Victoria University of Wellington) – *10 minutes*
- Lars Hein on using Machine Learning for ecosystem accounting – 5 minutes

Q and A / discussion (plenary):
-> how can new tools / techniques-> be used for / aligned with accounting needs?
-> new (global) data sources / platforms -> how can we make better use of these for accounting (both in terms of process and substance) ?

4. Wrap-up / closing (3 minutes)