



Introduction on process, principles and outcomes of the testing of ecosystem classifications

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Content

- Ecosystem classifications for SEEA ecosystem accounting
- Testing approach
- Process
- *First results presented and discussed in breakout sessions*
- Prof. David Keith: Classifying and mapping ecosystem assets in a global context: The IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology



An ecosystem type classification for SEEA EEA

- A classification describing the ecosystem types and a map are **essential components** of ecosystem accounting
- It is expected that countries will use their national ecosystem maps and classifications as the basis for SEEA ecosystem accounting.
- However, for international comparability, these classifications should be linked to a **reference classification**.
- **A key revision issue** for SEEA EEA is to develop a proposal for a reference classification that better represents the concept and coverage of ecosystems



Key outcomes SEEA revision process

- During the June 2019 Meeting of Experts in Glen Cove (NY), **consensus was reached that the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology level 3 units (EFGs) will be proposed as the basis of the revised SEEA-EEA ecosystem type classification**
- The **USGS/Esri World Ecosystems maps** (and underlying data) may provide a method to map some EFGs, especially when no ground observations are available, but requires a cross-walk to identify potential congruencies and gaps



World Terrestrial Ecosystems

- A New Map of World Ecosystems – A USGS/Esri/TNC collaboration
- 431 ecosystems globally; 1778 when segregated by biogeographic realm

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Original Research Article

An assessment of the representation of ecosystems in global protected areas using new maps of World Climate Regions and World Ecosystems



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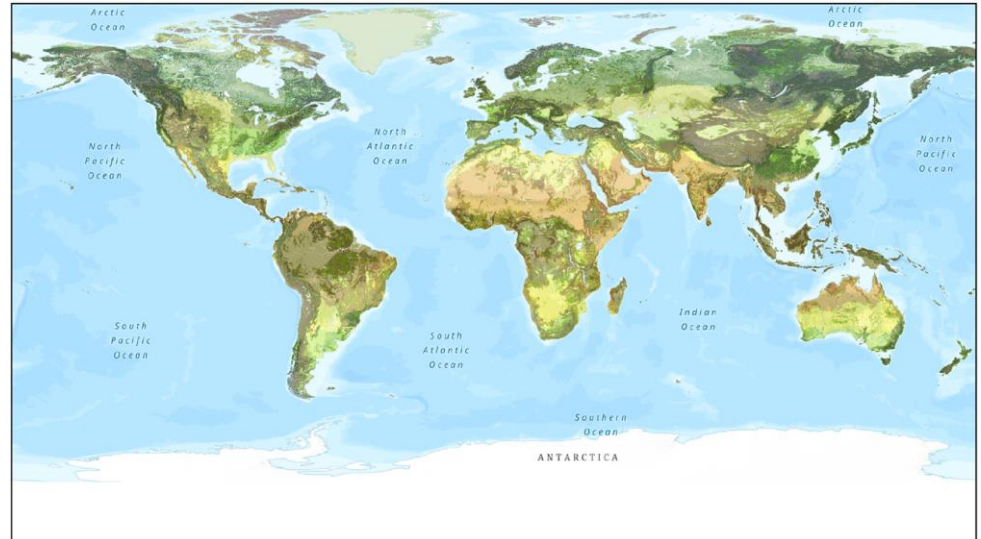
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Testing approach

1. Cross walking the 'global' IUCN EFGs with selected 'local' national ecological classifications.
2. Assessing the usability of the USGS/Esri WES product.
3. Crosswalking EFGs with other international classification schemes, i.e. IUCN habitat classification, RAMSAR, EUNIS, MAES etc. Some of this work is in progress within IUCN.



Why is testing important ?

- To better understand how national classifications and data sources link to international classifications
- Can we propose some improvements for IUCN GET ?
- Identify possible gaps in the EFGs, i.e. cases where local classes cannot be satisfactory mapped to an EFG
- Can we recommend to use the USGS/Esri WES product for countries that do not have a national ecosystem type map ?
- What additional guidance is needed for countries?



Process

- Development of test set (January-March 2020)
- Testing of countries (March-June 2020):
 - *Link national ecosystem classification / map to:*
 - *IUCN Global ecosystem typology*
 - *USGS-ESRI-NC World Ecosystems (WES)*
- Evaluation of the results (June-August 2020)

Countries testing IUCN and/or WES

	IUCN	WES
Canada	X	X
India	X	
South Africa	X	
Brazil	X	
Mexico	X	
Estonia	X	X
Spain	X	X
Netherlands	X	X

