Forum of Experts in SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
Session 1: Ecosystem Accounting Units
Summary

Advancing the SEEA-EEA Project
Summary of Discussion

Agreed:

- Need for common units
- Criteria good
- Need to understand uncertainty (reliability) of spatial data
  - Takes time to integrate new data (e.g., global datasets)
- Keep data at appropriate scale & overlay for specific analyses
- Split categories first, lump later
  - Simplify categories for specific analysis
Summary of Discussion

- **Other approaches**
  - **Land/asset:**
    - Ecosystem Units (EUs) take climate, lithology and landform into account;
    - Land Cover = result of climate, lithology and landform
  - **Carbon:** Distinguish natural from modified ecosystems
  - **Water:** Attention to cross-border flows
  - **Biodiversity:** Include in criteria for spatial units
  - **Condition:** Incorporate seasonality
  - **Services:** Units specific to service providing units
Summary of Discussion

- **Disagreed**
  - Delineation of spatial units based on Land Cover only
  - Macro scale only or accurate for local assessments
  - Pixels or “agents”
  - Importance of Land Cover as a determinant of Ecosystem Services
Action items to consider (new issues)

- **Short-term (Technical Guidance)**
  - Test EU delineation using climate, lithology and landform
    - Keep Land Cover separate
    - Where data available, suggest testing EU as subset of LCU

- **Medium-term (testing and research)**
  - Distinguish natural from modified units
  - Treatment of cross-border water flows
  - Distinguishing “agents” and service providing spatial units

- **Unknowns**
  - Availability of historical, frequent, global EU data
  - Country-specific EUs