



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Technical Expert Meeting on the revision of the SEEA EEA 2019

28 – 29 June 2019

Glen Cove, New York, USA

Concept note and draft agenda

Version: 5 April 2019

TECHNICAL EXPERT MEETING ON THE REVISION OF THE SEEA EEA CONCEPT NOTE

Date: 28 – 29 June 2019
Location: Glen Cove, New York, USA
Audience: Experts across multiple disciplines able to provide direct inputs to the discussion of options for advancing the technical aspects of ecosystem accounting. By invitation only.

Background

1. A process endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission to revise the SEEA EEA has commenced in light of the ongoing advances in knowledge. The objectives of the revision process are to move towards a consensus on concepts and methods on ecosystem accounting building on the testing and experimentation that has been going on in the past years since the publishing of the SEEA EEA and learning from the experience of various initiatives working on relevant projects, including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the natural capital assessment projects, as well as on availability of new technologies.

Objectives

2. The main objectives of the Technical Expert Meeting are to:
 - a. Review progress across the range of research issues that are the focus of the SEEA EEA revision process (i.e. spatial units, ecosystem condition, ecosystem services and valuation and accounting) and provide technical inputs on issues that were not covered or alternative solutions to consider;
 - b. Discuss remaining issues on the research agenda and identify the way forward.
 - c. Describe appropriate additional research where needed.
3. The discussion will be based around a series of discussion papers that are currently being developed by the different working groups of the revision process. All discussion papers will have had some level of external review prior to the Technical Expert Meeting, however, outstanding issues will still remain.

Proposed agenda and organization

4. The Technical Expert Meeting will be limited to around 50 invited experts and structured broadly around the key research areas of the SEEA EEA revision, namely spatial units, ecosystem condition, ecosystem services and valuation and accounting treatments. Discussion would cover both research area specific issues and cross-cutting issues.
5. The Technical Expert Meeting will be organized as informal discussion around technical issues that have been identified either as part of the work of the working groups or by the thematic areas. The participation in the Technical Expert Meeting is very limited and is by invitation only.

TECHNICAL EXPERT MEETING ON THE REVISION OF THE SEEA EEA DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1: Friday, 28 June 2019

NB: The Countries Workshop will run from 8:30 – 10:30.

10:30 Introduction and welcome

10:45 Summary of progress in SEEA EEA and short presentations by working group leads on outstanding issues, followed by Q&A

12:00 Recap on the ecosystem accounting model and key terms

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Break-out groups on key research areas:

- a) Ecosystem types
- b) Ecosystem condition
- c) Ecosystem services
- d) Valuation of ecosystem services and assets

Each group to discuss outstanding issues identified by the above groups and identify remaining research topics. The discussion should take into account the discussion and possible issues raised during the Forum.

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Plenary session for feedback from break-out groups on individual research areas

18:00 End of Day 1

Day 2: Saturday, 29 June 2019

8:30 Break-out groups on cross-cutting issues (up to 4 or 5 groups)

Potential topics:

- a) Scaling and aggregation
- b) Capacity, degradation and enhancement
- c) Conceptual discussion on valuation and its links with national accounts
- d) Accounting for complex ecosystem landscapes (urban areas, agricultural mosaics, oceans, protected areas)
- e) Understanding the linkages between different ecosystem services
- f) Ensuring the links with SEEA CF and SNA

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Plenary session for feedback from break-out groups on cross cutting issues
Short presentation and discussion on each topic

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Individual Working Group discussions (4 or 5 groups)
Groups to summarize findings and collect feedback on future directions

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Proposals for next steps
Short presentation and discussion from each working group

16:45 Wrap-up and closing

17:00 End of the Technical Expert Meeting