



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

## Agenda

Version: 21 June 2019

**Day 1: Friday, 28 June 2019**  
(meeting room for all plenary sessions: Nassau/Suffolk)

**Pre-events:**

- **8:30 – 10:30: Countries Workshop for the EU project (by invitation only)** (meeting room: Forum)
- **9:00 – 10:30: Meeting of the SEEA EEA Technical Committee (by invitation only)** (meeting room: Magnolia)

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10:30 Coffee break

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**10:45 Session 1: Introduction and welcome**

**10:50 Session 2: Ecosystem accounting and summary of the Forum of Experts**

Short recap on the ecosystem accounting model and summary of the discussions and outcomes from the Forum of Experts.

Presentation: Carl Obst (UN Consultant)

**11:30 Session 3: Break-out groups on key research areas**

Each group to discuss outstanding issues identified by the working groups and identify remaining research topics. The discussion should consider the discussion and possible issues raised during the Forum. The break-out groups should aim to reach an agreement on the proposed options, discuss the relevant cross-cutting issues and identify the work still needed for the finalization of the revised SEEA EEA.

**Session 3a: Spatial areas** (meeting room: Poplar)

Chair: Sjoerd Schenau (Statistics Netherlands)

**Session 3b: Ecosystem condition** (meeting room: Magnolia)

Chair: Joachim Maes (EU JRC)

**Session 3c: Ecosystem services** (meeting room: Nassau/Suffolk)

Chairs: Lars Hein (Wageningen University) & Rocky Harris (DEFRA, UK)

**Session 3d: Valuation and accounting treatments** (meeting room: Forum)

Chair: Juha Siikamaki (IUCN)

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12:30 Lunch

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**13:30 Session 3 (continued)**

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15:30 Coffee break

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**16:00 Plenary debrief from Parallel Session 3**

Short presentation by the chairs (10 min each) and discussion on each topic.

**18:00 End of Day 1**

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**8:30 Session 4: Break-out groups on cross-cutting issues**

**Session 4a: The framing of values** *(meeting room: Poplar)*

Chair: Anil Markandya (UN Consultant)

The aim here is to ensure that there is a common understanding of accounting valuations in the broader landscape of values and the role of the whole ecosystem accounting framework in discussion of values (e.g. the role of condition measurement wrt intrinsic values). This topic has been considered already by research areas on ecosystem condition and valuation.

**Session 4b: Aggregation and scaling** *(meeting room: Magnolia)*

Chair: Eli Fenichel (Yale University)

These issues have been noted in most research areas but not dealt with head on. The potential of accounting at larger scales (e.g. national), the associated data requirements and assumptions needs to be worked through. This topic has been considered to a small degree in relation to ecosystem condition, ecosystem services and valuation but a common understanding is required, which is likely to link directly to the approaches taken to delineating spatial units.

**Session 4c: Degradation and capacity** *(meeting room: Nassau/Suffolk)*

Chair: Anton Steurer (Eurostat)

Central to the intent of ecosystem accounting is to support understanding the impact of human activity on the environment. Degradation (and its accounting counterpart enhancement) can be defined and measured in different ways and will be linked directly to measurement of ecosystem condition and capacity. In addition to incremental/marginal changes, special consideration is needed of ecosystem conversions where the ecosystem type changes from one accounting period to the next.

**Session 4d: Biodiversity** *(meeting room: Forum)*

Chair: Emily Nicholson (Deakin University)

There is not yet common understanding of the connections between biodiversity and the ecosystem accounting system in terms of concepts or measurement. Making this connection well understood is important in many areas.

**Session 4e: Connections between ecosystem accounts** *(meeting room: Nassau/Suffolk)*

Chair: Carl Obst (UN Consultant)

The SEEA EEA has a number of different accounts encompassing a wide range of information. There are also thematic accounts and connections to accounts of the SEEA Central Framework and the sequence of accounts of the SNA. For those not familiar with accounting systems, the understanding of the connections is much more limited than it needs to be. This can limit the potential to see opportunities for analysis and for integrated approaches to data collection. This discussion aims to clarify the accounting connections across the SEEA EEA system and beyond.

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11:00 Coffee break

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**11:30 Plenary debrief from Parallel Session 4**

Short presentation by the chairs and discussion on each topic.

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*12:30 Lunch*

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**13:30 Session 5: Moving forward in break-out groups**

Break-out groups to summarize findings and collect feedback on future directions.

**Session 5a: Spatial areas (meeting room: Poplar)**

Chair: Sjoerd Schenau (Statistics Netherlands)

**Session 5b: Ecosystem condition (meeting room: Magnolia)**

Chair: Joachim Maes (EU JRC)

**Session 5c: Ecosystem services (meeting room: Nassau/Suffolk)**

Chairs: Lars Hein (Wageningen University) & Rocky Harris (DEFRA, UK)

**Session 5d: Valuation and accounting treatments (meeting room: Forum)**

Chair: Juha Siikamaki (IUCN)

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*15:30 Coffee break*

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**16:00 Session 6: Plenary discussion on the next steps**

Short presentation by the chairs of break-out groups (5 min each) and discussion on each topic.

Chair: Alessandra Alfieri (UNSD)

**16:45 Session 7: Wrap-up and closing**

Chair: Alessandra Alfieri (UNSD)

**17:00 End of the Technical Expert Meeting**