Experiences and reflections on using ecosystem service classification system for the compilation of ecosystem accounting

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Toward a Standard International Classification on Ecosystem Services
This is National Accounting

• Aichi target 2
• Includes monetary valuation
• Link to SNA

• Accounts for broad habitats
  – Woodlands
  – Farmland
  – Freshwater
  – Marine
  – Coastal

• Plus aggregate accounts
Extent accounts

• Land cover is not the same as ecosystem
• Land use is not the same as land cover
Condition accounts

• Use key indicators to throw light on sustainability
• Unlikely to be additive across habitat accounts
• Link to services is hard to determine and degradation is hard to define

Degraded peat

Invasive species (floating pennywort)

Waste and contamination
Services accounts – in scope

- Crops and grass; timber; fish; water
- Hydropower; solar?
- Carbon sequestration
- Air filtration
- Flood protection …
- Recreation; tourism?
- Education; amenity?
Services accounts - out

- Carbon storage
- Livestock
- Navigation?
- Water quality
Some key lessons learned

• Valuation and links to SNA are vital for policy buy-in
• Strength lies in rigorous and comprehensive framework
• Made good progress on valuation but still challenging
  – Downscaling reduces reliability and models need ground-truthing
  – Welfare values rather than exchange values may be more relevant for local decision making?
Website links (to be revised)

- UK environmental accounts including woodland, freshwater, land cover
  http://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/bulletins/ukevironmentalaccounts/2015-07-09
- UK farmland ecosystem accounts
  https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/bulletins/uknaturalcapital/ecosystemaccountsforfarmlandexperimentalstatistics
- Natural Capital archived pages (with links to revised Roadmap and Principles paper, scoping studies for marine ecosystems and peatland, aggregate partial valuations)
- Natural capital accounts for protected areas
- Separate distribution of quarterly newsletter – please let me know