



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

SEEA EEA Revision

Technical Meeting on Valuation and Accounting for the revised SEEA EEA

Draft annotated agenda

16 – 18 March 2020

New York, USA

Version: 12 March 2020

Technical Meeting on Valuation and Accounting for the Revised SEEA EEA

CONCEPT NOTE

- Date:** 16-18 March 2020
- Location:** teleconference
- Audience:** Invited experts in environmental valuation, ecosystem and national accounting.

Background

1. In the context of the SEEA EEA revision process work has been underway since 2018 to consider a range of research issues including a range of issues concerning the valuation of ecosystem services and ecosystem assets and associated accounting treatments for recording estimated monetary values. Significant progress has been made through a working group established to consider these issues which has prepared and considered a series of five discussion papers through 2019. There have also been various teleconferences and face-face meetings including in the context of the Forums of Experts on SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in June 2018 and June 2019.
2. This technical meeting on valuation will provide the opportunity for invited experts to discuss further the key issues in this research area and clarify preferred treatments. Ahead of the meeting the feedback on the five discussion papers and subsequent discussion will be used to draft relevant chapters of the revised SEEA EEA and these chapters will form the key supporting documents for the meeting. In addition, smaller background notes will be prepared on key topics to isolate the key outstanding issues and questions. By the time of the meeting it is expected that all key issues will have been raised and discussed but in some instances a general agreement on the appropriate resolution and direction may not be present.
3. The focus of the technical meeting will be on discussing and advancing conceptual issues but it is expected that the invited experts will be able to inject relevant practical experience in valuation such that the proposed approaches are both conceptually appropriate and feasible in practice.
4. After the technical meeting, the next phase in the SEEA EEA revision process is for the draft chapters to be reviewed by the Editorial Board and then circulated for global consultation. The discussion at the meeting will be central to finalizing those chapters for that process.

Objectives

5. The main objectives of the technical meeting are to:
 - a. Advance the research agenda on valuation and accounting in the SEEA EEA revision process and providing input and feedback on draft chapters;
 - b. Highlight areas requiring further research and discussion; and
 - c. Facilitate heightened understanding of valuation and accounting perspectives among economists and accountants.

Proposed agenda and organization

6. The technical meeting will involve discussions among up to 20 invited experts over two days. A draft agenda is provided below.
7. The Technical Meeting will be held from 16-18 March 2020 entirely online.

Technical Meeting on Valuation and Accounting for the Revised SEEA EEA

DRAFT AGENDA

DAY 1: Monday, 16 March 2020

Webex link:

<https://undesa.webex.com/undesa/j.php?MTID=mf22588e5e79572bc545ed4009abb66f9>

8:00 Welcome and introductions

Opening words: Alessandra Alfieri (UNSD), Anton Steurer (Chair TC) & Juha Siikamaki (Chair WG#5)

8:15 Session 1: Clarifying concepts and terms

To provide a common basis for the discussions and to clarify relevant concepts and terms, this session will present and discuss:

- Summary of the current status of work on valuation and accounting and context for the workshop;
- Summary of the primary focus of valuation for ecosystem accounting;
- Summary of the key elements of the ecosystem accounting model relevant to the discussion of valuation;
- Proposals for the use of terms related to valuation;
- Presentation of stylised example to support discussion through the workshop;
- Overview of outstanding issues and questions to be discussed in the workshop.

Moderator: Anton Steurer

Opening presentation: Carl Obst

Discussion questions: Sections 4 & 5 of the Progress and key questions note

Background documents: Progress and key questions for discussion (attached to email)

SEEA EEA Revision Planning Note (attached to email)

SEEA EEA Revision Issues Note

https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/documents/EEA/eea_2020_revision_issue_final_jul2018.pdf

Discussion paper 5.1 – section 3.1-3.2

https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/documents/EEA/discussion_paper_5.1_defining_values_for_erg_aug_2019.pdf

Discussion paper 5.2 – section 2

[https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/documents/EEA/discussion paper 5.2 valuation ecosystem assets for erg aug 2019.pdf](https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/documents/EEA/discussion%20paper%205.2%20valuation%20ecosystem%20assets%20for%20erg%20aug%202019.pdf)

9:30 Break

9:45 Session 1 continued

11:30 Break

11:45 Session 2: Valuation techniques for ecosystem services

This session will consider options and preferences for valuation techniques for ecosystem accounting purposes. A particular focus will be on clarifying the various types of valuation methods, the associated assumptions, and their relative suitability for the estimation of exchange values.

Moderator: Juha Siikamaki

Opening presentation: Anil Markandya

Discussion questions: Section 6 of the Progress and key questions note

Background documents: Draft of the Guideline on valuation of ecosystem services in the context of the SEEA - sections 2 & 3 (attached to email)

Discussion paper 5.1 – sections 3.3-3.11 & section 4

[https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/documents/EEA/discussion paper 5.1 defining values for erg aug 2019.pdf](https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/documents/EEA/discussion%20paper%205.1%20defining%20values%20for%20erg%20aug%202019.pdf)

13:00 Close

DAY 2: Tuesday, 17 March 2020

Webex link:

<https://undesa.webex.com/undesa/j.php?MTID=mbab6e6c2a8554ea21ed812386f11b5dd>

8:00 Session 2 continued

9:45 Break

10.00 Session 3: Accounting for ecosystem assets

This session will consider key issues in accounting for stocks and changes in stocks of ecosystem assets – notably around the concept of degradation. This will include

accounting for ecosystem assets discretely, integrated accounting for ecosystem assets within the sequence of accounts of the SNA, and clarifying links to wealth accounting measures, concepts of environmental liabilities and the treatment of environmental expenditures.

Moderator: Anton Steurer

Opening presentation: Bram Edens

Discussion questions: Sections 7 & 8 of the Progress and key questions note

Background documents: Discussion paper 5.2 sections 3, 4 & 5

https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/documents/EEA/discussion_paper_5.2_valuation_ecosystem_assets_for_erg_aug_2019.pdf

Discussion paper 5.3 sections 3, 4 & 5

https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/documents/EEA/dp5.3_accounting_treatments_22nov2019.pdf

Discussion paper 5.4 sections 2 & 6

https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/documents/EEA/dp5.4_recording_degradation_22nov2019.pdf

11.30 Break

11.45 Session 3 (cont)

13:00 Close

DAY 3: Wednesday, 18 March 2020

8:00 Session 3 continued

9:30 Break

9:45 Session 4: Clarifying the purpose and scope of valuation for ecosystem accounting and the potential for complementary accounts

In environmental valuation, there is a common focus on the measurement of wider social costs and benefits compared to the scope that has been discussed for ecosystem accounting. This session will consider related measures of environmental values, including measures of externalities, clarify the range of possible purposes and applications and their links to accounting, and discuss the potential and rationale for the

revised SEEA EEA to describe complementary accounts, for example by applying different valuation concepts.

Moderator: Juha Siikamaki

Opening presentation: Carl Obst

Discussion questions: Section 9 of the Progress and key questions note

Background documents: Discussion paper 5.1, section 6

https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/documents/EEA/discussion_paper_5.1_defining_values_for_erg_aug_2019.pdf

Discussion paper 5.5

https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/dp5.5_ecosystem_disser_vices_and_externalities_18dec2019.pdf

11:30 Break

11:45 Session 5: Summary of findings and outcomes from the workshop

This session will summarise the findings and key directions that have emerged from the workshop, clarify areas requiring additional investigation and discussion and consider the proposed outline of chapters on valuation for the revised SEEA EEA.

Moderator: Anton Steurer

Background documents: Annotated outline of valuation chapters (attached to email)

13:00 Close of workshop