



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# SEEA EEA Revision

## Ecosystem services

### Recreation services and benefits

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# Recreation-related services

An important use of ecosystems occurs when people undertake recreation in them. In many cases the activity is supported by businesses providing access, material support (food, equipment, guidance) and transport services.

Where payments are made to these businesses by people undertaking recreation the precise set of accounting entries needs to be determined such that the links between the ecosystem, the people undertaking the recreation and the businesses involved are appropriately recorded.

Questions:

- Is it appropriate for households, as the sector undertaking the recreation, to be considered the sole user of the recreation related ecosystem services?
- If so, how should the connection between ecosystems and local businesses be recorded?

# Recreation-related services

## Chapter 6

Recreation-related services are the ecosystem contributions, in particular through the biophysical characteristics and qualities of ecosystems, that enable people to use and enjoy the environment through physical and experiential interactions with the environment. They are final ecosystem services.

Physical metrics: Number and length of visits

Benefits: Physical and mental health; Enjoyment

Users: Households; Tourism and Outdoor Leisure sectors

# Users and beneficiaries

## Chapter 7

7.46 The recommended treatment ... is to record the supply from the relevant ecosystem type and **households as users of the service**. This flow should be recorded irrespective of the ... involvement of businesses in facilitating or supporting the activity.

7.47 In addition, **a supplementary row** to the use of ecosystem services should be recorded showing the connection between the ecosystem and relevant businesses. This entry does not add additional supply but provides complementary data on the use of ecosystem services. Further, **whether recorded as use by households or businesses**, the flows still reflect final ecosystem services.

## Businesses: users or just beneficiaries?

The businesses are clearly beneficiaries. But do they have a sufficiently direct relationship with the ecosystem to count as users or are they just downstream beneficiaries?

If they **are not** seen as users, what kind of supplementary row should we record in the use table in order to register the benefits?

If they **are** seen as users, how do we record the supply and use in physical terms?

# Recording of contribution of benefit to businesses

## **Option 1: Households are the only users**

Supply table records 100 visits

Use table records 100 visits made by households

*The supplementary row(s) in the Use table would show ... what?*

Transactions relating to recreation visits, by sector:

Canoe hire 40

Visitor permits 80 (20 free entry)

*NB. The total number of transactions could be many times more than the number of visits; the monetary supply-use table will show the value to households but will include the benefit which is transferred to businesses*

# Recreation service physical supply and use

## Option 1 Households as sole users

	Unit	Economic unit (selected)				Ecosystem asset (selected types)		
		Owner	Off-site provider	Households	Total use	Open water	Farmland	Total supply
<b>SUPPLY</b>								
<b>ES #1: Recreation</b>	Visits					100		100
<b>USE</b>								
<b>ES #1: Recreation</b>	Visits			100	100			
<b>Supplementary row – transactions relating to recreation</b>		80	40		120	120		120

# Recording of contribution of benefit to businesses

## **Option 2: Joint (simultaneous) use by households and businesses**

Supply table records 240 recreation-related interactions

Use table records:

Canoe use 40

Visitor access use 100 (includes 20 free entry)

Household canoe use 40 plus visits 100 = 140

*NB The monetary supply and use tables will include the contribution to benefit to businesses from the canoe hire and entrance fees, as well as any (residual) benefit to households*



# Recreation service physical supply and use

## Option 2- joint users

	Unit	Economic unit (selected)				Ecosystem asset (selected types)		
		Owner	Off-site provider	Households	Total use	Open water	Farmland	Total supply
<b>SUPPLY</b>								
<b>ES #1: Recreation</b>	Interactions					280		280
<b>USE</b>								
<b>ES #1: Recreation</b>	Interactions	40	100	140	280			

## In summary

Option 1. Businesses are downstream beneficiaries. A supplementary row could record “transactions” relating to the visits. In the monetary supply-use table, the benefit to households would include the benefit which would ultimately be transferred to businesses.

Option 2. Businesses are joint users, interacting with the ecosystem at the same time as the household visitor. The physical supply and use tables record these “interactions”. The monetary supply and use tables record the benefit to the relevant business as well as any residual benefit to households.

Any other options?

**Views, comments, preferences?**