



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Technical Expert Meeting on the revision of the SEEA EEA, 28-29 June 2019, Glen Cove, NY

Session paper

Session 3d: Valuation and accounting treatments

Session concept note

Prepared by: Working Group 5 on valuation and accounting treatments (led by Juha Siikamaki, IUCN)

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All documents related to the Forum of Experts can be found on the event website at:
<https://seea.un.org/events/2019-forum-experts-seea-experimental-ecosystem-accounting>

Disclaimer:

This paper has been prepared by the authors listed below as part of the work on the SEEA EEA Revision coordinated by the United Nations Statistics Division and in preparation for the 2019 Forum of Experts in SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, 26-27 June 2019, Glen Cove, NY. The views expressed in this paper do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations.



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Tech Expert Meeting

Fri 28 June 11:30- 12:30, continuing 13:30-15:30

Session 3: Advancing valuation issues I

Set up: plenary discussion (assuming 10-15 participants)

Key issues emerging from the 3 issues papers will be presented (in 2 minutes, 2 slides max) to jumpstart and help focus the discussion.

Agenda:

- 11:30 – 11:40 Summary of key outstanding issues raised & plan for this session (Carl & Juha)
- 11:40 – 12:30 Discussion of key issues

Topic 1 – Definitions of key concepts: (suggested list: price, value, asset price, (non-)marginal, exchange value/price, capital gain, real/nominal income – presenter **Eli Fenichel/Carl Obst**

Objective – hopefully agree on these concepts (or agree where accountants and env. economics disagree, take a short-cut). Would be good to print-out these definitions (mostly emerging from issue paper 5.3 on paper)

Topic 2 – Specific examples in the SNA approach, including fish stock, public infrastructure and public goods, to consider how it might connect/apply for ecosystem accounting – presenter **Bram**

Objective – provide clarity on how SNA approaches could inform and apply to ecosystem accounting. The fish example may help to concretise several discussions around exchange versus welfare values and institutional mechanisms.

- Lunch 12:30 – 13:30
- 13:30 – 15:30 Discussion of key issues, continued

Topic 3 – sequence of accounts (table as presented in issue paper 5.4) – presenter **Peter v/d Ven**

Objective – discuss (and perhaps) agree on split-asset approach as the way forward. Outstanding issues to discuss are: should the accounts have a place to show a polluter pays based aggregate; how should we treat environmental debts?

Topic 4: Issue 3 – ranking of valuation methods, using Tiers (issue paper 5.1) – presenter **Alejandro Caparros / Jane Turpie / Matias Piaggio**

Objective – discuss / agree on the proposal of using different Tiers. Need discussion on whether these tiers should be differentiated based only on data availability or also on scales at which methods typically are applied.

Topic 5 – capital asset pricing – presenter **Eli Fenichel**

Objective – use the fish valuation example in issue paper 5.3 to discuss differences in valuation methods between national accountants and environmental and resource economists.

Sat 29 June

13:30 – 15:30 Session 5: Moving forward in breakout groups

- 13:30 – 13:45 Reflection on progress made (**Anil Markandya**)
- 13:45 – 15:00 Group discussion on other issues (also based on cross-cutting sessions -> degradation)
- 15:00 – 13:30 Plan forward / next steps
 - a. finalization of material in discussion papers
 - b. consultation process
 - c. work still needed (e.g. DP 5.2 Ecosystem disservices and externalities)
 - d. need for an additional meeting?