



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Ecosystems Accounting in the UK

Current work on issues from the EEA research agenda

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Outstanding issues (1)

SEEA EEA research agenda item	Issues of concern to UK ('Principles' paper)	Work currently being undertaken
Delineation and classification of land and spatial units (including marine)(a)	<p>Specific habitat accounts are likely to be based on separate sources of data on land use but overall accounts will be based on Land Cover Map</p> <p>Coastal and marine delineation</p> <p>Treatment of linear and point features</p>	<p>Compilation of spatially disaggregated accounts for farmland and forestry will provide information on the extent of double counting/under-recording</p> <p>Marine accounts scoping study advises use of High Water Mark</p> <p>Exploration of sources of data on linear woodland features and farmland hedges (treatment in the accounts is still unresolved)</p>
Methods for measuring different ecosystem services and ecosystem condition (including biodiversity and carbon)(b)	How to take account of limits and thresholds in the accounting framework	No immediate plans



Outstanding issues (2)

SEEA EEA research agenda item	Issues of concern to UK ('Principles' paper)	Work currently being undertaken
Methods for measuring different ecosystem services and ecosystem condition (including biodiversity and carbon)(b) (continued)	Treatment of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning	Defra project on 'synoptic' biodiversity indicators Other work: cross-cutting recreation account
Presentation and structure of accounts (c)	Reliability of modelled results at sub-national levels	Recalibration of models based on comparison of bottom up results with established national aggregates Other work: how to structure the asset accounts to provide information on changes in capacity to deliver services
Methods for geo-spatial linking of environmental and socio-economic data (d)	Role of sub-national accounts within broader National Accounts framework	New project on pilot accounts for National Parks and other protected areas will link with socio-economic data and test scope for scaling up



Outstanding issues (3)

SEEA EEA research agenda item	Issues of concern to UK ('Principles' paper)	Work currently being undertaken
Valuation methods for Ecosystem Services (including wealth accounting and corporate accounting)(e)	Valuation of subsoil carbon Use of random Utility Models Non-use values Incorporation of restoration costs Time period for asset valuation	Use of ecological production functions Extended accounts to include restoration costs Variable time periods for different services
Accounting concepts (f)	Counterfactual/reference condition	Woodland ecosystem - water regulation service Measurement of 'capacity' (through asset account structure)

Outstanding issues (4)

SEEA EEA research agenda item	Issues of concern to UK ('Principles' paper)	Work currently being undertaken
Developing science on link between Ecosystem Services and ecosystem condition and dependencies between ecosystems (g)	Use of bird indicators as a proxy for condition of biodiversity	Defra project on synoptic biodiversity indicators
Aggregation and formation of ecosystem-wide indicators (h)	Treatment of disservices Overlap with SNA Use of value transfer techniques Consistency of structure between different asset accounts	To be addressed in farmland account Of wide interest but not yet a priority

Questions: Are others working on these issues? Are there other issues we should put in the log? Can we work together on any of these?