

Page 3, 5.1 Introduction, paragraph 4:

“For environmental assets, the physical and monetary changes over the period include additions to the stock of environmental assets (such as additions due to natural growth, restoration and discoveries) and reductions in the stock of environmental assets (such as those reductions due to extraction, destruction and natural loss)”

The additional term “restoration” points out that the amount of a natural asset can also be positively influenced by human activities. The additional use of the terms restoration and destruction further clarify that “natural asset” does not only mean mineral and water resources.

Page 5, 5.2.1 Environmental assets, paragraph 11:

“Some of these services, particularly some provisioning services, are provided directly by an individual component but ~~many~~ most of the services are delivered by various components working together. This joint delivery of services is a key characteristic of an ecosystem.”

Only mineral resources and some cultural services are provided directly by an individual component. All other services including terrestrial and marine biomass production, fresh water resources, all regulation services and most cultural services are jointly delivered by different components.

Page 5, 5.2.1 Environmental assets, paragraph 12:

“The joint delivery of ecosystem services by various components ~~should~~ can also be conceptualised as being delivered from a particular area or space within the environment. Ecosystems are thus defined when a range of components interact as a functional unit within a particular space, for example within a forest or river basin.”

Very often ecosystem boundaries are artificial or hypothetical but not real. They reflect the specific goals of human interest/analysis. Boundaries to define water catchment areas are different from boundaries to define vegetation zones.

An “all-purpose-space-structure” for the definition and accounting of all kinds of services does not exist.

Page 5, 5.2.1 Environmental assets, paragraph 15:

“Since it is the interaction between the various living and non-living components in a given area in relation to the socio-economic sphere that leads to the delivery of ecosystem services, there is a significant amount of complexity that must be dealt with in order to undertake asset accounting by aggregating and valuing the services delivered by various ecosystems.”

Or:

“Since it is the interaction between the various living and non-living components in a given area that leads to the potential to deliver ~~the delivery~~ ecosystem services, there is a significant amount of complexity that must be dealt with in order to undertake asset accounting by aggregating and valuing the services delivered by various ecosystems.”

The value of most ecosystem services (like recreation function of landscapes, function of riparian zones for flood mitigation) depend not only on natural components (variety of landscape elements, extent and structure of flooding zones) but also on socio-economic elements (Number of people living adjacent to a recreation area, value and vulnerability of infrastructure, houses etc. that may be damaged by flooding).

Page 6, 5.2.1 Environmental assets, paragraph 19, Table 5.2.1:

In the existing form, there is no option to integrate the asset “landscape beauty” and all natural assets that reduce natural hazards like riparian zones or protective forests in the table.

The structure is too much focused on provisioning services and direct use values.

Page 8, 5.2.1 Environmental assets, paragraph 33:

s. Part I and Part II, Question 1.

Page 9, 5.2.2 Economic assets, paragraph 40

The overlap between economic assets and environmental assets is shown in Figure 5.2.1. The environmental assets outside the scope of economic assets include those environmental assets that do not accrue economic benefits ~~to their~~ because they have no owner or their benefits have the character of public goods such as oceans ~~and~~, the atmosphere or water and mineral that are not owned by institutional units.

Explanation: s. Part I and Part II, Question 1.