



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Overview of the Natural Capital Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services project

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Outline

- Objectives
- Workstreams and deliverables
- Project management structure
- Milestones
- Results framework

Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project

- Implementing partners
 - > United Nations Statistics Division (overall lead)
 - > United Nations Environment Programme
 - > (Convention on Biological Diversity)
- Sponsor
 - > European Union
 - > Budget: 7 million EUR
 - > Partnership program
- Five partner countries
 - > Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa
- Project duration
 - > 3 years from 2017-2019

Overall objectives

- Advance the knowledge agenda on environmental-economic and ecosystem accounting
- Initiate pilot testing of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, ecosystem valuation and macro-economic analysis with a view to:
 - > Improving the measurement of natural biotic resources, ecosystems and their services at the (sub)national level
 - > Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystems in (sub)national level policy-planning and implementation

Workstreams

- Piloting ecosystem accounts (in each of the 5 partner countries) for selected areas (national and/or regional)
- Developing guidelines and methodology
- Indicators
- Business accounting (sustainability reporting)
- Communication and outreach
- Training and capacity development

W1: Piloting ecosystem accounts

Approach:

- Flexible: (no blueprint), depending on country needs
- Mainstreaming: accounts should inform policy
- Inclusive: build on existing work programs and projects and consolidate past experiences

Deliverables:

- National plan that document assessment results and programme of work in advancing environmental-economic and ecosystem accounting
- Compilation of selected ecosystem accounts in physical terms based on policy priorities
- Economic valuation of ecosystem services and natural capital
- Policy applications / scenario analysis
- Compilation of selected ecosystem-related indicator based on policy priorities

W2: Guidelines and methodology

- Objective: (contributing to) developing guidelines and methodology
 - > Standards
 - > Practical guidelines
- Synergy: between country and global work programme
 - > Results from pilots linked to research agenda and will contribute to standards
- Deliverables / outputs:
 - > Annual global forum on advancing ecosystem accounting
 - Contribute to issues on research agenda
 - Learn from experiences from other countries



W3: Indicators

- Objective: assess how the SEEA is able to inform indicator programs, both internationally and nationally
- Deliverable: an indicator set based on SEEA Environmental and Ecosystem accounts, in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
 - > Phase 1: assessment
 - > Phase 2: consultation mechanism
 - > Phase 3: in country testing -> using the developed ecosystem accounts

W4: Business accounting

Objective: contribute to alignment between NCA and corporate sustainability reporting (nowadays explosion of corporate reporting standards)

- Liaise with national companies to use results of the NCA project
- Organize workshop(s) on alignment of corporate sustainability reporting and NCA
- Bring the results to global processes (e.g. ISAR – UNCTAD/UNEP; GRI; IIRC etc.)

W5: Communication and outreach

Objective: awareness raising, demonstrating value added of NCA (regional; national and global)

- Deliverables:
 - > Development of a global knowledge platform on SEEA
 - Newsletters
 - Archive of publications
 - > National websites
 - > National forums / workshops
 - Demonstrate and consult on progress
 - Outreach for broader engagement

W6: Training and capacity building

Objective: enhance capacity and enlarge the community of practitioners

Deliverables:

- Training modules for ecosystem accounting in support of capacity development (E-learning)
- Regional training workshops
- National training workshops
- In country technical support (consultants) to project team

Project management structure

- Global:
 - > Steering Committee
 - > Project team
 - > Advisory board (tbd)
- Partner countries -> establish a national coordination mechanism
 - > National steering committee
 - > Technical committee
 - > Project management unit, co-led by two co-directors:
 - Senior-level representative from the statistics office
 - National expert (to be hired by the project)
 - > Project team

Upcoming milestones

Milestones for the coming phase of the project

- Launched the project in Brazil (May) and Mexico (June)
- Launching in India (28-31 aug tentatively), South Africa (tbd), and China 31 Oct – 3 Nov)
- Regional Training workshop in China (6-8 November)
- Global forum on ecosystem accounting (S1 2018)

Results framework

- Overall objectives:
 - > Number of countries engaged in NCA in the world (as a result of the PI project)
 - > Media coverage of NCA
 - > Number of NCA accounts produced/used by countries in the world
- Expected results:
 - > Number of NCA accounts produced/used by project country
 - > Number (experimental) ecosystem accounts developed by project countries
 - > Number ecosystem flow accounts used by project countries
 - > Number of macroeconomic indicators based on NCA
 - > Dedicated staff time (FTEs) for NCA
 - > Evidence of using NCA outputs (e.g. mention in development plans, programmes, projects, legislation, policy documents/recommendations) in policy decision-making in relation to growth, environment and social issues (e.g. poverty)

THANK YOU

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