



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA)
Technical Recommendations
Cover note for 2nd broad consultation

Background

The drafting of the SEEA EEA Technical Recommendations (Technical Recommendations) started in 2015 to present updates and extensions of ecosystem accounting concepts, methods and structure, building on SEEA EEA and providing practical guidance on its implementation. It was developed as part of the Advancing Natural Capital Accounting (ANCA) project jointly implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division, the United Nations Environment and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

An initial draft of the Technical Recommendations was developed on the basis of a series of technical papers addressing compilation and methodological issues related to ecosystem accounting. The draft was discussed at the Expert Forum on Ecosystem Accounting held in New York in April 2015, and subsequently updated taken into account feedback from those experts and ongoing discussions within the project team. The updated draft was circulated for an initial round of broad consultation through December 2015 and January 2016. Comments were received from 21 experts/agencies. A summary of the comments received was prepared and discussed at the 11th meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting in June 2016¹. An updated draft was then prepared in the second half of 2016 to reflect the feedback and further discussions with the editorial board, established to support the editor in reviewing the draft guidelines and providing direction and technical support..

The current draft addresses advances in thinking and experimentation and represents the current state of the art on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, a rapidly evolving field.

¹ https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/meetings/eleventh_meeting/BK-11-3b-1.pdf

Objective of this consultation

This 2nd broad consultation is to ensure that the document reflects the current thinking and compilation practices in support of testing and research on ecosystem accounting. Not all issues discussed in the current draft have been resolved to the satisfaction of all, but the document aims to provide a clear sense of current status on issues and recommendations for measurement.

The results of the consultation will be considered by the editor and editorial board and reflected in the final draft of the recommendations, which will be submitted to the 12th meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting for its endorsement. The final document will then be released and published.

The accompanying comment form is structured to a degree with an opening section seeking general feedback on the nature, purpose, structure, style and tone of the document. Following that, sections have been structured for comments of a technical nature on the content of the each chapter. Advice would also be welcome on those parts of the text that were unclear or confusing.

Deadline for responses: 28 April, 2017