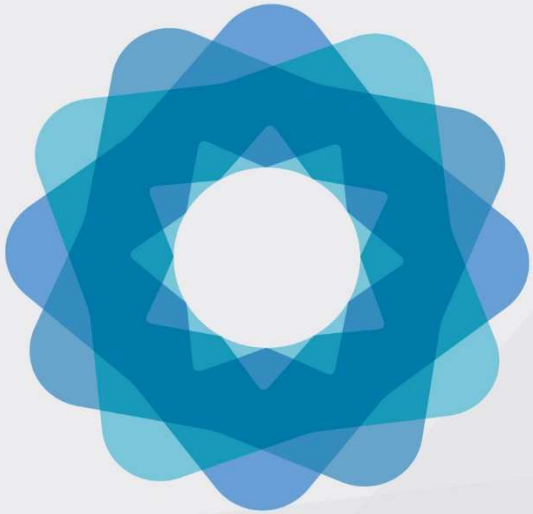


System of Environmental Economic Accounting

System of Environmental Economic Accounting

Technical Guidance on ecosystems accounting

State of play

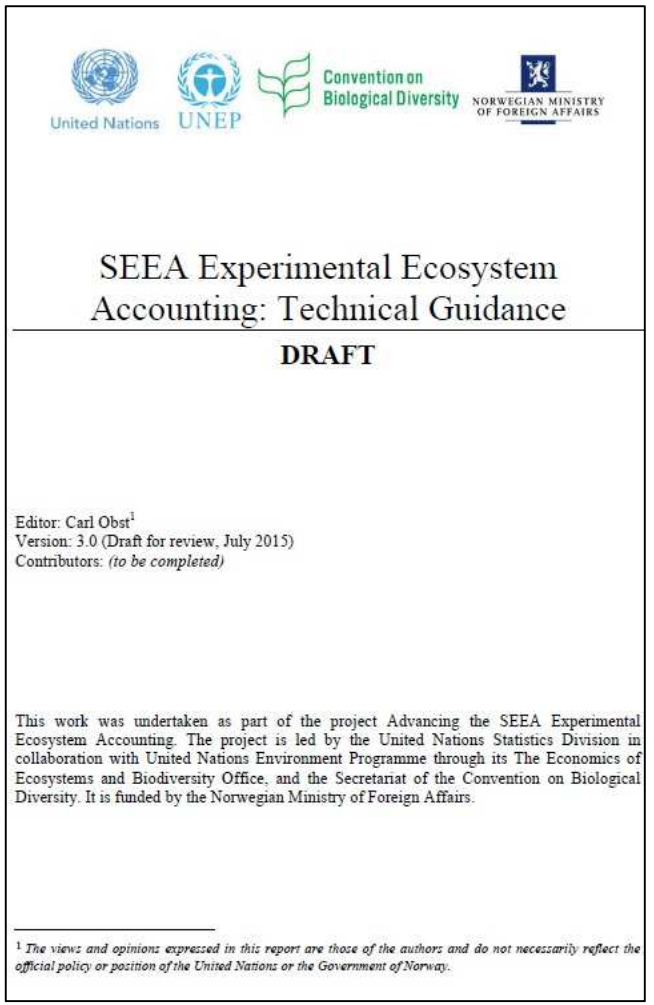
London Group on Environmental Accounting

2-4 November, The Hague, Netherlands

United Nations

Updates on:

1. Process of developing SEEA-EEA Technical Guidance (TG)
   - Thematic papers
   - Editing the Guidance document
2. Contents of the draft
3. Overall structure of the accounts
4. Advancing the SEEA-EEA Research Agenda
5. Next steps



United Nations UNEP Convention on Biological Diversity NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting: Technical Guidance

DRAFT

Editor: Carl Obst[1]
Version: 3.0 (Draft for review, July 2015)
Contributors: *(to be completed)*

This work was undertaken as part of the project Advancing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. The project is led by the United Nations Statistics Division in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme through its The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Office, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[1] *The views and opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the United Nations or the Government of Norway.*

Thematic Papers

1. Functional approach to ecosystem accounting (March 2015)
2. Land accounts and ecosystem extent (March 2015)
3. Land and ecosystem condition and capacity (Jan 2015)
4. Water and ecosystem accounting (Dec 2014)
5. Carbon and ecosystem accounting (Dec 2014)
6. Linkages between ecosystems asset and service accounts (Dec 2014)
7. Compilation of data, tools and methods (Dec 2014)
8. Spatial units, scaling and aggregation (Jan 2015)
9. Guidelines for biophysical modelling and mapping (Dec 2014)
10. Experimental Biodiversity Accounting as a component of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (June 2015)

Ongoing efforts to develop deeper guidelines on:

a) Biophysical modelling
b) Classification of ecosystem services and
c) Classification of land cover.

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Technical Guidance chapters

1. **Introduction** (with definition and role of ecosystem accounting, Scope and purpose and audience of the TG)
2. **Main aspects of ecosystem accounting** (accounting model and principles; compilation steps)
3. **Spatial units for ecosystem accounting** (Units model, BSU, EU, ERAs; data sources, challenges, recommendations for testing and further research)
4. **The ecosystem accounts - structure**
5. **Accounting for flows of ecosystem services** (definition, classification, use of biophysical modelling, data sources, supply and beneficiaries of services)
6. **Accounting for ecosystem assets** (definition of assets, ecosystem extent, condition and individual characteristics, concept of ecosystem capacity, measuring, data sources and further research)
7. **Thematic accounts** (land, water, carbon, biodiversity)
8. **Valuation in ecosystem accounting** (principles, challenges, data and recommendations)
9. **Integrating ecosystem accounting with standard economic data**

Technical Guidance - Observations

- Clarity of terms – units, accounts
- Much closer links to ecological principles
- Ecosystem units built on ecological foundations
- Stronger links back to SEEA CF land accounts
- Deeper consideration of ecosystem services
  - Supply and use account
- Deeper understanding of the links to geospatial data and analysis
- Clarity on basic steps for the implementation of ecosystem accounts
  - Logic framework provided linking the accounts

TG and Advancing the EEA research agenda

	AEEA technical paper	Training modules developed (levels 0, 1 and 2)	Included in generic Technical Guide	FORUM review
A. Spatial units, land	√	√ (0, 1, 2)	√	√
- Land accounts and ecosystem extent (assets)	√	√ (0, 1, 2)	√	
B. Methods for measuring ecosystem services and condition	√		√	√
- Ecosystem function and links to assets and services	√		√	√
- Ecosystem condition	√	√ (0, 1, 2)	√	
- Classification of ecosystem services	√	√ (0,1)	√	√
- Biophysical modelling	√	√		√
- Linkages between assets and services	√		√	√
- Carbon accounts	√	√ (0, 1, 2)		
- Water accounts	√	√ (0, 1, 2)		
- Biodiversity	√	√ (0, 1, 2)		
C. Accounting structure		√	√	√
D. Linking with socio-economic accounts (geospatial methods)				
E. Valuation methods			√	

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Next steps

1. Further develop agreed technical recommendations for the chapters
2. Possibility to include deeper guidance on:
   a) Ecosystem services classification
   b) Modelling of ecosystem services
   c) Harmonizing classifications of land cover and ecosystem extent
3. Launch a peer review process (by the experts part of the FORUM)
4. Edit the final draft

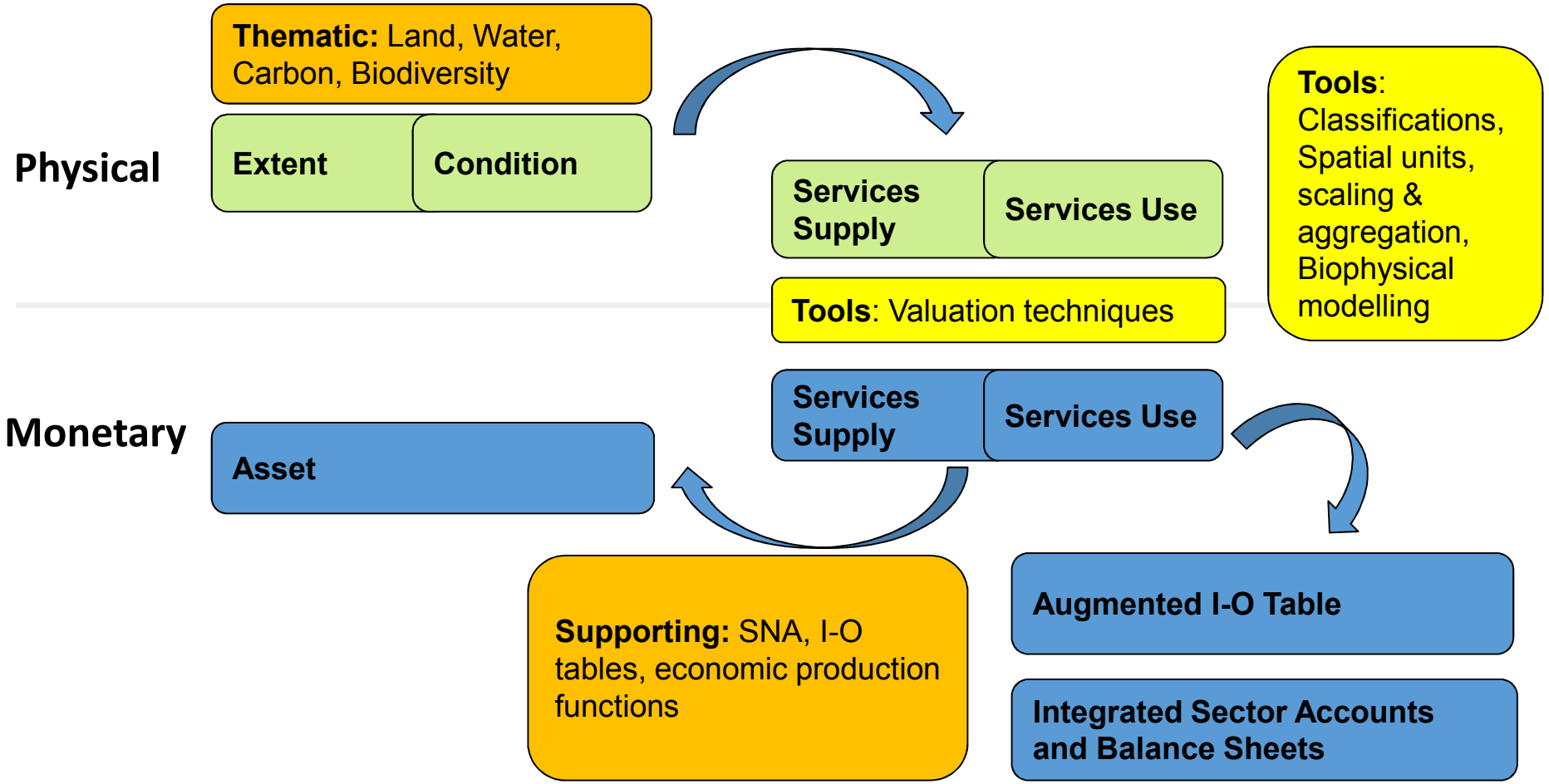
THANK YOU

seea@un.org

Acknowledgments

This project is a collaboration of The United Nations Statistics Division, United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and is supported by the Government of Norway

SEEA-EEA accounts, tools and linkages

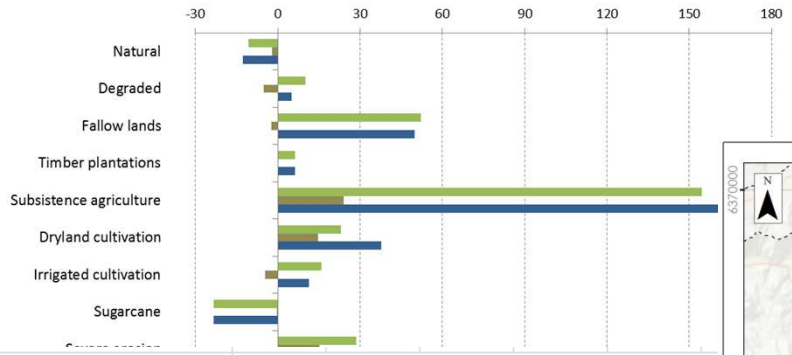


TG and lessons from the Pilot countries

South Africa

Results from pilot ecosystem accounts

- Land and ecosystem accounts for KZN
- National river ecosystem accounts



		Increases (positive numbers					
	hectares	Natural	Degraded	Fallow lands	Timber plantations	Subsistence agricultur	D cu n
	Vegetation type						
	Freshwater Wetlands (all)	-8,335	1,039	563	365	3,104	
	Alluvial Wetlands (all)	-18,363	-344	775	209	10,066	
76	Subtropical Dune Thicket	-285	293	0	1	0	
87	Mangrove Forests	-245	233	0	-3	39	
49	Midlands Mistbelt Grassland	-53666	8033	334	13143	12296	
31	Mabela Sandy Grassland	-144	-98	0	-1	0	

- Land and ecosystem extent acc

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Chile

Similar approach

- Mapping vegetation-based ecosystem units
- Assessing ecosystem services for Santiago metropolitan region