

Additional detailed comments

Structure, Balance and Coverage

A set of definitions of key concepts early in the document would help the introductory reader, perhaps in the form of a glossary or, alternatively, as an index/look up table of key concepts with pointers to the relevant paragraphs. We suggest key concepts for definition are:

1. “economy” including “natural inputs”, “products” and “residuals”.
2. “environment” The definition needs to be much more detailed as it is a foundational concept and is not well described and it currently only emerges from various parts of the chapter. It is preferable that the definition of the “environment” is broad and inclusive with limitations on what is actually measured to be based on policy, technical and practical choices (e.g. exclusion of atmosphere and oceans). Aspects of the “environment” that should be considered for the definition are the structure and processes of the earth (land, geology, geomorphology), water (marine and freshwater) and the atmosphere. Biotic components (biodiversity), structure and functioning are also central components to include as are energy fluxes (solar, geothermal and magnetic).
3. “ecosystems” definition as described in paragraphs 14 and 15 could be improved with the addition of some of the most fundamental ecological processes, particularly as listed in paragraph 15 including primary production, reproduction, nutrient cycling, climate regulation and so on. Ideally, the use of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment listing of ecosystem services would assist with clarity.
4. “environmental assets” a suggested definition (including to substitute into paragraph 85) is “are the naturally occurring living and non-living components of the Earth, together comprising the bio-physical environment, that are used in production *and/or* that deliver ecosystem services to the benefit of current and future generations” or alternatively, “are the naturally occurring living and non-living components of the Earth, together comprising the bio-physical environment, ~~that are used in production and~~ that deliver ecosystem services to the benefit of current and future generations”
5. “identity” to be defined re paragraph 38 and refer to both the supply and use tables (paragraph 31) and the flows between the environment and economy (paragraph 37).
6. “volume measures”/“real measures” definition is needed as it is not an intuitive phrase.
7. “MSUT”, “PSUT”, “asset account”, “sequence of accounts”, “functional accounts”
8. “depletion adjusted” (~“net adjusted”)

Style, Tone and Readability

Regarding tone, the certainty of some assertions is occasionally overstated. For example, paragraph 13 “This focus reflects the most commonly understood use of environmental assets as natural inputs to the economy.” could be more accurately restated to “This focus reflects a commonly understood use of environmental assets as natural inputs to the economy.” Similarly, the understanding of the reader should not be anticipated as in paragraph 14 and suggest that “than is commonly appreciated.” could be deleted.” and “broader” shortened to “broad” to make the sentence read in a more straightforward way.

Minor notes

Footnote 3 on page 5: suggest adding “typically” or “often” after “they” in the second sentence to indicate that there are some interactions with ecosystems e.g. with subterranean ecosystems.

Typographic error in paragraph 22 sentence 1: first “in” should be “is”.

Paragraph 143 repeats “economic growth” in the last sentence rendering it nonsensical.