



Global Consultation Comment Form

Revised SEEA Chapter 1 - 6

Deadline for responses: 7 December 2011

Send responses to: seea@un.org

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To submit responses please save this document and send it as an attachment to the following e-mail address: seea@un.org.

The comment form has been designed to facilitate the analysis of comments. In Part I general comments on the general style, content and coverage of the chapter are sought. In Part II any technical and other comments should be included.

Relevant documents

Before submitting responses you are encouraged to read the accompanying papers available on the website.

Revision of the SEEA: Draft Version for Second Round of Global Consultation, October 2011 – Chapters 1 – 6

Reading guide for the SEEA Revision Second Round of Global Consultation

Supporting material for selected classifications and lists in the revised SEEA

Part I: General comments

This is the first global consultation based on the complete set of chapters for the SEEA Central Framework. In this section please provide general comments on the drafts chapters. You may like to consider providing comments on the style and tone, the content and coverage, and the general accessibility of the material.

The FAO provided significant contributions over the last three years to the development of SEEA Central Framework, thus we support and endorse the final draft.

Part II: Technical and other comments

In the box below please supply any additional comments including those of a more technical nature. As this is the first consultation where the complete 6 chapters have been released, comments on the consistency of the technical content across the chapters would be appreciated.

Please reference your responses with the relevant paragraph number or section number.

LAND ISSUES

- Page 219, **Table 5.6.1 Land Use Classification** is not complete and needs to be replaced with the one in ANNEX (A) of this document (including codes).
- Page 286, **Annex A5.4 Land Use Classification** codes should be added as reported in ANNEX (B).
- Page 220, Par 5.264, 2nd line: “These rules are set out in Annex A5.4” . A5.4 to be revised as A5.5 (A5.4 is the Land use classification). The current Annex A5.5 will become Annex A5.6 (to be revised also in the index page 167, in par. 5.426 page 252, and in page 288). The Annex A5.5 on **Land cover types basic rules** is currently missing in the chapter and needs to be added as reported in ANNEX (C).
- Annex on Classifications, page 35 class 09 to be revised as follow:

Shrubs and/or herbaceous vegetation, aquatic or regularly flooded

This class includes any geographic area dominated by natural **shrubs and/or** herbaceous vegetation (cover of 10% or more) that is permanently or regularly flooded by fresh or brackish water (swamps, marsh areas etc.). Flooding must persist for at least 2 months per year to be considered regular. ~~Woody vegetation (Trees and/or shrubs)~~ can be present if their cover is less than 10%

SOIL ISSUES

Specific comments on Chapter 5

- Page 230, **Par 5.313**, it is recommended to:
 - acknowledge the physical role of soils for building infrastructure
 - explicate the role of soils for carbon sequestration
- In the introduction, it is recommended to clarify why soils should be accounted for.
- **Par 5.315**: it would be important to specify the maximum depth we are referring to, both in relation to the focus on the top layers (horizons) and on the soil extraction for construction, which can heavily affect heavily the landscape and soil formation.
- **Par 5.323**: Soils should be also valued according to their properties (e.g. high soil carbon content; neutral pH etc); the time dimension, as per land use intensity, is the main driver (soil properties change on time).
- **Par 5.325 and 5.326**: If accounting soils per soil type, there is a risk to over or underestimate the value of soils which depends on soils functions.

Some general comments and questions for the SEEA future development of the Ecosystem Accounts

- There is no worst or best soil in general, it depends what the soil is used for. A good soil for agriculture may not be necessarily good for urban constructions, or for forest; a good soil for growing cereals, may not be necessarily good for growing fruit trees. Even a poor nutrient soil may still be good for ecosystem services (regulation of flooding or could has a very important cultural value).
- Considering the current trends in population growth and food demand, agricultural soils (lands) are under pressure and threat. Commonly, urbanisation is affecting the most valuable agricultural soils. Ecosystem services are of key importance for future population growth and are under risk due to climate change. Potential for soil carbon sequestration increases the pressure or opportunities for sustainable land management. Degraded soils have no high value for provision services (production of goods), however they could still be valuable for other uses.
- Should soil suitability (potentiality) be pioneering an accountability process? If so, how this accountability process could be implemented? Monitoring soil quality (standard values of soil properties)? What are the costs involved for accountability? Is the accountability a window for pursuing sustainable soil management

FORESTRY ISSUES

Pages 320-321, section 6.5.5 “Combined presentation for forest products”: we recommend to review this section or not to include it at all without a much better presentation and explanation. In particular:

- Parts 1-5 seem to be about the calculation of value-added, but it’s unclear why these parts are asking for monetary and physical units (the same table for other resources just ask for monetary values). Nor is it clear what they mean by “natural growth (cultivated timber)” and “timber logged”. Why only “cultivated timber”? Does “Supply of forest products” mean what would usually be called “Gross output” in national income

accounts? If so, why not just call it gross output?

- Opening stocks of timber doesn't appear anywhere. It could be calculated from other rows we suspect, but it's also not clear (e.g. would natural growth have to be subtracted from the closing stock?).

ANNEX (A)

Table 5.6.1 Land Use Classification

01	Land
011	Agriculture
012	Forestry
013	Land used for aquaculture
014	Use of built-up and related areas
015	Land used for maintenance and restoration of environmental functions n.e.c.
016	Other uses of land n.e.c.
017	Land not in use
02	Inland water
021	Inland waters used for aquaculture or holding facilities
022	Inland waters used for maintenance and restoration of environmental functions
023	Other uses of inland waters n.e.c.
024	Inland waters not in use
03	Coastal waters
031	Coastal waters used for aquaculture or holding facilities
032	Coastal waters used for maintenance and restoration of environmental functions
033	Other uses of coastal waters n.e.c.
034	Coastal waters not in use
04	Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
041	EEZ areas used for aquaculture or holding facilities
042	EEZ areas used for maintenance and restoration of environmental functions
043	Other uses of EEZ areas n.e.c.
044	EEZ areas not in use

ANNEX (B)

Annex A5.4 Land Use Classification

01	LAND
011	Agriculture
0111	Land under temporary crops
01111	<i>Cereals</i>
01112	<i>Vegetables and melons</i>
01113	<i>Temporary oilseed crops</i>
01114	<i>Root/tuber crops with high starch or insulin content</i>
01115	<i>Temporary spice crops</i>
01116	<i>Leguminous crops</i>
01117	<i>Sugar crops</i>
01118	<i>Other temporary crops</i>
0112	Land under temporary meadows and pastures
0113	Land with temporary fallow
0114	Land under permanent crops
01141	<i>Fruit and nuts</i>
01142	<i>Permanent oilseed crops</i>
01143	<i>Beverage and permanent spice crops</i>
01144	<i>Other permanent crops</i>
0115	Land under permanent meadows and pastures
01151	<i>Cultivated permanent meadows and pastures</i>
01152	<i>Naturally grown permanent meadows and pastures</i>
0116	Land under protective cover
012	Forestry
0121	Forest land
01211	<i>Primary regenerated forest</i>
01212	<i>Other naturally regenerated forest</i>
01213	<i>Planted forest</i>
0122	Other wooded land
013	Land used for aquaculture
0131	Land used for hatcheries
0132	Managed grow-out sites on land
014	Use of built-up and related areas
0141	Mining and quarrying
0142	Construction
0143	Manufacturing
0144	Technical infrastructure
0145	Transport and storage
0146	Commercial, financial and public services
0147	Recreational facilities
0148	Residential
015	Land used for maintenance and restoration of environmental functions n.e.c.
016	Other uses of land n.e.c.

017	Land not in use
02	INLAND WATER
021	Inland waters used for aquaculture or holding facilities
022	Inland waters used for maintenance and restoration of environmental functions
023	Other uses of inland waters n.e.c.
024	Inland waters not in use
03	COASTAL WATERS
031	Coastal waters used for aquaculture or holding facilities
032	Coastal waters used for maintenance and restoration of environmental functions
033	Other uses of coastal waters n.e.c.
034	Coastal waters not in use
04	EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)
041	EEZ areas used for aquaculture or holding facilities
042	EEZ areas used for maintenance and restoration of environmental functions
043	Other uses of EEZ areas n.e.c.
044	EEZ areas not in use

ANNEX (C)

Annex A5.5 Land cover types basic rules

	Category	BASIC RULES
01	ARTIFICIAL SURFACES (INCLUDING URBAN AND ASSOCIATED AREAS)	The class is composed by any type of <u>artificial</u> surfaces.
02	HERBACEOUS CROPS	The class is constituted by a main layer of <u>cultivated</u> herbaceous plants.
03	WOODY CROPS	The class is constituted by a main layer of <u>cultivated</u> tree or shrub plants.
04	MULTIPLE OR LAYERED CROP	This class is constituted by at least two layers of <u>cultivated</u> woody and herbaceous plants or different layers of <u>cultivated</u> plants combined with <u>natural</u> vegetation.
05	GRASSLAND	The class is composed by a main layer of <u>natural</u> herbaceous vegetation with a cover from 10 to 100 % .
06	TREE COVERED AREA	The class is made of a main layer of <u>natural</u> trees with a cover from 10 to 100 % .
07	MANGROVES	The class is made of <u>natural</u> trees with a cover from 10 to 100 % aquatic or regularly flooded in salt and brakish water.
08	SHRUB COVERED AREA	The class is composed by a main layer of <u>natural</u> shrubs with a cover from 10 to 100 % .
09	SHRUBS AND/OR HERBACEOUS VEGETATION AQUATIC OR REGULARLY FLOODED	The class is made of <u>natural</u> shrubs or herbs with a cover from 10 to 100 % aquatic or regularly flooded with water persistence from 2 to 12 months/year.
10	SPARSELY NATURAL VEGETATED AREAS	The class is made of any type of <u>natural</u> vegetation (all the growth forms) with a cover from 2 to 10 % .
11	TERRESTRIAL BARREN LAND	The class is made of abiotic <u>natural</u> surface.
12	PERMANENT SNOW AND GLACIERS	This class is composed by any type of glacier and perennial snow with persistence of 12 months/year.
13	INLAND WATER BODIES	This class is composed by any type of inland water body with a water persistence of 12 months/year.
14	COASTAL WATER BODIES AND INTER-TIDAL AREAS	The class is made on the basis of geographical features in relation to the sea (lagoons and estuaries) and abiotic surfaces subject to the water persistence (inter-tidal variations).