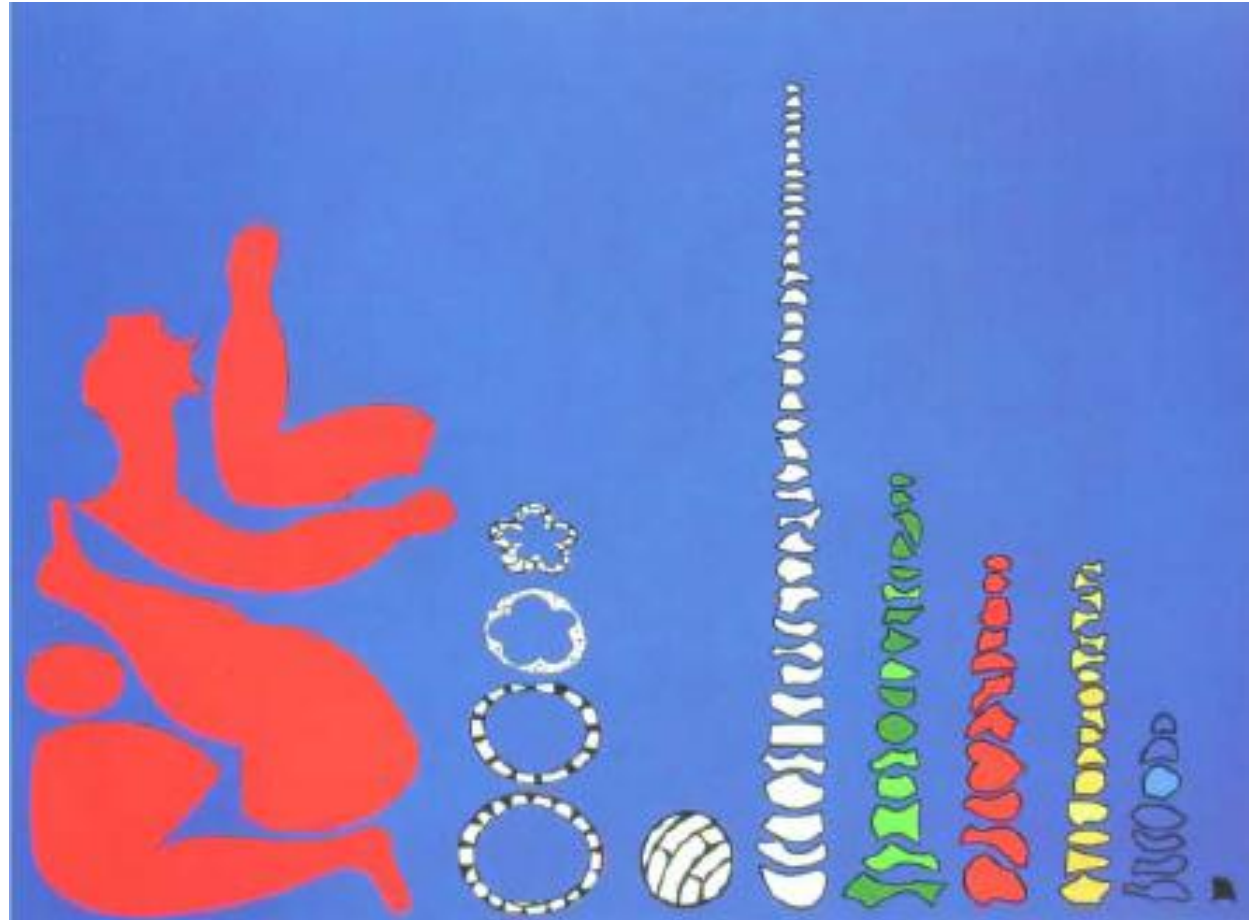


Environmental and Economic information



- Lots of information but held in different agencies
- No-one sure what information there is
- Information collected using a range of different classifications and standards making it difficult to compare

Environmental-Economic Accounting

Accounts:

- Help to make sense of the big picture
- Help to identify pieces that are missing
- Can make connections to other information, especially to economic statistics



Implementing Ecosystem Accounting



Dr Michael Vardon
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Ecosystem accounting workshop
Manila, The Philippines
September 2013



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Objectives of this presentation



- Provide an overview of the phases in implementing ecosystem accounting
- Introduce the draft rapid assessment tool (you are the guinea pigs)
- Help identify and answer key strategic questions relating to the planning for the accounts



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Key strategic questions:



- What are main environmental and sustainable development issues of interest in the Philippines and the Southern Palawan in particular?
- What are the accounts that could inform these issues?
- What data are available?
- Which accounts are most feasible to produce?
- What is the relative priority of each account
- What are the resources available?
- What enabling factors are needed?



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Material to assist with implementation



- Many academic studies
- The WAVES materials
- SEEA family of publications (especially SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounts)
- SEEA Implementation Guide (in preparation)
- Draft Rapid Assessment Tool for Ecosystem Accounting
- Draft Technical Notes for land and water accounting
- Joint ABS and Australian National University Course on environmental accounting (2-6 December 2013)



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The four phases SEEA Implementation



1. Strategic planning
2. Building mechanisms for implementation
3. Producing accounts
4. Strengthening information systems

Communication is important in all phases



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1. Strategic planning for SEEA implementation



- Identify the people and agencies interested in environmental and ecosystem accounting
- Establish a body to make key strategic decisions and drive the development of the accounts forward
 - Must be sufficiently senior for the decisions to be respected and for the effective mobilisation of resources and the removal of bureaucratic barriers
- Undertake a review



Contents of the review



Identification of:

- Stakeholders and existing institutional arrangements
- Policy priorities
- Data sources
- Previous studies
- Resources available and constraints
- Account priorities
- The steps needed to drive the development of the accounts, including
 - Proposed allocation of responsibilities
 - Governance options



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2. Build mechanisms for implementation



- Establishment of a senior committee or group to drive forward the development and use of accounts
 - This would build on the group formed in phase 1
- The group would develop a implementation strategy based on the priorities and proposals identified in the review



Contents of the strategy



Mandate

- Policy needs, legal framework, national and international standards

Mission statement

- E.g. To regularly produce high quality environmental accounts to support decision-making

Values

- E.g. professionalism, independence and integrity

Goals

- General and specific

Required activities

- Identification of those responsible for undertaking them (implementation teams)

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3. Producing accounts



- Building the capacity of teams
- Developing in detail the specifications for accounts
- Establishing the mechanisms for data discovery, data exchange (including appropriate recognition of data source), data collection, etc.
- Reviewing data and testing the consistent application of standards and classifications (i.e. mapping the data to the SEEA concepts and classifications)
- Establishing or adapting existing information technology
- Design outputs and plan for their dissemination
- Develop work plans including detailed timetable and resource requirements



Main resource requirements



- Staff
- Training and resource materials
- Management overheads (e.g. recruitment)
- Communication with stakeholders
- Information technology
- Travel
- Office space and equipment
- Design of outputs
 - publications, web-based products, etc and their dissemination



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Data quality assessment framework



Six dimensions of data quality

- Relevance
- Accuracy
- Timeliness
- Coherence
- Interpretability
- Accessibility



Develop the detail of accounts



- Reference period(s) (e.g. 2012, 2013, 2014)
- Reference area(s) (e.g. national, specific areas)
- Level(s) of spatial resolution
- Frequency of production (e.g. annual, 3-yearly)
- Form of outputs
 - Paper based, web-based
 - Tables, maps, commentary and analysis



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4. Strengthening information systems



Taking the work from the first 3 stages and making the production and use of accounts ongoing

- On-going mechanisms for strategic planning
- On-going resourcing for production and use
- Accounts are more useful and get better over time!



Draft Diagnostic Tool for experimental ecosystem accounting

- Stakeholders
- Policy priorities
- Knowledge
 - Current or previous accounts
 - Data sources
- Matching policy to accounts (and data needs more broadly)
- Constraints
- Opportunities





Key connections

- Once there is list of issues and data key connections must be identified
- Stakeholders (beneficiaries)
- Ecosystem services (flows and benefits)
- Ecosystem assets (stocks and benefits)
- Priced and unpriced benefits and costs





E.g. The Great Barrier Reef, world famous for biodiversity and a tourist destination, is declining in condition

Stakeholders (beneficiaries) and benefits

- Farmers benefit from the sales of agricultural products, using land use practices that impact the reef
- Consumers benefit by buying the food produced (and lots on intermediate beneficiaries in the chain between farmer and consumer)
- Tourists benefit from visiting the reef
- Industries connected to tourism – accommodation, air travel, tour boats – benefit from the income from tourists
- Australian Government is the managers of the reef and 3 levels of government + Catchment Management Authorities involved in the broader environment, economic and social policy



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