Environmental and Economic information

- Lots of information but held in different agencies
- No one sure what information there is 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

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Ecosystem accounting workshop
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Objectives of this presentation

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

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