SEEA: INTRODUCTION TO Ecosystem Accounting

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WHAT IS AN ACCOUNTING APPROACH?

- Accounting is about telling stories that are comprehensive, integrated and coherent
- Stories are founded on defined relationships between stocks and flows that are mutually reinforcing
- The relationships are present in physical and monetary terms
- Derivation of aggregates is an outcome of defined relationships and the use of common measurement units
Core SEEA Ecosystem Accounting Model

Ecosystem processes
Ecosystem characteristics  Intra-ecosystem flows  Inter-ecosystem flows

ECOSYSTEM ASSET
Core SEEA Ecosystem Accounting Model

Ecosystem services
- Provisioning
- Regulating
- Cultural

Ecosystem processes

Ecosystem characteristics
Intra-ecosystem flows
Inter-ecosystem flows

ECOSYSTEM ASSET
Core SEEA Ecosystem Accounting Model

Benefits: SNA & non-SNA

Human inputs (e.g. labour, produced assets)

Ecosystem services

Ecosystem processes

Ecosystem characteristics

Intra-ecosystem flows

Inter-ecosystem flows

ECOSYSTEM ASSET
CORE SEEA ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING MODEL

Individual & societal well-being

Benefits
SNA & non-SNA

Ecosystem services

Human inputs (e.g. labour, produced assets)

Ecosystem processes
Ecosystem characteristics
Intra-ecosystem flows
Inter-ecosystem flows

ECOSYSTEM ASSET
**Key Messages**

- Ecosystem accounting is complementary to the SEEA Central Framework

- Physical accounting is required before valuation, and provides the “engineering” information which is relevant in its own right

- Accounting must consider measures of both ecosystem condition and ecosystem services

- Important to start from a geo-spatial perspective

- Ecosystem accounting is a multi-disciplinary area of research, testing and compilation