### Developing ecosystem service classification(s) for ecosystem accounting – taking stock & moving forward

**Expert workshop**

**Final draft agenda**

**Wageningen University, Netherlands, 17-18 November 2016**

**Room 1 in the Gaia building on Wageningen Campus, Droevendaalsesteeg 3**

### Starting from the three classification systems used, CICES, and FEGS-CS, and NESCS, participants will discuss the stated principles and definitions underlying the three classification systems in order to plan a way forward to create a multi-purpose classification of ecosystem services (or a system of explicitly connected classifications). The meeting is organized as part of the process guided by UNSD to develop a multi-purpose international classification for ecosystem services (or a system of explicitly connected classifications) that builds on practices of existing European and American classifications – i.e. CICES, FEGS-CS, and NESCS – to support implementation of ecosystem accounting, as proposed in the UNSD handbook on Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EEA).

1. objectives

The objectives of the meeting are as follows:

1. Review current experience with applying ES classifications for ecosystem accounting, and the first comparisons of CICES, FEGS-CS, and NESCS;
2. Based on previous discussions and the comparison of CICES, FEGS-CS, and NESCS, develop a set of key objectives, definitions, and criteria for ecosystem services classification, to be used in the compilation of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounts;
3. Discuss a possible structure of the classification of ecosystem services for ecosystem accounting, (based on agreed principles and criteria) and relations that such a structure would have with other classifications used in official statistics;
4. Agree on the next steps and required research for developing a standardized, multi-purpose international classification (or system of explicitly connected classifications), including for the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.
5. Organizers and participants

### The workshop is organized by the European Environment Agency and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with Wageningen Universityand UNSD. There will be 15-20 participants in the meeting, from statistical offices, environment agencies and research organisations that run projects on ecosystem services for accounting and assessment purposes.

1. **DRAFT Agenda:**

**Day 1: 17 November 2016 Chair: Lars Hein**

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| **Time** | **Session**/Objective |
| 9.30-9:45 | **Session 1: Opening, Introduction to key objectives of the meeting**  EEA, USEPA, Wageningen University |
| 9:45-11:15 | **Session 2: Setting the frame**  09.45 An SEEA perspective on key requirements of ecosystem service classification systems for ecosystem accounting (Julian Chow, UNSD)  10.00 Overview of current status of CICES, incl. feedback on last round of consultation (Roy Haines-Young, University of Nottingham)  10.20 Introduction to key characteristics and purpose of the FEGS-CS and NESCS classification systems in USA (Dixon Landers, USEPA; Charles R. Rhodes, ORISE fellow)  11.00 A practical perspective on key factors for applying ecosystem service classification systems in developing countries (Daniel Juhn, Conservation International) |
| 11:20-11:40 | ***Coffee break*** |
| 11:40-13:00 | **Continue on Session 2**  11.40 First results from a conceptual comparison of ecosystem service classification systems for ecosystem accounting (J-E Petersen, EEA)  12.00 Introduction to discussion on desired key functions, principles, and criteria for developing a multi-purpose classification (or system of connected classifications) for ecosystem accounting (USEPA, JRC, and EEA – tbd)  12.20 Joint session for discussion and clarification |
| 13:00-14:00 | ***Lunch break*** |
| 14:00-15:30 | **Session 3 Methodological discussionin break-out groups (*to be decided*)**  Introduction to key issues identified so far (by session chair, Lars Hein):  Discussion in break-out groups to cover these potential issues:  - (Dis-)advantages of a multi-purpose classification system versus a system of explicitly connected classifications?  - Where do ES classifications fit in the SEEA-EEA work flow (cf Fig. 1) ?  - Comparing ES classification concept: CICES cascade model / NESCS four-group structure / FEGS ecosystem goods and services / other ?  - How do ES ‘supply’, ‘demand’, and ‘capacity’ accounts relate to each other ? |
| 15:30-16:00 | ***Coffee break*** |
| 16:00-17:30 | **Continue Session 3:** items to be covered could include:  - Defining the economy/environment boundary – which criteria or parameters?  - Use of ecological and economic production functions – purpose, methodology, implementation in the field, etc.  - Developing concrete tools and metrics for identfying ES/FEGS in the landscape – discussion on needs and parameters  - The influence of scale on the approach for measuring (final) ES flows |

**Day 2: 18 November 2016 Chair: Daniel Juhn**

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| **Time** | **Session**/Objective |
| 09.00-09.45  09.45-11.00 | **Report back from session 3, followed by questions for clarification**  **Session 4 – discussion in two break-out groups:**  Discuss possible structure of the (connected systems for) classification of ecosystem services for ecosystem accounting, (based on agreed criteria, definitions, and principles) and relations with other classifications used in official statistics  Brief introduction followed by structured discussion on:  - main types of ES (provisioning/regulation&maintenance/cultural or not) ?  - how many hierarchical sub-divisions and for what purpose ?  - start with type or start with purpose as entry point to classification ?  - include ‘land’, global climatic / atmospheric services ? |
| 11.00-11.20 | ***Coffee break*** |
| 11.20-12:30 | **Continue on Session 4**  - Defining ‘goods’, ‘benefits’ and ‘services’ ?  - The ‘ecological production function’ concept – how to operationalise ?  - Tools for inter-comparison / ‘translation’ ?  - Metrics and Indicators and their relationship to use and users  - Aggregation – what for, how, and always ? |
| 12.30-13:30 | ***Lunch break*** |
| 13:30-14:30 | **Session 5 Summing up and moving forward**  Reports back from session 4, followed by questions for clarification |
| 14:30-15:00 | ***Coffee break*** |
| 15:00-17:00 | **Session 5 Summing up and moving forward**  Next steps to take – proposal by organisers  Structured discussion on (*inter alia*):   * Key conceptual research issues * Key operational research issues * Identifying input to review of draft Technical Recommendations for implementation of SEEA EEA * Research approach for case-study-based comparison of current ES classification systems * Medium-term development of multi-purpose international classification of ecosystem services (or a system of explicitly connected classifications) |