



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

# Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project

United Nations Statistics Division

International Seminar on Natural Capital Accounting

12-14 November 2019, Beijing, China



United Nations



# NCAVES project

- Implementing partners
  - United Nations Statistics Division
  - United Nations Environment Programme
  - Secretariat of the CBD
- Sponsor
  - European Union
  - Partnership Instrument
- Five partner countries
  - Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa
- Project duration
  - 4 years from 2017-2020

# Overall objectives

- Advance the knowledge agenda on **Natural Capital Accounting**, in particular ecosystem accounting
- By initiating pilot testing of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, with a view to:
  - **Improving the measurement** of natural biotic resources, ecosystems and their services at the (sub)national level
  - **Mainstreaming** biodiversity and ecosystems in (sub)national level policy-planning and implementation
  - Contributing to the development of **internationally agreed methodology** and its use in partner countries.



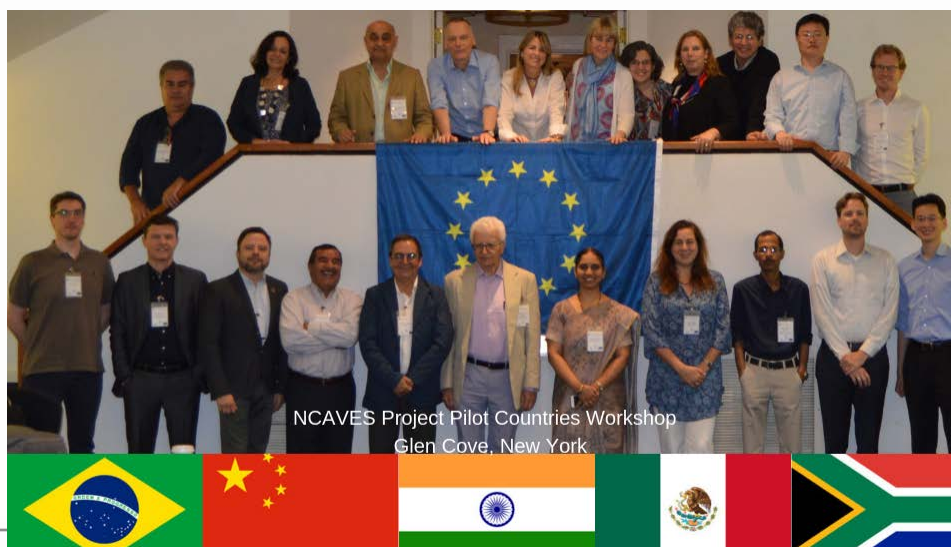
# The System of Environmental Economic Account (SEEA)

- Two standards, one approach:
- The **SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF)** was adopted as an international statistical standard by the UN Statistical Commission in 2012 to measure the environment and its relation with the economy.
- The **SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA)** complements the Central Framework and represents international efforts toward coherent ecosystem accounting. Work is currently underway on a revision of SEEA EEA.



# Work streams of the NCAVES project

- Piloting ecosystem accounts
- Developing guidelines and methodology
- Indicators
- Business accounting (sustainability reporting)
- Communication and outreach
- Training and capacity development



Country	Type of accounts	Area	Note
Brazil	Services supply;	Matopiba region	Water flow regulation and soil retention (erosion control) using the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT)
	Extent; Forest and water accounts; Species accounts	National	<p>Map of biomes will be published in 2019; further disaggregations under development</p> <p>Draft stock accounts of threatened species using IUCN data compiled; experimentation planned with Brazilian national data.</p>
China	Extent; condition; Service supply (by main ecosystem type);	Guangxi and Guizhou provinces	Guidelines have been finalized in June 2019. Extent account for Guangxi has been compiled. Multiple ES and a number of condition indicators will be assessed for up to 6 ecosystem types.
	Natural resource balance sheets	National	Cover Land, Water and Forest
India	Extent; condition; services supply;	7 districts in Karnataka States;	The pilot in Karnataka state will cover a comprehensive set of ecosystem services, in physical and monetary units for various years. Land cover maps are used for the extent account. The condition indicators typology developed during SEEA EEA revision will be tested.
	Extent; condition; services supply;	National	Crop provisioning and nature-based tourism have been assessed (physical and monetary). Additional ecosystem services will be added in 2020.

Country	Type of accounts	Area	Ecosystem services
Mexico	Service supply	National	Carbon sequestration + storage; water yield; crop provisioning services have been modelled. Modelling of coastal protection is in progress.
	Extent; Condition	National	<p>National ecosystem extent accounts have been compiled.</p> <p>Ecosystem condition accounts have been compiled but are being reviewed. The condition indicators tested cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- human footprint (pressure type),</li> <li>- conservation state of vegetation</li> <li>- ecosystem integrity.</li> <li>- indicators for soil quality (using S-World model)</li> </ul>
South Africa	National ecosystem extent account; city-region accounts, protected area accounts; species accounts;	National	<p>National ecosystem extent accounts have been compiled.</p> <p>Species accounts for rhinoceros and cycads have been developed, but not yet released.</p>
	Service supply	KwaZulu Natal (KZN)	Multiple services covering provisioning services (e.g. harvested living resources), regulating services (e.g. carbon sequestration) and culture services (e.g. tourism value) for the catchment area in KZN



# Events in 2019

- Follow up mission, national forum and training workshop in 5 project countries
- Expert meeting on Ecosystem Services (Jan 2019, New York)
- SEEA Indicators meeting (Feb 2019, Cambridge)
- Side event of the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Statistical Commission (March 2019, New York)
- Forum of Experts in SEEA EEA (Jun 2019, New York)
- Business accounting workshop (Oct 2019, New York)
- Regional training workshop on SEEA EEA (October 2019)
- International Seminar on Natural Capital Accounting (Nov 2019, Beijing)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Better Policy (Nov 2019, Kampala)





# Events in 2020

- Follow up mission and workshop in 5 project countries
- Side event of the 51<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Statistical Commission (March 2020, New York)
- Yale Conference on NCA Communication (March 2020, Connecticut)
- IUCN World Conservation Congress (June 2020, Marseille)
- Forum of Experts in SEEA EEA (July 2019, New York)
- 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Oct 2020, Kunming)
- 2nd Business accounting workshop (tbd)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Better Policy (tbd)

# THANK YOU

[seea@un.org](mailto:seea@un.org) // <https://seea.un.org/>

