

SEEA India Stakeholder Consultations on Pilot Ecosystem Accounts in Karnataka

As part of the EU-funded project, Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services, UN Environment and UN Statistical Division undertook a mission to India to progress work on piloting of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounts.

A stakeholder consultation was conducted in the state of Karnataka to explore its suitability to pilot the development of ecosystem accounts. Stakeholders included Ministry of Statistics and Policy Implementation (MoSPI), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre (KRSAC), Indian Forestry Service, Environmental Management & Policy Research Institute (EMPRI). In parallel, the project team met with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of India to discuss the development of soil accounts, building on the Global Soil World model.

The consultation confirmed that Karnataka is an excellent choice for the piloting of ecosystem accounts due to: 1) good data availability and presence of existing studies; 2) strong technical capacity within local research institutes on spatially explicit mapping and the valuation of a range of ecosystem services at the local scale; and 3) policy interest in using an accounting approach for informing a range of policies. The initial policy areas which the ecosystem accounts could inform included watershed management programmes and agro-forestry schemes. The key ecosystem services at Karnataka-State level to initially focus on in the piloting of ecosystem accounts identified include: food provisioning; materials / timber provisioning; fresh water; carbon sequestration; local climate and air quality; pollination; soil fertility; and tourism.



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