

WORKSHOP 4

ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING 101: UNDERSTANDING THE ESSENTIALS

ORGANISER NAME(S):

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ORGANISATION AFFILIATION(S):

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PRESENTER(S):

Carl Obst (IDEEA), Mark Eigenraam (IDEEA)

TARGET AUDIENCE:

All Forum participants are welcome; especially those involved in ecosystem services measurement at small or large scales and those involved in applying measures of ecosystem services in decision making.

BRIEF:

Over the past 5 years there have been significant advances in articulating international standards for the measurement of the relationship between the environment and the economy at national level. These have been encapsulated in the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). A significant aspect in the development of the SEEA has been articulation of an accounting framework for the integration of data on ecosystems within standard economic accounts.

This 3 hour workshop provides an introduction to the essential components of ecosystem accounting following the SEEA. Ecosystem accounting is a rapidly growing field of measurement and official statistics, with testing and implementation underway in many countries, localities, and emerging work at a corporate level. Participants will learn about the rationale for ecosystem accounting and its spatial approach to measurement; the core framework encompassing measurement of ecosystem extent, condition, services and benefits; and the potential applications of ecosystem accounting at micro and macro scales.

The workshop will be led by Mark Eigenraam and Carl Obst, two of the world's leading experts in ecosystem accounting and will involve presentations, group discussions and accounting exercises all aimed at providing a comprehensive introduction to this exciting and important area of work.