

ACES 2014 Thursday Evening Town Hall

December 11, 2014 | 5:45pm-6:50pm | Grand Ballroom Salons F-G

Title: *What is Ecosystem Accounting Anyway? Could it be a Game Changer for Sustainable Development?*

Description:

Let's face it - accounting is really not the most stimulating thing to talk about unless you are one of those people who recognize that the standardized systems countries use to measure economic activities has neglected key contribution of nature to the economy. If that is the case, then environmental-economic accounting, with its ultimate goal of including critical information such as ecosystem goods and services into the core of official economic indicators and statistics, is... well, exciting!

In this town hall, we will briefly provide an overview of environmental- economic accounting, as proposed by the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), focusing on recent advances in Experimental Ecosystems Accounting (EEA). Methodological approaches for integrated assessments and measurement of ecosystem assets, goods and services will be informally discussed from the perspective of ongoing pilot initiatives. These will include examples from the World Bank-led global partnership Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) and the Ecosystem Values, Assessment and Accounting (EVA) implemented by Conservation International.

Our target audience is broad, as is the subject of accounting, including researchers and practitioners interested on the latest development of methodological approaches required for ecosystems accounting as well as on how the incorporation of nature's benefits into an accounting framework can support better decisions for development.

Through an open and casual exchange ideas on the advances, challenges and the way forward in ecosystems accounting we hope to both enhance understanding on the relevance of these accounts while stimulating enthusiasm for research in this field. As ecosystem accounting is in its infancy, their further development by a community of practice such as ACES will most certainly support the mainstreaming of natural resources into development planning.

Organizers:

Primary contact/Rosimeiry Portela is an Ecological Economist/Senior Director and lead of the Economics Team of the Moore Center for Science and Oceans at Conservation International (CI). Dr. Portela's research focus primarily on nature's provision of ecosystem services (ES) and their contribution to human well-being. In addition of leading research on biophysical and economic assessments of ecosystem services, she also supports the development and application of decision-supporting tools designed to enhance understanding and measurement of spatially explicit flows of ecosystem services and their contribution to economies. She is currently working on research associated with the integration of environmental- economic information into national accounting systems, focusing on the implementation of experimental ecosystems accounting and their policy applications at multiple scales of planning and management. Dr. Portela is originally from Brazil and she holds a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Conservation International - 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500, Arlington, VA, 22202 | email: rportela@conservation.org | phone: [+1-703-341-2687](tel:+1-703-341-2687) |

Glenn-Marie Lange leads the environmental policy & economics work of the World Bank's Department of Agriculture and Environmental Services, which is responsible for the World Bank's work on wealth accounting and Adjusted Net Savings, including the recent report, *The Changing Wealth of Nations*. She leads the Global Partnership for Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), which is working in more than ten countries to mainstream natural capital in development planning and national economic accounts. Dr. Lange joined the World Bank in 2009, coming from the Earth Institute at Columbia University (2004-2008), where her work focused broadly on ecosystems services valuation, environmental accounting and development. Prior to that she worked at New York University's Institute for Economic Analysis with Nobel Laureate Wassily Leontief. Working extensively in Africa, Dr. Lange pioneered the use of environmental valuation and accounting to integrate environmental concerns into macroeconomic and sectoral policy analysis since the early 1990s. Dr. Lange received a Ph.D. in economics from New York University in 1990. The World Bank - 1818 H ST. NW, Washington, DC, 20433 | email: glange1@worldbank.org | phone: +1-202-473-2735