**Proposal for an Organized Session**

**Session title: Nature-based recreation and tourism as a part of Ecosystem services accounting**

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Chair: Tuija Sievänen, Natural Resources Institute Finland

This session will discuss the experiences and challenges to integrate recreation to ecosystem services accounting. In policy discussions at the moment, ecosystem services accounting is supported in many initiatives in order to take contributions of ecosystems to human wellbeing into account in decision making. The separate analysis of ecosystems services and economy does not adequately reflect the fundamental relationship between humans and environment. The aim of this session is to improve understanding how recreational services are integrated into ‘green accounting’ of all nations.

EUROSTAT is the European Union agency of managing European level statistics and also European level accounting. EUROSTAT is now developing ecosystem accounting to be established in future ‘green accounting’ system for EU. Ecosystem accounting is a coherent framework for integrating the measures of ecosystems and the service flows with the measures of economic and other human activity. Ecosystem accounting complements, and builds on the accounting for environmental assets in national accounts. National accounts that record systematic and detailed economic data are useful to describe economies in consistent, reliable and comparable ways, but can be complemented essentially to “greener” direction with ecosystem accounting. The few experiences of ecosystem accounting reported from European countries can support the EU level development.

This session discusses current experiences and state of art of ecosystem services accounting in European countries and in other countries as well. Ecosystem services here refer to cultural ecosystem services, and particularly to nature-based recreation and tourism. This session have oral presentations, pre-prepared oral commenting talks (max 3 minutes), and a discussion between expert panel and the audience.

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