

THE STATE OF THE ART OF ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMIC WATER AND FOREST ACCOUNTS IN BRAZIL: OVERVIEW AND EVOLUTION

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Brazil's Environmental Economic Accounts represent a multi-year effort to incorporate the use of natural resources theme through the country's economic activities. The strong connection between SEEA (System of Environmental-Economic Accounting: Central Framework) and the SNA (System of National Accounts) provides an important information base for the extraction of different sets of basic macroeconomic statistics that allow indicators focused on the environment to be seen within a context more oriented towards the economy and, therefore accessible to a wider audience. Understanding the relationship between economy and environment came to help decision-making processes of policy makers.

The construction of a System of Environmental Economic Accounts in Brazil represents a step forward in the sense of incorporating essential elements that reflect the contribution of the use of natural resources in each territory to the economic activity of that space.

Attributing a value to natural resources, such as water, forest, or carbon stock, has always proved to be

extremely difficult and complicated. The valuation of natural capital is an instrument that seeks to estimate an economic value or, in other words, to price the goods and services provided by nature. For this it is necessary to stipulate a plausible economic value, this is done through the relationship between what the environment can provide and the value of other goods and services already existing in the economy. With the economic valuation of natural capital, it is possible to attribute a monetary value to the resources of the environment.

The Environmental Economic Accounts are a form of measurement and analysis structured by a set of tables, which allows understanding the interactions between the environment and the economy, supporting planning and decision-making for public and business policies. This structured set of information is designed in an integrated manner with the National Accounts System, which allows planners and decision makers in a country or region to monitor the extent to which economic activity mobilizes resources in the generation of monetary wealth.