

France's Commitment in Environmental Accounting

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France's position regarding environmental accounting

1. A strong political commitment
2. Many activities, studies, indicators developed in order to get ecosystem services and environmental degradation taken into account within French policies
3. But still some methodologies need to be refined and a real need to develop a coherent approach to move forward

A strong political commitment: From the Environment Round Table to Stiglitz Report

- “Le Grenelle de l’environnement” : The Environment Round Table instigated by the President:
 - to define the key points of government policy on ecological and sustainable development issues for the coming five years.
 - with representative of all stakeholders, forming 5 colleges: the State, unions, employers, NGOs and local authorities.
- Workshops: July to September 2007
- Public debate: September to mid-October 2007
- Roundtable discussions: second half of October 2007



268 commitments (October 2007)

- 34 working groups to operationalize the commitments (2008)



2 specific laws (2009: 57 articles and 2010: 257 articles) + several fiscal laws

A monitoring and evaluation process (on-going)

3 commitments on improving indicators of sustainable development and promoting wide spread adoption: new aggregate indicators, new dash board of indicators, conference and working groups for a wide adoption both in public and private sectors



Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, proposed in January 2008 by the President ➡ **Stiglitz Report**

2. Environmental-economic accounting in France

- The process
- The realisations

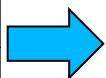
Environmental-economic accounting : process

- Environmental-economic accounts are produced annually by the French Ministry of Sustainable Development

CGDD 2011, « L'économie de l'environnement en 2009. Rapport de la Commission des comptes et de l'économie de l'environnement » <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Refecoenv.pdf>

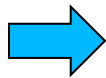
- Environmental accounts are labelled as a « satellite account » of the system of national accounts. INSEE (National Statistics Agency) is in charge of national accounts and ministries' statistical departments implement satellite accounts (environment, education, transport).
- A National Commission on environmental economics, with experts representing a wide range of stakeholders, reviews the accounts
- The French Ministry of Sustainable Development is planning on fully implementing environmental-economic accounts as adopted by the UN in 2012
- France is planning on developing ecosystem accounting, as agreed in the CDB strategic plan
- French National Biodiversity Strategy (2010): Target 7: "Include preservation of biodiversity in economic decisions"

France is very interested in WAVES project: methodological aspects, experiments in partner countries under implementation or planned, lessons learnt...



Indicators complementary to GDP

- France works on indicators complementary to GDP:
 - A final demand footprint indicator is included in the National Strategy for Sustainable development (carbone footprint), another is being developed (water footprint)
 - Indicators on material productivity (one also in French SD strategy)
 - Non-paid costs related to environment degradation and natural resources consumption
 - Etc.
- France promotes the adoption of such indicators at European and international levels



WAVES can bring key new elements to develop indicators complementary to GDP

Ecosystem assessment and valuation

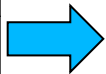
■ Physical assessment:

- 2008-2010: Exploratory study for a National Ecosystem Assessment
- 2008-2010: Evaluation of ecological functions: towards key indicators?
- 2012: Towards a National Ecosystem Assessment
 - Identification of key strategic questions and related methodological options (on-going)
 - Participation in European and international working groups
 - Consultation with stakeholders, including research institutes

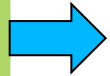
■ Monetary valuation:

- 2009 : report from a policy adviser working group representing a large range of stakeholders: *An economic approach of biodiversity and ecosystem services – Contribution to public decision-making*
- Numerous studies and reviews on specific ecosystems or agro-ecosystems (wetlands, forest, pasture, agro-ecological infrastructures, legumes...)
- Annual expert workshops on monetary valuation organized by the Ministry of Sustainable Development
- Values used, for example, to justify environmental measures through ex-ante policy evaluation (Grenelle de l'environnement), such as wetlands acquisition

Need for a more systematic and coherent approach, to develop ecosystem accounting: strong interest in WAVES



3. Next steps



a need

- to define and refine new methodologies
- to share national experiences regarding the implementation of these approaches
- to move forward to a general and internationally consistent approach (with the SEEA)

Workshop planned in France in 2013 on ecosystem valuation and economic instruments



AFD's commitment in WAVES

Valérie Reboud
Agence Française de Développement

développeur d'avenirs durables



To be consistent with France's strategy and help Southern countries to benefit from WAVES' advances in this field of knowledge

The Challenges

- To promote the adoption of Environmental accounting in a large number of countries
- To stress on the implementation of these methodologies to throw light on the sectorial policies (demonstration by examples and capacity building)
- To link such initiatives with others e.g.
 - Green economy/growth – Rio +20
 - How could ecosystem accounting enrich REDD+ analyses on co-benefits and refine the socio-environmental monitoring?



Thank you for your attention

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