

Deliverable 8: User Manual Aries4People



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ARIES for PEOPLE-EA Explorer users guide ARIES for PEOPLE-EA Explorer

The ARIES for PEOPLE_EA Explorer is a web-based application built on the k.LAB Integrated Modelling Platform. The application has access to all information (data and models) available on the Integrated Modelling network, and provides a dedicated user interface to allow the pilot countries to easily access and test the output of the PEOPLE-EA project, funded by the European Space Agency, and developed by the ARIES team (BC3) in collaboration with the VITO team and using the OpenEO (Open Earth Observations) platform.

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How to access the application

https://peopleea.integratedmodelling.org/modeler/?aries.peopleea.en

Spatial and temporal context of the analysis

At the top of the menu on the left side of the screen, you can specify the geographic area and temporal and spatial scale.

1. Where

- At the top of the panel, there a drop-down menu provides three options to select an analysis context by zooming and panning on the map. When the "administrative regions" or "river basin" option is chosen, the currently highlighted context will be outlined in light blue.
 - a. <u>Map boundaries</u>: Select an area of interest by panning and zooming in/out. The entire area visible on the screen becomes your analysis context.
 - b. <u>Administrative regions</u>: This option automatically identifies the largest administrative entity (e.g., Country or Subnational Unit) in the area selected, **according to the M49 standard endorsed by the UN.** By zooming in, the user can choose a smaller administrative region. We recommend this option for novice users, as it offers a simple way to identify standard administrative boundaries for ecosystem accounting.
 - c. River basin: This option selects an area of land draining to a specific water body based on FAO Hydrological Basins (simplified).



d. Alternatively, the user can also <u>directly type the name of a geographical context</u> (i.e., country, region, city, or other geographic entity) in the ARIES for PEOPLE Search bar, starting with a capital letter.

These names are queried from the OpenStreetMap (OSM) database. Users should be aware that OSM boundaries may differ slightly from those selected using the "Administrative regions" option of the drop-down menu (i.e. a context selected with this option include the country's territorial waters)



- e. Countries are warmly *invited to provide their official boundaries* in case the default options currently integrated in ARIES to identify geographical boundaries don not meet the expected NSO's specification.
- 2. Spatial resolution

The user can select the spatial resolution for analysis, and choose between meters or kilometers.

| eesa | ARIES for PEOPLE-EA Pioneering Earth Observation Applica | Explore ations for the |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| S Context | t selection | () |
| Euskadi, Espa Map bounda Years 201 | aña aries - â 305.0 2 - To 2019 | m 🔹 |
| PEOPLE | E-EA deliverables | km) |

In case the resolution set is higher than the available input data, ARIES will compile accounts at the selected resolution, but based on the finest grained available data.

3. When

Select the year(s) for your analysis. If data are missing for a specific year of interest, ARIES automatically fills gaps using the closest available year's data.

By default, the context is set to a multi-year analysis.

| I. Single-year a | analysis (uncheck the box) and sele | ct the year of interest | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Years | 2012 | 🗖 То | 2019 |
| II. Multi-vear a | nalvsis - to show change over time o | check the box and sele | ect the first and last year of the period |

to analyze.

| Years | 2012 | 🗹 To | 2019 |
|-------|------|------|------|
| | | | |

4. Reset

The red "X" button on the upper right can be used to reset a previously selected context, or to stop a computation in progress (all computed results will be lost).



Forest ecosystem condition accounts

The Ecosystem Conditions accounts are composed of 3 main outputs:

- Variable (descriptor) = the original ecological measurement (raw variable) used to study a certain aspect of condition;
- Indicator = the rescaled ecological measurement (raw variable) to allow a consistent representation of the dimensions of the conditions captured in the variable. Reference values are used to determine good and bad values for a particular variable in the same type of forest (aka forest with similar characteristics), for the sake of comparing those results against other dimensions of condition in the same type of forest, or against results for the same variable in a different area.

• Index = the composite weighted average of a set of indicators, whose goal is to combine different information from several variables into a unique figure, representative of the overall condition of that type of forest in the area under analysis.

Forest ecosystem condition variables

The table below summarizes all the ecosystem condition metrics considered in the development of the Forest Conditions Accounts

The full list is still under development

| Ecosystem Typology Class | Typology class description | Variable | Variable description and link to dataset or DOI | Spatial Resolution | Spatial Extent | Temporal resolution/ coverage |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| A.1 Physical descriptors of the abiotic components of the ecosystem (e.g. Soil structure, impervious surface, water availability) | | A1.1 Normali zed Differen ce Water Index | GEE MODIS Terra Daily NDWI The Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) is sensitive to changes in liquid water content of vegetation canopies. It is derived from the Near-IR band and a second IR band, 1.24m when available and the nearest available IR band otherwise. It ranges in value from -1.0 to 1.0. See Gao (1996) for details. This product is generated from the MODIS /006/MOD09GA surface reflectance composites. | 500m | Global | Daily 2000-2023 |
| A.2 Chemical | Chemical composition of the abiotic ecosystem compartments (e.g. Soil nutrient concentration air | A2.1 Soil | 2003 OCTOP: Topsoil Organic Carbon Content for Europe - Organic carbon content in the first 30 cm of soil | 1km | Europe | 2003 |
| state | and water quality) | Carbon | 2014 LUCAS: Topsoil Soil Organic Carbon (LUCAS) for EU25 - Organic carbon content in the first 30 cm of soil | 500m | Europe | 2014 |
| B.1 Composit ional state | Prosition/diversity of the ecological communities at a given location and time (e.g. Presence/abundance of key species, species richness, genetic diversity, presence of threatened species, diversity/abundance of relevant species groups) | | Population trend of bird species: datasets from Article 12, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC reporting (2008-2012) | 5km? | Europe | 2000 and 2008 |
| B.2 Structural state | Aggregate properties (e.g. mass, density) of the whole ecosystem or its main biotic components (e.g. Total biomass, canopy coverage, annual maximum NDVI, Vegetation density, habitat structure, food chain and trophic levels) | B2.1 Above- ground biomass | ESA's Climate Change Initiative Biomass ESA's Climate Change Initiative Biomass project provides global maps of above-ground biomass (Mg ha-1), with these being capable of supporting quantification of biomass change. | 100m | Global | 2010, 2017- 2020 |
| | | B2.2 | Copernicus leaf area index | 300m | Global | 2014 to present |
| | | Leaf Area Index | The LAI quantifies the thickness of the vegetation cover and it's recognized as an Essential Climate Variable (ECV) by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). | 1km | Global | 1999 to present |
| | | B2.3 Tree cover density | Copernicus HRL tree cover density layer It offers high-resolution information on the percentage of tree cover in a given area | 100m | Europe | 2012, 2015, 2018 |
| B.3 Functiona I state | Summary statistics (e.g. frequency, intensity) of the biological, chemical, and physical interactions between the main ecosystem compartments (e. g. Primary productivity, community age, distribution | B3.1 Net Primary Producti on | Dry Matter Productivity and Net Primary Production The ecosystem Net Primary Production (NPP) represents the net growth rate of the vegetation(excluding autotrophic respiration), expressed in kilograms of production per hectare per day (gC/m²/day). It is a proportion of Gross Primary Production and it's directly related to ecosystem Dry Matter Productivity, | 300m 1km | Global Global | 2014 to 2020 1999 to 2020 |
| | rrequency, decomposition processes) | B3.2 Fraction of Photosy nthetica Ily active radiation B3.3 Burned | Apresseu in rgiver //ia/udy. https://docs.terrascope.be/DataProducts/Sentinel-2 /references //ITO_S2_ATBD_S2_NDVI_BIOPAR_V200.pdf The FPAR (Fraction of Photosynthetically active radiation) quantifies the fraction of the solar radiation absorbed by live leaves for the photosynthesis activity. Then, it refers only to the green and alive elements of the canopy. The FAPAR depends on the canopy structure, vegetation element optical properties, atmospheric conditions, and angular configuration. To overcome this latter dependency, a daily integrated FAPAR value is assessed. MOSEV: A global burn severity database from MODIS (2000-2020) | 10m 500m | Europe | Annual 2000-2020 |
| | Ecosystem Typology Class A.1 Physical state A.2 Chemical state B.1 Composit ional state B.2 Structural state B.3 Functiona I state | Ecosystem Typology ClassTypology class descriptionA.1 Physical statePhysical descriptors of the abiotic components of the components of the abiotic composition of the abiotic ecosystem (e.g. Soil structure, impervious surface, water availability)A.2 Chemical stateChemical composition of the abiotic ecosystem compartments (e.g. Soil nutrient concentration, air and water quality)B.1 Compositi ional stateComposition/diversity of the ecological communities at a given location and time (e.g. Presence/abundance of relevant species, species richness, genetic diversity, presence of threatened species, quiversity/abundance of relevant species groups)B.2 Structural stateAggregate properties (e.g. mass, density) of the whole components (e.g. Total biomass, canopy coverage, anual maximum NDVI, Vegetation density, habitat structure, food chain and trophic levels)B.3 Functiona I stateSummary statistics (e.g. frequency, intensity) of the biological, chemical, and physical interactions between the main ecosystem origatury and cosystem origatury and rodeutivity, community age, distribution frequency, decomposition processes) | Ecosystem Typology ClassTypology class descriptionVariableA.1 Physical statePhysical descriptors of the abiotic components of the accesystem (e.g. Soil structure, impervious surface, water availability)A1.1 Normali zed Differen ce Water IndexA.2 Chemical stateChemical composition of tha abiotic ecosystem compartments (e.g. Soil organic carbonA2.1 Soil Organic CarbonB.1 Compositi stateComposition/diversity of the ecological communities at a given location and time (e.g. Presence/abundance of relevant species groups)B1.1 Threate med Forest Bird Species, species richness, ediversity/abundance of rievant species groups)B1.1 Threate med Forest Bird Species diversity/abundance of rievant species groups)B.2 Structural stateAggregate properties (e.g. mass, density) of the whole biomass, canopy coveraçe, annual maximum NDVI, Vegetation density, habitat structure, food chain and trophic levels)B2.1 Above- ground biomassB.3 Functional I stateSummary statistics (e.g. frequency, intensity) of the wholic literactions between the main ecosystem compartments (e.g. Primary productiv), ormunity age, distribution frequency, distribution frequency, distribution frequency, distribution frequency, distribution frequency, distribution frequency, distribution frequency, distribution frequency, distribution frequency, distribution for processes)B3.2 Fraction of Photosy nthetica B3.3 Burned severity | Ecosystem (Class Typology (class Typology (class Variable description Variable bescription Variable bescription Variable (classifier) A.1 Physical state Physical descriptors of the cosystem (e.g. Sol surface, water availability) A1.1 Normalic 2rd Differen (ndex) A1.1 Normalic 2rd Differen (ndex) GEE MODIS Terra Daily NDWI The Normalized Difference Water Inderwork (NDWI) is tending to full descriptors of the sol description and ink to dataset or DOI A.2 Chemical state Chemical composition of the aboint ecosystem orgensments (e.g. Sol uniteriot concentration, air and water quality) A2.1 Soli Organic Composition Concentration, air and water quality) A2.1 Thread Forest diversity/abundance of results A2.1 Thread Composition of the sol or cological common content in the first 30 cm of solid Diff ULOAS: Toppic Carbon Content for thread concentration, air and water quality) B.1 Compositi state Composition of the sol or thread end species, decases from and sol and thread (toppic classic) B1.1 Thread Forest diversity/abundance of results Diff ULOAS: Toppic Sel Orgenstic carbon content in the first 30 cm or of sol B.2 Structural state Aggregate properties (e.g. mass, density) of the whole component (e.g. Total state) B2.1 Thread Forest diversity/abundance of results B2.4 ESA's Climate Change Initiative Biomass project provide global maps of above ground biomass (thread cospismon thread NDD), thread for the compation of the cocosystem of the main biot component (e.g. Total state) | Topology Class Special Class Speciclas Special Class Sp | Ecosystem (basis) Typology (basis) Variable Variable Variable Variable Spatial (bit in the interval basis) Spatial (bit interval basis) Spa |

| | | | B3.4 Drought Severity | Global Patterns and Dynamics of Burned Area and Burn Severity (developed from MOSEV data) The variable is a result of the reprocessing of the relativized version of the Normalized Burn Ratio (RdNBR) spectral index. The 8-daily values of the original dataset, RdNBR, were converted into a burn severity category (non-burnt, low, moderate-low, moderate-high, high) and annualized by selecting the most represented category over the period observed. https://crudata.uea.ac.uk/cru/data/drought/#global Self-calibrating Palmer Drought Severity Index (scPDSI): The scPDSI metric was introduced by Wells et al. (2004), who gave detailed information about its calculation. The scPDSI is a variant of the original PDSI of Palmer (1965), with the aim to make results from different climate regimes more comparable. As with the PDSI, the scPDSI is calculated from a time series of precipitation and temperature, together with fixed parameters related to the soil/surface characteristics at each location. | 0,5 degree | Global | Annual / 1998 to 2018 |
|--|--|--|--|---|------------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | B3.4 Drought Severity (2nd variable - alternati ve) | Combined drought indicator (v3) - A combination of spatial patterns of precipitation, soil moisture, and greenness vegetation anomalies, the CDI identifies areas at risk of agricultural drought. dataset viewer dataset download. 2012 - 2023 documentation | 5 km | Europe | 10 day observations 2012-2023 |
| | | | | https://land.copernicus.eu/global/products/ndvi | 300m | Global | 3 day observations |
| | | | B3.5 Normali | The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) | 1km | Global | 3 day observations |
| | | | zed Differen ce Vegetati on | | | | 1998 to 2020 |
| | | | Index B3.6 Groop | Might be added later in the project | | | |
| | | | index | Might be added later in the project | - | - | - |
| | | | B3.7 Fire occurrence | | - | | |
| C. Landsca pe level characte ristics | C.1 Landscap e and seascape at coarse scale | Metrics describing mosaics of ecosystem types at coarse (such as landscape and seascape) spatial scale (e.g. Landscape diversity, connectivity, fragmentation, ecosystem type mosaics) | C1.1 Forest Connec tivity | Generated using GUIDOS toolbox and Corine landcover daatset - Methodology | 100m | Europe | 2000, 2006, 2012, 2018 |
| | | | C1.2 Landsc ape Natural ness | Generated using GUIDOS toolbox and Corine landcover daatset - Methodology | 100m | Europe | 2000, 2006, 2012, 2018 |
| | | | C1.1 Forest Fragme ntation | Relative Magnitude of Fragmentation (RMF) Data: netCDF (12.57GB) Global remote-sensing data product (i.e. the 27-year annual ESA CCI land cover maps which can be | 300m | Global | Annual 1992- 2020 |

Forest ecosystem condition indicators

Each variable is scaled between 0 and 1, with values getting closer to 1 as the forest conditions improve. This allows each indicator to represent in a consistent way the information coming from the variables, which in their original values have different ranges but also different interpretation of such values, and not always higher value are associated to better conditions (e.g. if we look at variable like

Drought Severity or Forest Fragmentation, the higher the value, the worse the forests conditions).

There are 8 indicators available in the application:

- 1. A1.1 Normalized Difference Water Index
- 2. A2.1 Soil Organic Carbon
- 3. B1.1 Threatened Forest Bird Species Diversity
- 4. B2.1 Above-ground Biomass
- 5. B3.1 Net Primary Production
- 6. B3.3 Burned severity (to be added)
- 7 C1.2 Forest Connectivity

Reference areas representing healthy forests

These areas are used to identify forest considered in good health, so as to define the upper reference values of that variable. Forests considered in good conditions (the upper reference areas) must meet the following criteria:

- · being protected areas;
- being primary forest, alias forests where the signs of human impacts, if any, are strongly blurred due to decades without forest management;
- being highly tree-covered throughout the time series (areas with a tree-covered density loss equal or higher than 5% are excluded).

Such criteria are observed based on the information of the following datasets:

- Primary forests from EPFD v2.0 https://www.nature.com/articles/s41597-021-00988-7
- Protected Areas from IUCN data https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/thematic-areas/wdpa?tab=WDPA
- Copernicus's High Resolution Layer Tree Cover Density https://land.copernicus.eu/en/products/high-resolution-layer-tree-cover-density

Results are obtained combining the following inputs by using, as consistently as possible, the year 2000 as the reference year, with exception of the information on the Tree-cover density, whose earliest observation is in the year 2012.

Whenever a forest lacks to meet any of the listed criteria, it was not considered as an area of reference for good condition.

Forest types

European forests have been initially categorized based on their landcover forest class, as per the Corine dataset, which distinguishes 4 types of forest:

- 1. Broad-leave forest (311) https://land.copernicus.eu/content/corine-land-cover-nomenclature-guidelines/html/index-clc-311.html
- 2. Coniferous forest (312) https://land.copernicus.eu/content/corine-land-cover-nomenclature-guidelines/html/index-clc-312.html
- 3. Mixed forest (313) https://land.copernicus.eu/content/corine-land-cover-nomenclature-guidelines/html/index-clc-313.html
- 4. Transitional woodland & shrub (324) https://land.copernicus.eu/content/corine-land-cover-nomenclature-guidelines/html/index-clc-324.html

Bioregion zones

Such categories of forest were also combined with the information on the European bioregion zones, used to define 11 bioregions over:

- 1. Alpine,
- 2. Arctic,
- 3. Atlantic,
- 4. Black Sea.
- 5. Boreal,
- 6. Continental,
- 7. Macaronesian,
- 8. Mediterranean,
- 9. Pannonian,
- 10. Steppic regions
- 11. Alpine (Scandinavia)

The Scandinavian Alpine zone was differentiate from the rest of the Alpine bioregion for its characteristics, and covers the forest in the Scandinavian mountains on the border between Norway and Sweden.

The combination of landcover forests and bioregions results in 44 forest types, following the definition of Maes, J., Bruzón, A.G., Barredo, J.I. *et al.* Acc ounting for forest condition in Europe based on an international statistical standard. *Nat Commun* 14, 3723 (2023).- https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-39434-0

The following datsets were used to obtain this information:

- · Forest landcovers from Corine year 2000 (vector/ https://land.copernicus.eu/en/products/corine-land-cover/clc-2000), and
- Corine accounting adjusted year 2000 (raster/ https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/datahub/datahubitem-view/a55d9224-a326-4cb1-9b9c-3a324520341a?activeAccordion=1069872%2C1069948);
- European bioregion zones (https://sdi.eea.europa.eu/data/def7ac06-7d3f-4da5-880c-a76a73953cfc).

Reference values: upper and lower thresholds

• The upper (healthier conditions) reference threshold was set at the 98th percentile value observed in the reference healthy areas, for each type of forest, for each variable.



• The lower (worse conditions) reference threshold was set at the 2nd percentile value observed in the rest of the forest area (Total forest area - healthy reference area).



• The percentile might be inverted in case the healthier conditions correspond to lower values.

Rescaling of the variables

The percentile computed define the thresholds used to rescale the observed variables values into indicators ranging from 0 to 1.



Xi = (X_{observed} - X_{LowerReference}) / (X_{UpperReference} - X_{LowerReference})

Forest ecosystem condition index

The index summarize the overall condition of forests, computed by taking into account the several dimensions represented by each metric (raw variable).

| # | ETC class | Raw Variable | Spatial resolution (w/b.sev w /o b.sev) | Temporal resolution (w/b.sev w /o b.sev) | Temporal frequency (w/b.sev w /o b.sev) | Dataset quality (w/b.sev w /o b.sev) | Total (w/b.sev w /o b.sev) | Weight | Weight w/o Burn severity |
|-------|--------------|---|--|---|--|---|------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | A1 | Net Difference Water Index | 6 5 | 7 6 | 7 6 | 6.5 5 .5 | 26.5 22.5 | 0.24 | 0.27 |
| 2 | A2 | Soil Organic Carbon | 2 2 | 1 1 | 1 1 | 2 2 | 6 6 | 0.05 | 0.07 |
| 3 | B1 | Threatened Forest Bird Species Diversity | 1 1 | 3.5 3.5 | 3 3 | 1 1 | 8.5 8.5 | 0.08 | 0.10 |
| 4 | B2 | Above-ground Biomass | 6 5 | 3.5 <mark>3.5</mark> | 3 3 | 4.5 4 | 17 15.5 | 0.15 | 0.18 |
| 5 | B3 | Net Primary Production | 4 3 | 5 5 | 6 5 | 6.5 5 .5 | 21.5 18.5 | 0.19 | 0.22 |
| 6 | B3 | Burned severity* | 3 - | 6 - | 5 - | 4.5 - | 18.5 - | 0.17 | - |
| 7 | C1 | Forest Connectivity | 6 <u>5</u> | 2 2 | 3 3 | 3 3 | 14 13 | 0.12 | 0.16 |
| Total | | | 28 21 | 28 21 | 28 21 | 28 21 | 112 84 | 1.0 | 1.0 |

The index has been designed to take into account one indicator for each Ecosystem Typology Class:

* While variables in the same typology class are usually highly correlated, Burned severity doesn't have a strong correlation with NPP, and for this reason is selected as an additional indicator to the index.

The table ranks each variable considering the aspects in the column headers.

- Spatial Resolution describes the size of the smallest feature that can be detected by a satellite sensor or displayed in a satellite image. It is
 usually presented as a single value representing the length of one side of a square,
- Temporal resolution refers to the total amount of years in the dataset,
- Temporal frequency considers the availability of temporal observation over the same period. While all variable are annualized, annual averages obtained from highly frequent observation are more accurate and thus considered better input overall.
- Dataset quality represents the proximity of the first and latest year in the dataset, respectively, to the to reference year (2000) and to the
 present.
- When variables are ranked the same in one criterion, they are assigned the average of the positions they would represent. For example, if
 there are three variables which should be ranked 7, they will be assigned 6 since it is the average of the positions these variables represent
 (5, 6 and 7).

Overall condition index =

(Net Difference Water Index x 0.24) + (Soil Organic Carbon x 0.05) + (Threatened Forest Bird Species Diversity x 0.08)+ (Above-ground Biomass x 0.15) + (Net Primary Production x 0.19) + (Burned severity x 0.17) + (Forest Connectivity x 0.12)

Compile the accounts in the k.Explorer

The People EA deliverables section contains the list of the forest condition metrics currently developed as part of the project.

Once the context has been set, the user simply checks the box of the condition metrics (raw variables, indicators or index) to compute its result.

When the knowledge bar turn yellow and the elephant's ball spins, the system is computing the information queried.



The user can decide to observe:

• the first option is to compile the Forest Condition Index to estimate the overall condition based on a set of experts-defined weighted and selected indicators



• the value of the Raw variables to compile the Variable Forest Ecosystem Condition Account(s),



This action will trigger the model(s) underlying the output(s) selected, in case more ecological metrics are selected, the computational flow is continuous and after the whole workflow to compute one metric is completed, the system moves to the next tasks in the queue of computation. The models to be computed follow the order of selection of the user.

Most of the metrics are modeled from different datasets, so time of computation should be similar, but in case an account shares inputs used in a previous computation, those are not re-calculated, thus once should expect faster computation of the additional output(s).

Once the account is computed, the k.Explorer moves automatically from the Data view, to the Documentation section, to the Table section

| ARIES for PEOPLE-EA Explo | rer Demonstration version | | | | | Othe | r SEEA-rel | ited indic | ators | About |
|---|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------|
| Pioneering Earth Observation Applications for | the Environment - Ecosystem Accounting (PEOPLI | E-EA) | | | | | | | Ē | ₩, |
| S Context selection | | | | | | | G | 🖶 A+ | At | G |
| Stredné Slovensko | Table 1. NDWI Indicator | Table 1. NDWI Indicator Acco | unt | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 🔺 Broadleaf forest, Pannonian 🔺 | Broadleaf forest, Alpine 🔺 | Broadleaf forest, Continental 🔺 | Transitional woodland scrub, Pannonian 🔺 | Transitional woodland scrub, Alpine | Transitiona | woodland | crub, Cont | tinen |
| Years 2015 | _ | Year 2015 0.75 | 0.62 | 0.99 | 0.87 | 0.76 | 0.83 | | | -81 |
| PEOPLE-EA indicators | | Year 2016 0.78 | 0.68 | 0.99 | 0.90 | 0.82 | 0.84 | | | -81 |
| S | | 4 | | | | | 0.01 | | | |
| PEOPLE-EA Forest Condition Index | 3 | | | | | | | | Б | |
| PEOPLE-EA deliverables | | | | | | | | | -0 | |
| Indicators - | | | | | | | | | | |
| 🗹 NDWI 🛛 | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| Soil Organic Carbon Percentage in Top Soil | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| Threatened Bird Species | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| Above Ground Biomass | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| Net Primary Productivity | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| Forest Connectivity | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3 | | | | | | | | | |

The table can be copied or downloaded (click on the symbols at the right bottom of the table to export it)

To explore the geospatial explicit information in the maps used to summarize the results in the table, go back to the View Data section:



Expand the View Tree to visualize all inputs, intermediate and final output





When the knowledge bar turn yellow and the elephant's ball spins, the system is computing the information queried. In this case, is loading the map



This can be visualized in the explorer or downloaded as a raster file (.tiff format) for further analysis in a GIS system.



One can download a map by clicking on the arrow pointing down () that appears when hovering over the observation (an observation is any of the element observed in the workflow and listed in this menu)

| G Stredné Slovensko | • |
|---|---|
| Forest type Ndwi © | ~ |
| Biogeographic region type Bio region by forest type Max ndwi | - |
| Min ndwi Indicator value of normalized difference water index O | |
| A H | |

This was the main output, but any input and intermediate output of a workflow can be observed by ticking their boxes.



The results for NDVI are shown below.



Notice how observations that changes over time in the context selected, have the symbol of a clock next to them, and at the bottom of the menu, you'll see a timeline, in a light blue color.

In this example, as there are just two temporal observations, there is just one separator, the small in yellow, dividing the 2 temporal observations (2015 and 2016).



Selecting a different temporal observation, the map will change and the system displays the result for that year





ARIES for SEEA accounting tables

Below the Forest Condition Index option, there is a section containing the results of the ARIES for SEEA application.

Each account contains a drop-down menu (three horizontal dots), from which the user can select accounts to compile:

| PEOPLE-EA Forest Condition Index | • | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ARIES for SEEA accounting tables | | | | | | | | |
| Extent accounts | | | | | | | | |
| Condition accounts | | | | | | | | |
| Ecosystem services accounts physical | | | | | | | | |
| Ecosystem services accounts monetary | | | | | | | | |
| Spatial and temporal aggregation | | | | | | | | |
| Key SEEA outputs | () | | | | | | | |
| 🕅 Maps 🖽 Tables 🛡 Comment | s | | | | | | | |

There is a dedicated guide to the use of the ARIES for SEEA application.

Extent Accounts

These accounts measure the extent of the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology ecosystem types, or land cover, present in the context of your analysis, in km².

The different types of accounts provide varying levels of detail in summarizing ecosystem/land cover extent and its change over the selected time period.

| Extent accounts | : |
|--|---|
| Extent account: net balance | ⊞ |
| Extent account: additions and reductions | ⊞ |
| Ecosystem type: change matrix | ⊞ |
| Land account: net balance | ⊞ |
| Land account: additions and reductions | ⊞ |
| Land cover type: change matrix | ⊞ |

Condition Accounts

These accounts measure ecosystem condition. Currently, only forest ecosystem condition accounts are supported, but condition accounts for other ecosystem types will be added soon (beginning with those for grasslands).



The conditions metrics available for inclusion in the account appear in a drop-down menu when the user clicks on the triangle next to "Forest condition metrics".



Three types of ecosystem condition accounts are available:

1. Condition Variable Account: report the value of each condition metric in their originally observed values (non-transformed).

2. Condition Indicator Account: rescale ecosystem condition variables to values between 0 and 1. Rescaling is calculated as the difference between the observed condition variable value and the optimal condition reference.

By *normalizing* multiple condition variables, different indicators can be more directly compared; 3. Condition Index Account: combines all indicators together using a *weighted mean*. Currently, all indicators take the same weight, summing to 1 (e.g., 0.25 when four condition metrics are selected). In future releases of ARIES for SEEA, users will be able to assign custom weights to the indicators to better reflect their local importance when accounting for ecosystem condition.

| Output tables | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Ecosystem condition variable account | ⊞ | | | |
| Ecosystem condition indicator account | ⊞ | | | |
| Ecosystem condition index (simplified) | ⊞ | | | |

Ecosystem services account (physical terms)

These accounts measure the biophysical quantities of services provided by ecosystems and used by economic units. Use tables are not explicitly supplied with the model outputs, but use is described in the automatically generated reports for the selected accounts. In the current version, four ecosystem services are available. A fifth one, Nature-based tourism, is in its final stages of development and will be made available in a future ARIES for SEEA release.

| Ecosystem services accounts (physical) | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Crop provisioning: ecosystem contribution | ⊞ | | |
| Crop provisioning: pollination contribution | ⊞ | | |
| Global climate regulation: C storage | ⊞ | | |
| Sediment regulation: soil erosion control | ⊞ | | |
| Recreation: nature-based tourism | ⊞ | | |

Ecosystem services account (monetary terms)

These accounts measure the monetary value of the selected ecosystem services, applying SEEA EA-compliant valuation method(s). Use tables are not explicitly supplied with the model outputs, but use is described in the automatically generated reports for the selected accounts. In the current version, three ecosystem services are available. A fifth one, Nature-based tourism, is in its final stages of development and will be made available in a future ARIES for SEEA release.

| Ecosystem services accounts (monetary) | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Crop provisioning: value of ecosystem contribution | ⊞ | | |
| Crop provisioning: value of pollination contribution | ⊞ | | |
| Global climate regulation: value of change in C storage | ⊞ | | |

.

Spatial and temporal aggregation The user can select how the results of the accounts are aggregated in accounting tables. Currently, only the first option is available. In future ARIES for SEEA releases, the user will be able to generate accounting tables as follows:



4. River basins: multiple tables grouped results by watersheds found within the analysis context.

Temporal accounting

When a multiple-year analysis is selected, the user can decide to output tables:

| Temporal accounting | (j) |
|---|-----|
| Start and end years | |
| All years in time series | |
| 1. For the first and last years of the time series only, or | |

2. For all years within the time period selected.

Key outputs and observations

This section shows the most relevant spatial inputs and outputs in the account(s) run by the user (e.g., in the case of ecosystem extent, the most relevant outputs are land cover and ecosystem type data).

| Key SEEA outputs | () |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Land cover type | • |
| Ecosystem type - IUCN | • |

The last section stores all tables and maps produced in that session, so that the user can download them in a zipped file (of Excel spreadsheets or GeoTIFFs) before leaving the application.



In the upper left corner of the application, there is a section dedicated to SEEA-relevant indicators.

Other SEEA-related indicators News User guide About

This section includes selected indicators from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Convention on Biology Diversity (CBD) Post-2020 Biodiversity Indicators, which have been added to the application.

Once it is opened, a drop-down menu shows the list of available indicators.

| Additional SEEA-related indicators | |
|---|---|
| CBD 2050 Goal A A 1.1.1. Extent of all natural ecosystems A 1.1.5. Mountain green cover index A 1.1.11/24. Extent of natural ecosystem by CBD class | |
| A 1.1.25. Forest ecosystem fragmentation CBD 2050 Goal B CBD 2030 Target 7 SDG 15 | |
| SDG 15.4.2. Mountain green cover index | |
| | - |

Those selected by the user are added in the ARIES for SEEA panel as if they were an additional standard SEEA EA account

| Study setup | i |
|--|---|
| Extent accounts | |
| Condition accounts | |
| Ecosystem services accounts (physical) | |
| Ecosystem services accounts (monetary) | |
| Additional SEEA indicators | |
| □ A 1.1.25. Forest ecosystem fragmentation | ▦ |
| SDG 15.4.2. Mountain green cover index | ⊞ |

Quick tips

• Set your context (e.g., Cape Town in South Africa). Suggested way:

1. Zoom and pan using the Map boundaries option:



2. Make sure the screen contains your target context:



3. Once the screen contains the area of interest, switch to Administrative region:



4. If the whole administrative region does not fit the screen, a locator map in the lower-right corner of the interface will show the entire context as currently selected:



5. Refine your search further (zooming in/out) to make sure the desired region is selected.



6. Note: the region automatically selected is not always the most central, but part of the screen occupying the largest



7. The name of the geographic entity is displayed on the upper left side of the application.



• When the gear starts spinning, the system is computing the model(s) requested by the user:

| Ecosystem services accounts (physical) | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Crop provisioning: ecosystem contribution | ⊞ | | | |
| Crop provisioning: pollination contribution | ⊞ | | | |
| 🍪 Global climate regulation: C storage | ⊞ | | | |
| Sediment regulation: soil erosion control | ⊞ | | | |
| Recreation: nature-based tourism | ⊞ | | | |

To offer the best visualization of the context in analysis, the search bar/results box can be positioned where the user prefers.

To do so, point the cursor over the search bar, and once this symbol



Explore results and methods used to run your accounting models

Aspects of the user interface change once you begin to run an accounting model:

- i. Run an accounting model (e.g., ecosystem extent account simple net balance).
 - 1. Once the extent account is selected, the search bar will turn yellow.

A rotating gear will appear next to the selected account(s), which indicates that the model is being compiled. When a model input or intermediate output has been computed, it is listed and can be explored individually, by selecting the specific layer (e.g., aridity):



2. When a main output of the model is computed, this is listed (in the darker section) above the other inputs /intermediate output:



3. If the model is dynamic (i.e., is calculated for >1 year), the progress bar at the bottom of the search bar/results box progresses as the computation continues:



4. In the right-upper corner of the app, three tabs are now available:



- i. Data view (always available)
- ii. Documentation view
- iii. Data flow view
- 5. In our example, the application automatically takes the user to the section showing the accounting result(s). This happens every time a final outcome is generated: The EA formation accounting transfer on the AEE pattern A caleboards to the AEE Party (VE) UMP and EX Party (VE) UMP

| The SEEK Ecosystem Accounting standard of | | nico panorit. A | < consocration of | nineen on o | oner and eco. Foreired by Kicke semanac | web technology | | | | | đ |
|---|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|--|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------|----|
| S Context: where, when | 0 | | | ~ | | | | | C A+ | A+ | ٢ |
| Spain Map boundaries | • | Global Clima Supply Chan | ate Regulation Pl Ige Summary | nysical | Global Climate Regulation Physi | ical Supply | | | | | |
| Years 2010 To 2019 | | | | | A | Cropland ~ | Urban industrial ecosystem 🧠 | Coastal saltmarsh reedbed ~ | Episodic arid floodplain - | Warm | te |
| A Charles and a | 0 | | | | Quantity at start of 2010 (tons C storage) | 4751311463.75 | 207568268.67 | 11797535.46 | 7252153.85 | 55669 | 61 |
| Study setup | U | | | | Quantity at start of 2019 (tons C storage) | 4852577800.95 | 228711028.87 | 13548829.58 | 10036262.45 | 55669 | 61 |
| Extent accounts | | | | | Net change | 101266337.20 | 21142760.20 | 1751294.12 | 2784108.60 | 0.00 | |
| Condition accounts | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ecosystem services accounts (physical) | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crop provisioning: ecosystem contribution | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crop provisioning: pollination contribution | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Global climate regulation: C storage | | | | | | | | | | | |

6. To review other sections of the documentation:



7. The report

| | c 🧉 |
|--|--|
| Introduction Ecosystem Extent Methods | Introduction |
| ← Carbon storage └── Vegetation storage └── Ecosystem Extent | Carbon models The ARES Ter 1 carbon models currently includer (1) global lookup tables for vegetation carbon storage from (jciter(RueschGlabs2008), (2) spatially exclicit robations to carbon storage data by ISRC. World Soil Information Intract/www.isric.org/explore/solaroid.l. |
| ✓ Results → Carbon | Global supply-demand ecosystem service models for ARIES |
| Ecosystem Extent Discussion Ecosystem Extent References cited Ruesch2008 | The baseline modeling of ecosystem services (ES) supply and demand is conducted in ARIES using a suite of logical statements that, and models that are used when not encough information is available to build more detailed, organice (for worder). The models built by ARIES using such attatements have, in general, similar resolution and conceptual detail as hore available in other ES assessment toolkits such as InVEST or ESTMAP. They can nu anywhere in the world with no user inord (using policit) data and parameters, while offering the option to essily custorizer models with context-specific data and parameters. This approach enables rapid ES quantification, as models are automatically adapted to the application context and run using the best available data for the context. The models use publicly available global-and continential-cale data as defaults. Advanced users can modify data input requirements, model parameters, or entire model structures to capitalize on high-resolution data and context-specific model formulations. |
| KeithEUA/2020 MoodyEUA/1994 UNE/A/2014 UN2017 UN205A/2021 SayneEUA/2020 | Disclaimer The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map and any map used in this application do not imply the expression of any optimon mataneous employed and the presentation of material on this map and any map used in this application do not imply the expression of any optimon mataneous employed and the Secretarias of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authornite, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. This application allows users to select different background as mags. The Clear Mag (https://www.un.org/seposatial/mapsground-veelewsiches) is the of on multiple seguages). The results of the selected ecosystem accounts presented in this report are based on the context as specified by the user. |
| Appendix | SEEA-EEA The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting - Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EEA) framework records how the extent, condition, and physical and monetary values of services provided by ecosystems of hanges over time in a given spatial region (UX e at 2014, UX 2017). SEEA- EEA addresses both bicits and abotic components of ecosystems and the value of the services they robucie in hybrical and monetary terms. |
| | The U.N., in collaboration with the AREE stam, has developed a toolbox to batter implement this accounting system globally. This sochor enables the biophysical modeling, mapping, and valuation for vorius accounts functing ecosystem extent, condition, physical and monetary suggly and use asset accounts, and carbon accounts. Accounts can be completed for any region on Earth using global data, with local data and parameters added to improve estimates for counties where local data are available. |

8. The tree menu on the left facilitates navigation. Each report includes:

- a. A general introduction to the model(s);
- Information on the SEEA framework or any other more general modeling frameworks (when part of a larger set of models);
- c. The methods applied;
- d. A summary of the main results;
- e. Caveats or other considerations in interpreting model results, as part of the discussion; and
- f. Reference(s) for data and method(s) used.

i. Tabular results

| Tabalal Tooalto | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | | | 0 |
| Global Climate Regulation Physical Supply Change Summary | Global Climate Regulation Physi | ical Supply | | | |
| | | Cropland - | Urban industrial ecosystem 🧠 | Coastal saltmarsh reedbed | Episodic arid floodpla |
| | Quantity at start of 2010 (tons C storage) | 4751311463.75 | 207568268.67 | 11797535.46 | 7252153.85 |
| | Quantity at start of 2019 (tons C storage) | 4852577800.95 | 228711028.87 | 13548829.58 | 10036262.45 |
| | Net change | 101266337.20 | 21142760.20 | 1751294.12 | 2784108.60 |
| | < | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

To ease the observation of the results:

- a. The first column is visible while scrolling to the right,
- b. Results can be sorted by the element in the first column, or by ascending and descending order of the result of any column,
- c. Text size can be adjusted using the buttons in the upper right (with yellow circles).

ii. Image(s) section

Figure(s) and (maps) generated during the computation are listed in this section and can be explored individually.

If results come from multi-year models, the maps are interactive and show changes over time.





Lists all the resources used in the computations, to provide full-transparency on the final output. Each of the data resource can be explored individually

- iv. Dataflow section: shows a list containing a visual summary of each model component and how these were combined to obtain the final results. In the next version of ARIES for SEEA, this section will also report the decisions taken by the system on:
 - a. Which combination of data and models was implemented,
 - b. Which data and model alternatives could have been used instead and,
 - c. The AI parameters used to support the choices made.
- 2. The third tab available once a model has run is the Dataflow view

This shows a diagram that visually summarize each model component and how those were combined to obtain the final result(s). Clicking on an individual rectangle provides details about the dataset, algorithm, etc. used at each step of the model.



Other ARIES features

While most of the functions needed to compile SEEA accounts are available through ARIES for SEEA interface, the normal functionalities of the ARIES Explorer remain available through the search bar. This sections shows how to query them.

1. Search the knowledge bar (1)

This box is used to call models, select your context, modify default settings, and show the help page.



- **a.** Query an observable from the space bar (A): Please note: unlike the search bar in the ARIES for SEEA application, the general ARIES Explorer search bar is **case-sensitive**.
 - i. Press the space bar on the empty box to receive suggestions.

| G s | Search knowledge | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|
| | Carbon storage | |
| Armi | Organic Carbon Mass The total amount of stored carbon originating from ecosystem processes. Includes organic matter in the soil, roots and aerial vegetation. | \oslash |
| Lemoiz | Vegetation Carbon Mass The total amount of stored carbon in vegetation, including roots and aerial parts. | \oslash |
| $\langle \langle \rangle$ | Pollination | |
| | Ret value of Pollination The net value of pollination, showing the balance between demand and actual provision in each point of the landscape. | \oslash |
| | Occurrence of Pollinator Insects The likelihood of finding pollinator insects in each point, composed of a wheather and a landscape component. | \oslash |
| Elexalde | Weather suitability for Pollinator Insects The weather-related component of the likelihood of finding pollinator insects in each point. | \oslash |
| | Q Landscape suitability for Pollinator Insects The landscape-related component of the likelihood of finding pollinator insects in each point. | \oslash |
| | Flood regulation | |
| | Proneness to flooding The flood hazard based on topographic wetness index, precipitation and temperature | \oslash |
| | Potential value of FloodRegulation | |

ii. Start with an **upper-case** letter to search for a **geographical context** (invalid if you have already set a context).



iii. Start with a lower-case letter to search for an observation (e.g., elevation),

| ģ | ele | > |
|--------|-----|---|
| - | E | Election |
| Armi | 0 | Elevation Geographical elevation above sea level, as described by a digital elevation model. |
| Lemoiz | ld | Electrical Resulting from the flow of electric charge (movement of electrons in one direction). |

Option (iii) enables users to compute a model available in the ARIES Explorer environment and appropriate for the SEEA framework, but which is not contained as an option in the application. This option can be used to explore a wide range of different models (termed *observables*), which can refer to model inputs or outputs.

b. Other settings/options/help (B)

| \triangleright | Context × | |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|
| [Sa | O Previous contexts > | 7 |
| 2000 | 🔀 Draw context | |
| A | Space & time: | |
| Tolos | 🔂 🆽 305 m 🕐 | ~ |
| 1 | 🔂 🕓 year 🖪 | |
| - | Options | |
| 5 | Interactive mode | |
| sasua | Settings | |
| 14 (14) 2011 | Remember location | 1 |
| s. | Remember docked status | |
| \searrow | Help | |
| Estell | G Show help | |
| \mathbf{i} | Version: 0.12.2/ Build 85 | |
| | | |

- 1. Reset a previously used context
- 2. Draw a new context (using your cursor)
- ii. Space and time:
 - 1. Adjust the spatial and/or temporal resolution of your analysis
- iii. Options
 - 1. Activate the interactive mode to add manually add input to the model (adjusting parameter values)
- iv. Settings
 - 1. Remember location (remember the last context selected)
- 2. Remember docked status v. Help
 - 1. Show the help tutorial
- d. New option to show the coordinates of your cursor (they change as you move it around)



2. Zoom (2)

Zoom in (by clicking on the) and out (). This can be useful when selecting your context using map boundaries (entire rectangle shown in the interface) or administrative regions or river basins, which change as a user zooms and pans the map.



3. Background map (3) Select the background map you prefer. By default, ARIES uses OpenStreetMap as it currently offers the best user experience even at higher resolutions.



The user can switch to other available background maps as desired.