

Experts further emphasize that while a statistic such as GDP does a good job of showing the value of goods and services exchanged in markets, it does not reflect the dependency of the economy on nature, nor its impacts on nature, such as the deterioration of air quality or the loss of a forest.

“In the past, we have always measured our progress in the form of goods and services that we produce and consume, and value in the marketplace,” says Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and UN Chief Economist Elliott Harris. “But we have never done that for nature. We’ve treated nature as if it were free and as if it were limitless. So, we have been degrading nature and using it up without really being aware of what we were doing and how much we were losing in the process.”

The new framework, he said, “will allow us to see how our economic activities may affect our ecosystems, how the presence of nature affects us, and how our activities could be changed to achieve prosperity without damaging or destroying nature in the process.”

More than half of global GDP depends on nature, but globally, it is estimated that natural

For further information, see

For the full report for consideration by the Commission: <https://bit.ly/2ZW6mFW>

Information on the new framework can be found at <https://seea.un.org/ecosystem-accounting>

Hashtag #MakeNatureCount

For more information, please contact:

Dan Shepard, UN Department of Global Communications, shepard@un.org, +1 646-675-3286

Helen Rosengren, Public Information Officer, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, rosengrenh@un.org, +1 2129639492