



Knowledge Exchange on Ecosystem Accounting

Presenter: Michael Vardon, ANU

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What is needed for the implementation of ecosystem accounting at a national level?



Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services
www.wavespartnership.org



Objectives of this session

Identify key strategic questions relating to the planning for the implementation of accounts

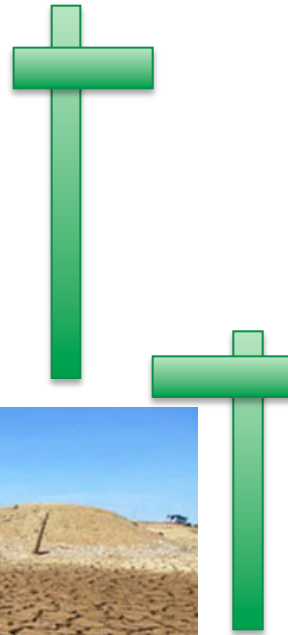
Provide an overview of the phases in implementing ecosystem accounting

Identify material to assist with implementation

Lesson learned from implementation of accounting in Australia

What are the issues of interest?

What are the accounts that could address these issues?



Key strategic questions for implementation

What issues of interest?

What are the accounts that could inform these issues?

What data are available?

Which accounts are most feasible to produce?

What is the relative priority of each account?

What are the resources available?

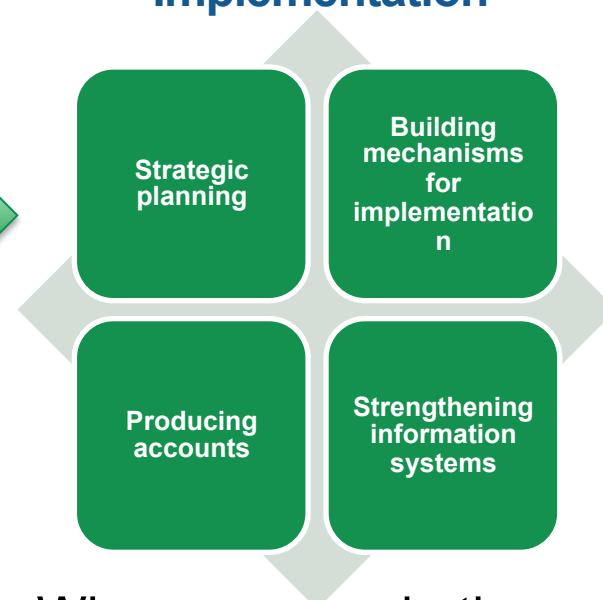
What enabling factors are needed?

Which questions can you answer?



Communication!

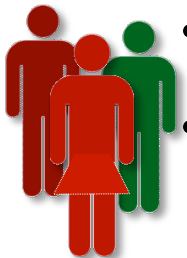
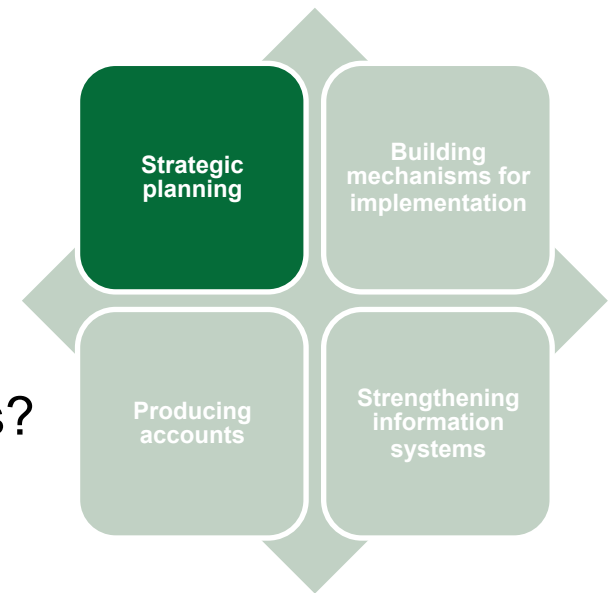
The four phases Implementation



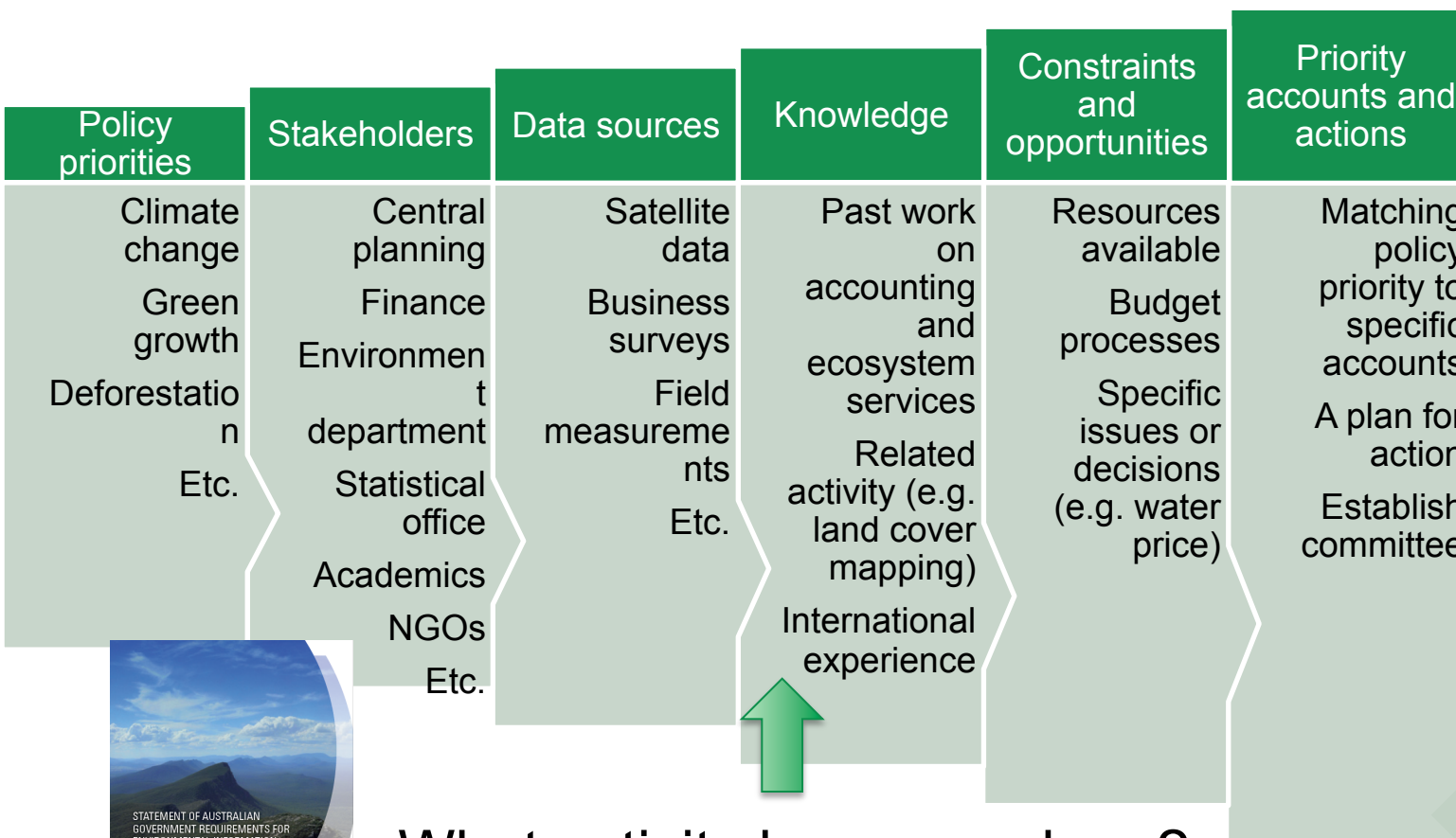
Where are you in these phases?

Strategic planning

- **Identify the people and agencies that could produce or use ecosystem accounts**
 - Who are interested?
 - Who are the most influential?
 - What are the barriers and opportunities?
- **Understand the institutional arrangements**
 - Who has responsibility or legal authority?
 - What are the decision-making bodies?
 - Is a new body for ecosystem accounting needed?
- **Review what has been done before**



Contents of the review



What activity have you done?



Building mechanisms for implementation

Need a senior committee to drive forward the development and use of accounts

- Can be existing or new committee

Lead and coordinate process

Engage with stakeholders and technical experts and financial partners



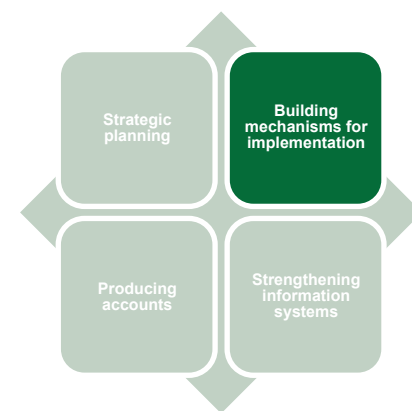
Develop implementation plan



Ensure there are resources for plan

Do you already have a committee?

Monitor progress and assist with overcoming obstacles



Producing accounts

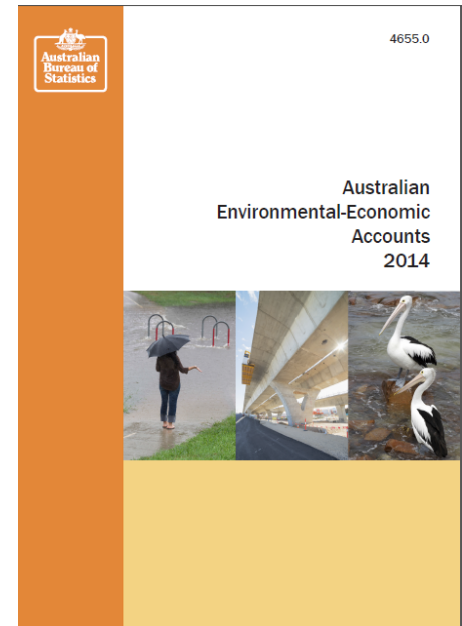
Build and maintain the capacity of teams

Develop detailed specifications for accounts

Establish mechanisms for data discovery, data exchange, data collection, etc.

Review data – harmonise concepts and classifications with SEEA

Establish or adapt existing information technology and dissemination mechanisms (e.g. the web)



Producing accounts

Main resource requirements

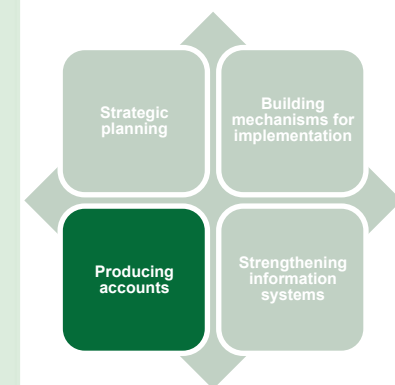
- Institution/Staff
- Training and resource materials
- Management overheads (e.g. recruitment)
- Communication with stakeholders
- Information technology
- Travel
- Office space and equipment
- Design of outputs
 - publications, web-based products, etc and their dissemination

Develop the detail of accounts

- Reference period(s) (e.g. 2012, 2013, 2014)
- Reference area(s) (e.g. national, provincial, specific areas)
- Level(s) of spatial resolution
- Frequency of production (e.g. annual, 3-yearly)
- Form of outputs
 - Paper based, web-based
 - Tables, maps, commentary and analysis

Data quality assessment framework

- Relevance
- Accuracy
- Timeliness
- Coherence
- Interpretability
- Accessibility



Strengthening information systems: on-going production

Better primary data



On-going mechanisms for strategic planning

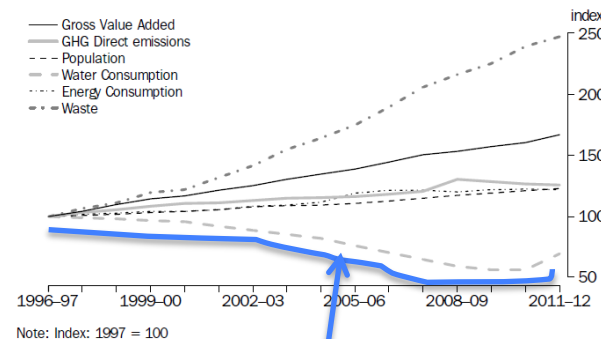


On-going resourcing for production and use

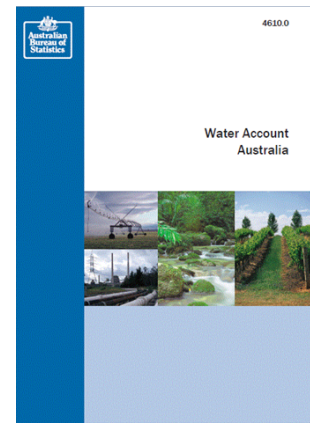


Accounts get better over time!

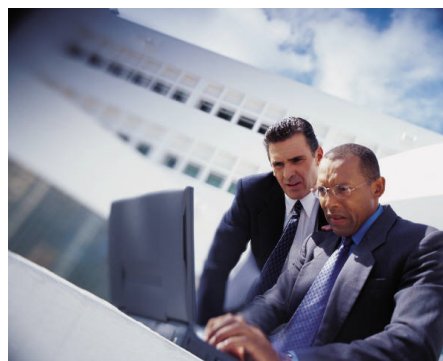
SELECTED SOCIOECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES, Australia, 1996-97 to 2011-12



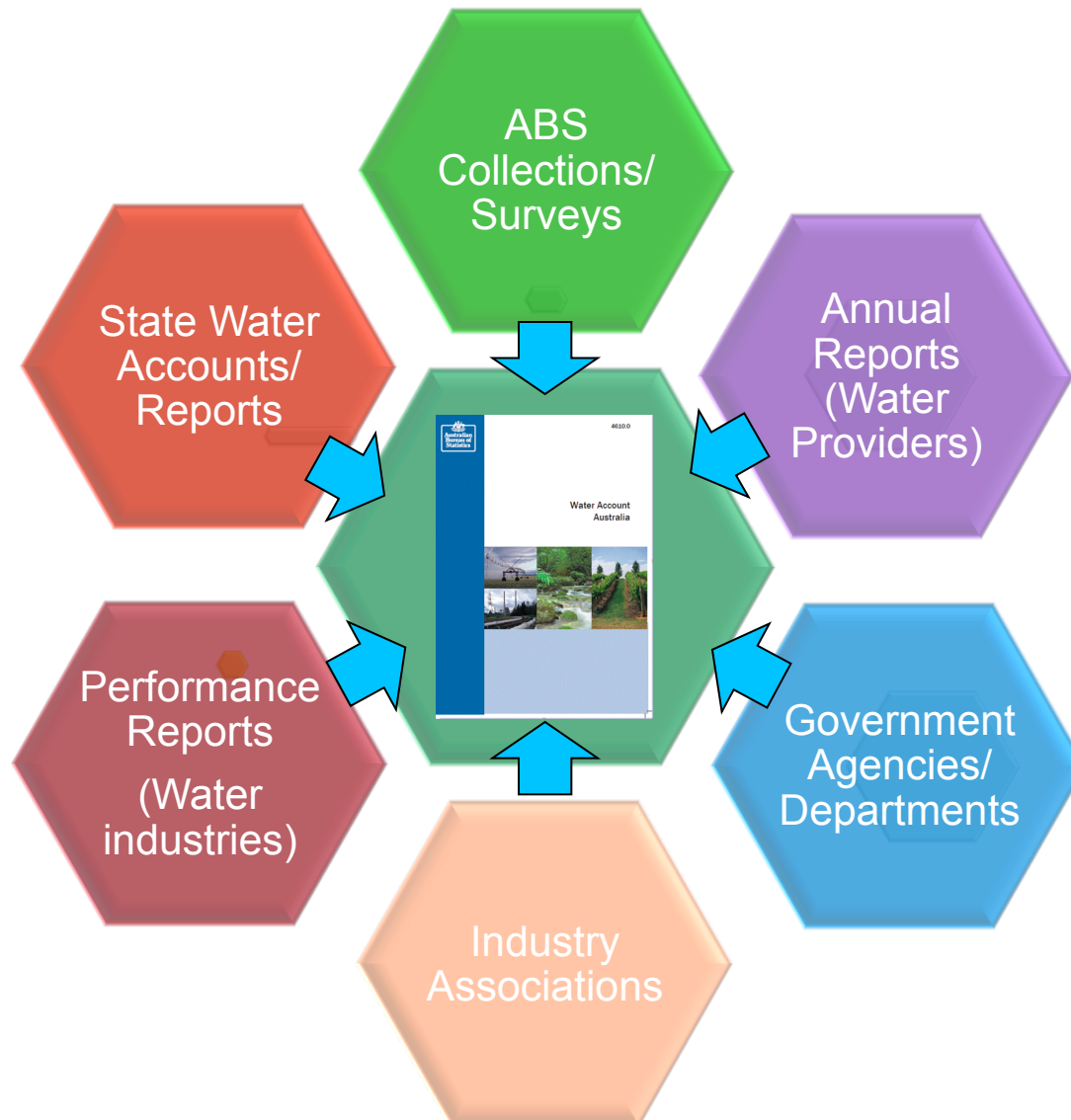
Water consumption



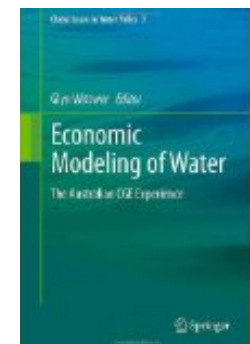
1992-93
1993-94
1994-95
1995-96
2000-01
2004-05
2008-09
2009-10
2010-11
2011-12
2012-13



On-going compilation and data sources



- Date sources change
- Processes improve
- Mistakes are identified and fixed
- Information is added
- Accounts get used



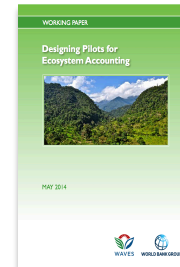
Materials for implementation



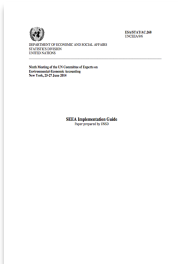
What materials do you know about?



Reference for concepts and general structure of tables for ecosystem accounting



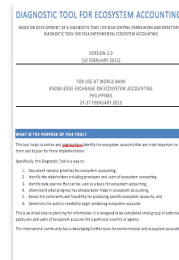
Designing pilot accounts – deciding what account and basic methods



SEEA Implementation Guide for Central Framework – sequence of implementation



General Statistics Business Processing Model (GSBPM)



Diagnostic tool for ecosystem accounting

Diagnostic Tool for Ecosystem Accounting

Environment and sustainable development issues

Policy priorities and options

Stakeholders (beneficiaries)

Data sources and knowledge

Constraints and opportunities

Key connections

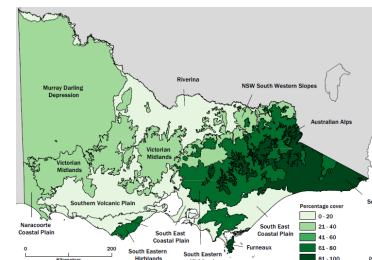
Matching policy to accounts

What should be done first?

Who will help or hinder?

What is known and what is needed?

Actions



We will use the Diagnostic Tool on Friday

Key lessons from Australia

Lessons from Australia for the implementation of environmental and ecosystem accounting

- **Need sustained high-level institutional support**
- **International engagement**
- **Strong partnerships**
- **Experimental accounts are useful**
- **Accounts get better overtime and usefulness is increased when repeated**
- **Communication is essential**

Communication is essential

- **Accounting is generally poorly understood**
- **Recognise different audiences**
 - Producers and users of accounts
 - General versus specific users of accounts
 - Scientists, economists, accountants, statisticians (especially understanding their world views and motivations for either wanting to produce or use accounts)
- **Communication needs to go beyond traditional tabular data presentations and extend into analysis (at least in the early phases of implementation)**



Exercise

Where does your country stand for the implementation of ecosystem accounting at a national level?

- A. Strategic planning
- B. Building mechanisms for implementation
- C. Producing accounts
- D. Strengthening information systems



A. B. C. D.
Implementation of ecosystem accounting February 2015

Exercise- Using Net-Mapping for Implementation

What is needed for the implementation of ecosystem accounting in your country?

Acknowledgements

A large number of people and agencies are contributing to the development and use of environmental and ecosystem accounting in Australia and internationally:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Bureau of Meteorology
- Department of Environment
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Victorian and Queensland Governments
- Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists and Catchment Management Authorities
- The Australian National University, Queensland University, University of Sydney
- International colleagues in countries and international organisations (e.g. World Bank, UNSD, UNEP, FAO, OECD, UNEP, EEA, CBD, Eurostat, DEFRA, ONS, CBS, Statistics Canada)



Session feedback

Please rate the session on a scale of 1 to 5

1. 1=Very poor,
2. 2 = Poor,
3. 3 = Average,
4. 4=Good,
5. 5=Very good

