



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

# Natural Capital Accounting – a global snapshot

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United Nations

# The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

The SEEA is the statistical framework to measure the environment and its interactions with economy.

- The **SEEA Central Framework** was adopted as an international statistical standard by the UN Statistical Commission in 2012.
- The **SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting** complements the Central Framework and represent international efforts toward coherent ecosystem accounting.
- **SEEA Applications and Extensions** helps compilers and users of SEEA accounts understand how the accounts can be used in decision making, policy review and formulation, analysis and research.



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# Governance - SEEA

# UNCEEA Work Programme

- The UNCEEA is the umbrella body for coordinating efforts in environmental-economic accounting
- A **Work Programme 2017-2020** was developed by the Bureau of the UNCEEA and takes a **5-pronged approach** to global implementation
- For each area of work, different **area leads** are responsible for; a) acting as a champion and providing leadership, b) developing more detailed work plans and strategies, and c) coordinating with other members of the UNCEEA

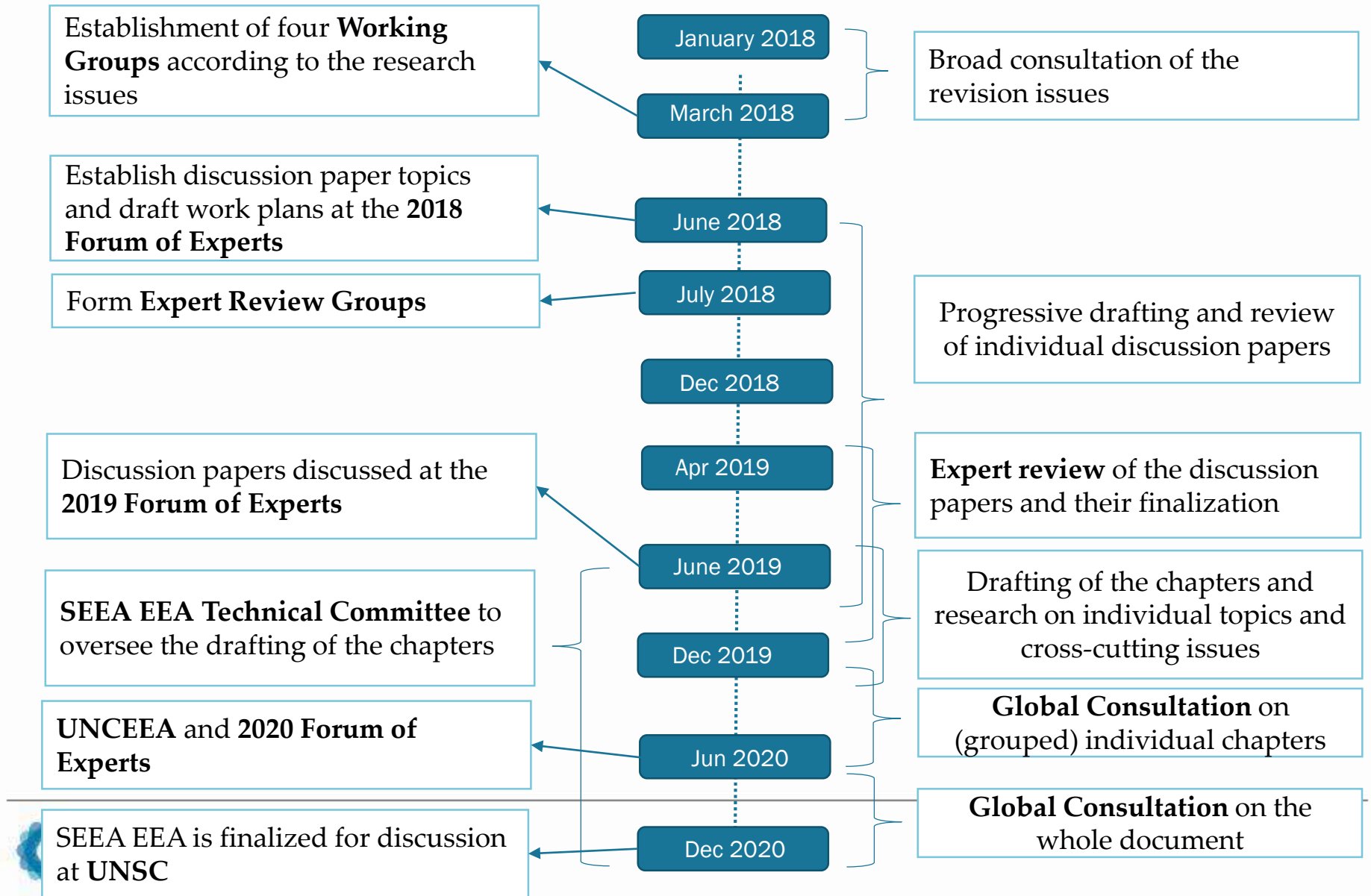


# Methodological developments

# Revision of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

- Launched in March 2018 with the aim to finish by the end of 2020
  - > For endorsement by UN Statistical Commission in March 2021
- Engagement with various stakeholders – wide engagement of various communities, including ecologists, environmental economists, earth observation, etc.
- Seek for broad involvement of partners and experts in the process – **in the first year over 80 experts contributed to drafting of the discussion papers**
- Ambition is to elevate it to an agreed methodological document – international statistical standard
- Process aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, review of SDG and climate change process

# Revision process: keystones & timeline



# Other methodological work

- Thematic accounts
  - > Accounting for biodiversity
  - > Ocean accounts
  - > Protected areas
- Ecosystem accounting manuals:
  - > Guidelines on biophysical modelling
  - > Guidelines on valuation of ecosystem services and ecosystem assets
  - > Guidelines on the use of ecosystem accounts in policy scenario analysis

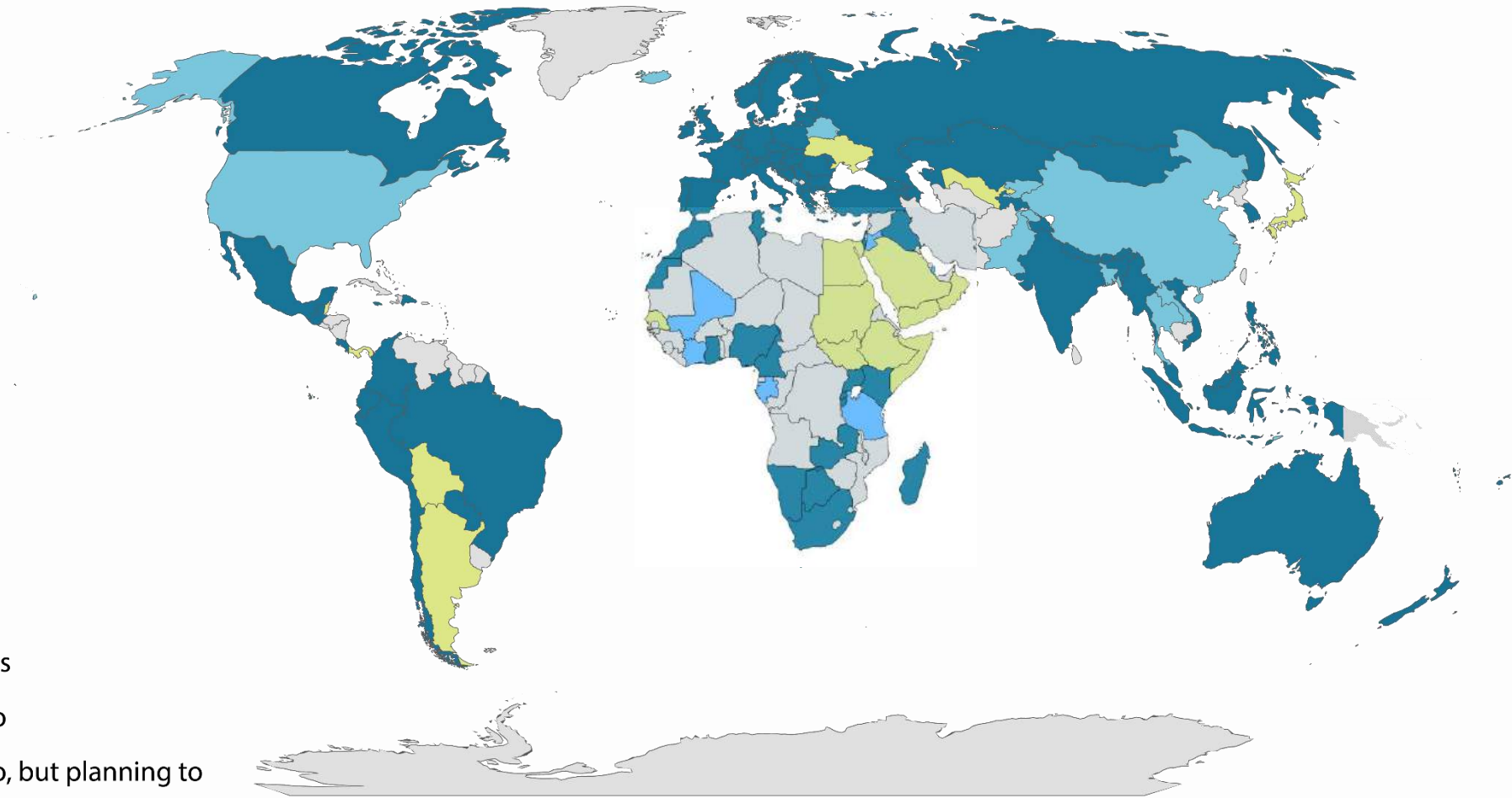


# Capacity building

# Implementation of the SEEA

- Implementation strategy (2013) objectives:
  - > Adopt the SEEA as the measurement framework for sustainable development
  - > Mainstream SEEA implementation in countries
    - **Target 100 countries by 2020** for implementation of SEEA Central Framework
    - **Target 50 countries by 2020** for implementation of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting
- **Establishment of SEEA focal points**
  - > To support data collection
  - > Provide coordination of SEEA-related statistical activities in the country
- Capacity building and technical assistance
  - > Setting up country programmes (National Plans)
- Training – online courses and workshops
  - > UNSD eLearning platform (<https://elearning-cms.unstats.un.org/>)

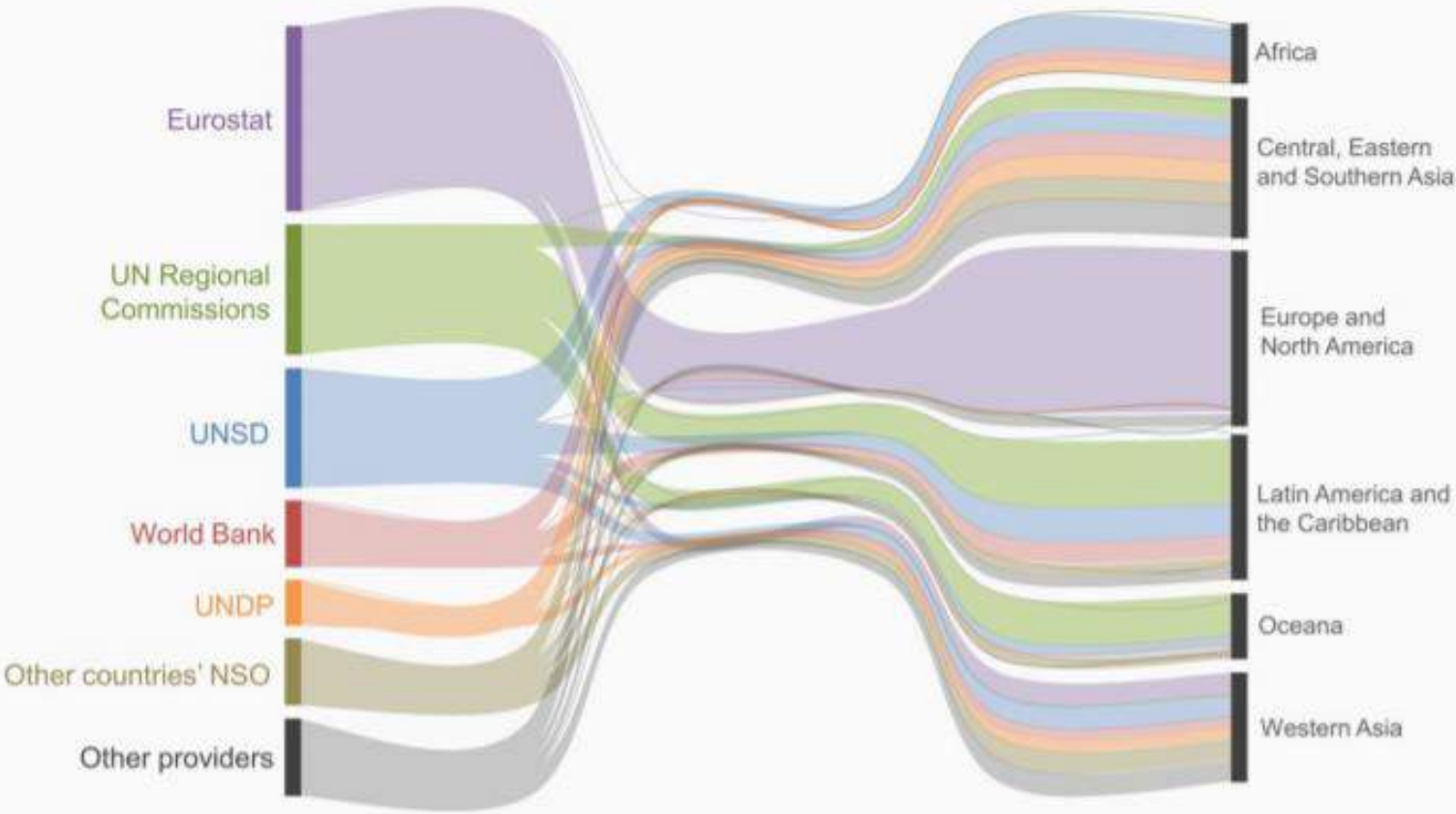
# SEEA Around the World



- Yes
- No
- No, but planning to
- No data

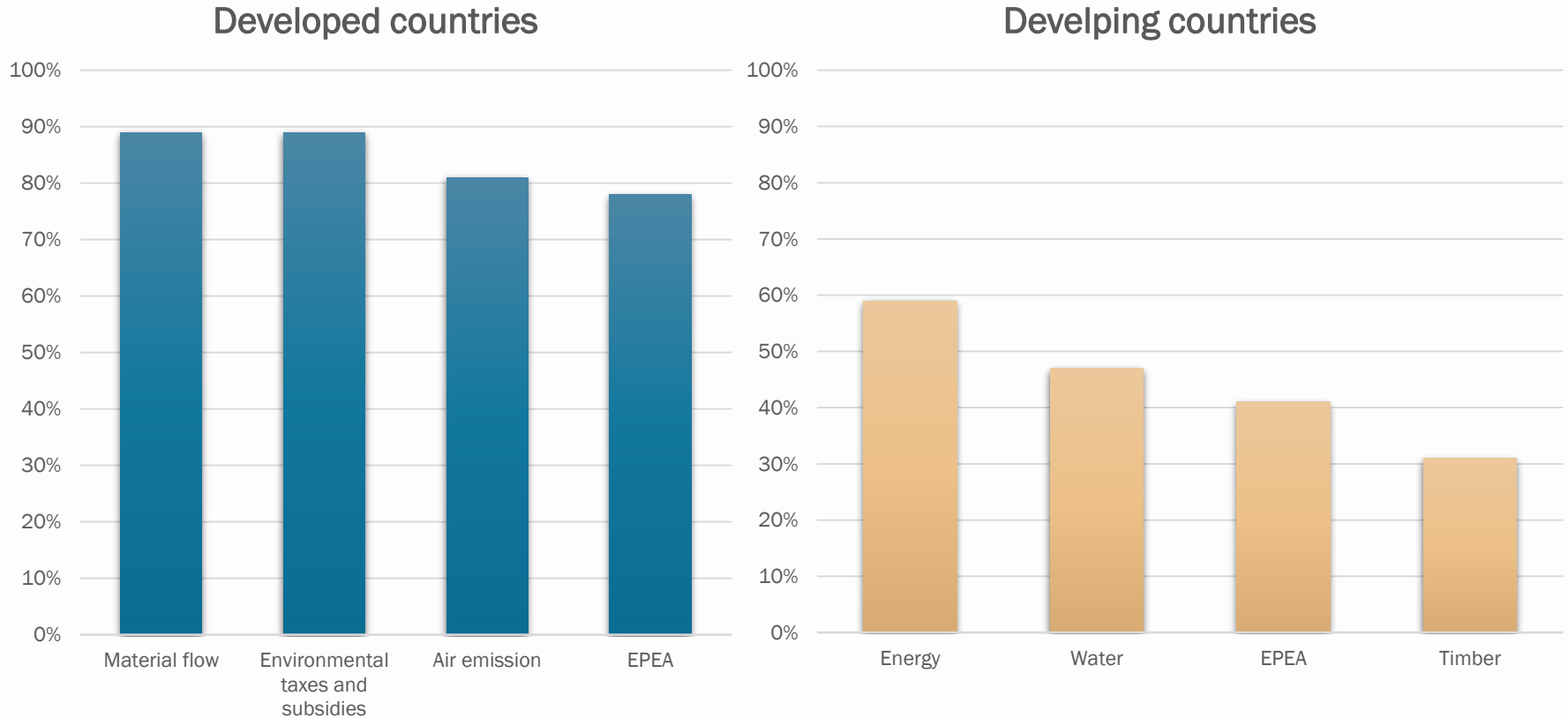
# Major project partners and technical assistance

Providers of technical assistance and receivers of technical assistance



*Other providers includes national development agencies, regional development agencies and other providers of technical assistance*

# Most common accounts compiled

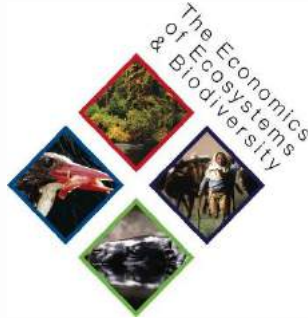


# Policy and communication

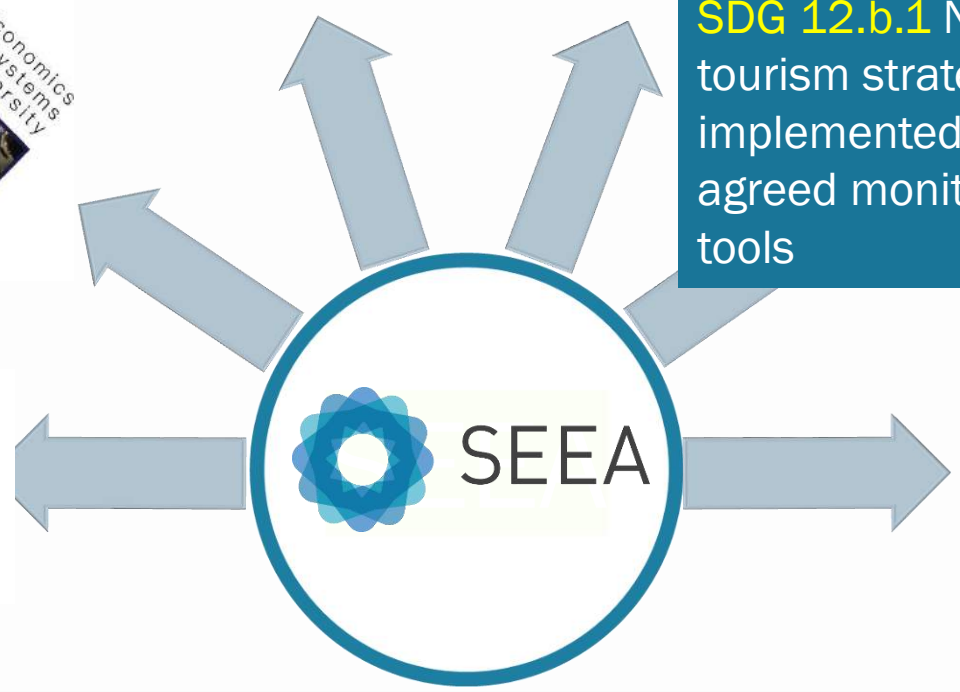
# SEEA as supporting framework



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change



**SGD15.9.1** Number of countries implementing the SEEA  
**SDG 12.b.1** Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools



# Events and engagement



# Events in 2020

- UN Statistical Commission (March 2020, New York)
- Yale Conference on NCA Communication (March 2020, Connecticut)
- UN Ocean Conference (June 2020, Lisbon)
- IUCN World Conservation Congress (June 2020, Marseille)
- Forum of Experts in SEEA EEA (July 2019, New York)
- 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Oct 2020, Kunming)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Better Policy (tbd)

# THANK YOU

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