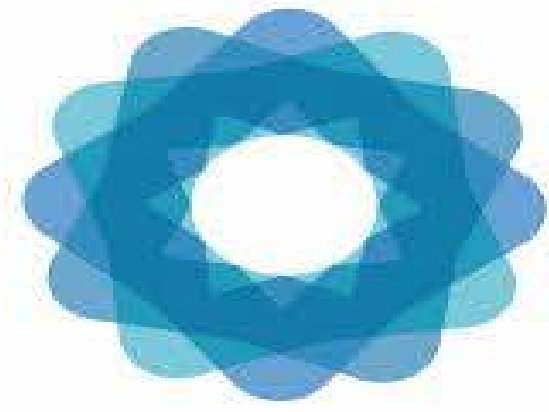


System of Environmental Economic Accounting



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

3rd FORUM ON NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING FOR BETTER POLICY

Setting the scene

Alessandra Alfieri

Chief, Environmental-Economic Accounts Section

United Nations Statistics Division



United Nations

What does the Statistical Community has to offer to the NCA discussion?

- United Nations Statistical Commission is the statistical standard setting intergovernmental process , part of ECOSOC
- The UN Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting has been mandated to mainstream the SEEA
- Five working groups

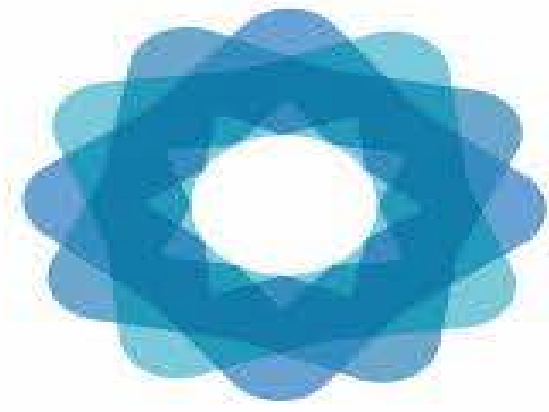
1. Coordination and promotion
(Statistics Canada)

2. Methodological development
(Statistics Netherlands & Eurostat)

3. Development of databases
(OECD)

4. Implementation and statistical capacity building
(Statistics South Africa)

5. Formulation of a statistical response to emerging policy issues
(Australia Bureau of Statistics & INEGI Mexico)



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Methodological development



United Nations

The System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)

Two standards, one approach:

- The **SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF)** was adopted as an international statistical standard by the UN Statistical Commission in 2012 to measure the environment and its relation with the economy
- The **SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA)** complements the Central Framework and represents international efforts toward coherent ecosystem accounting



Two Different Perspectives

SEEA Central Framework:

Individual environmental assets/ resources

- Timber
- Water
- Soil
- Fish



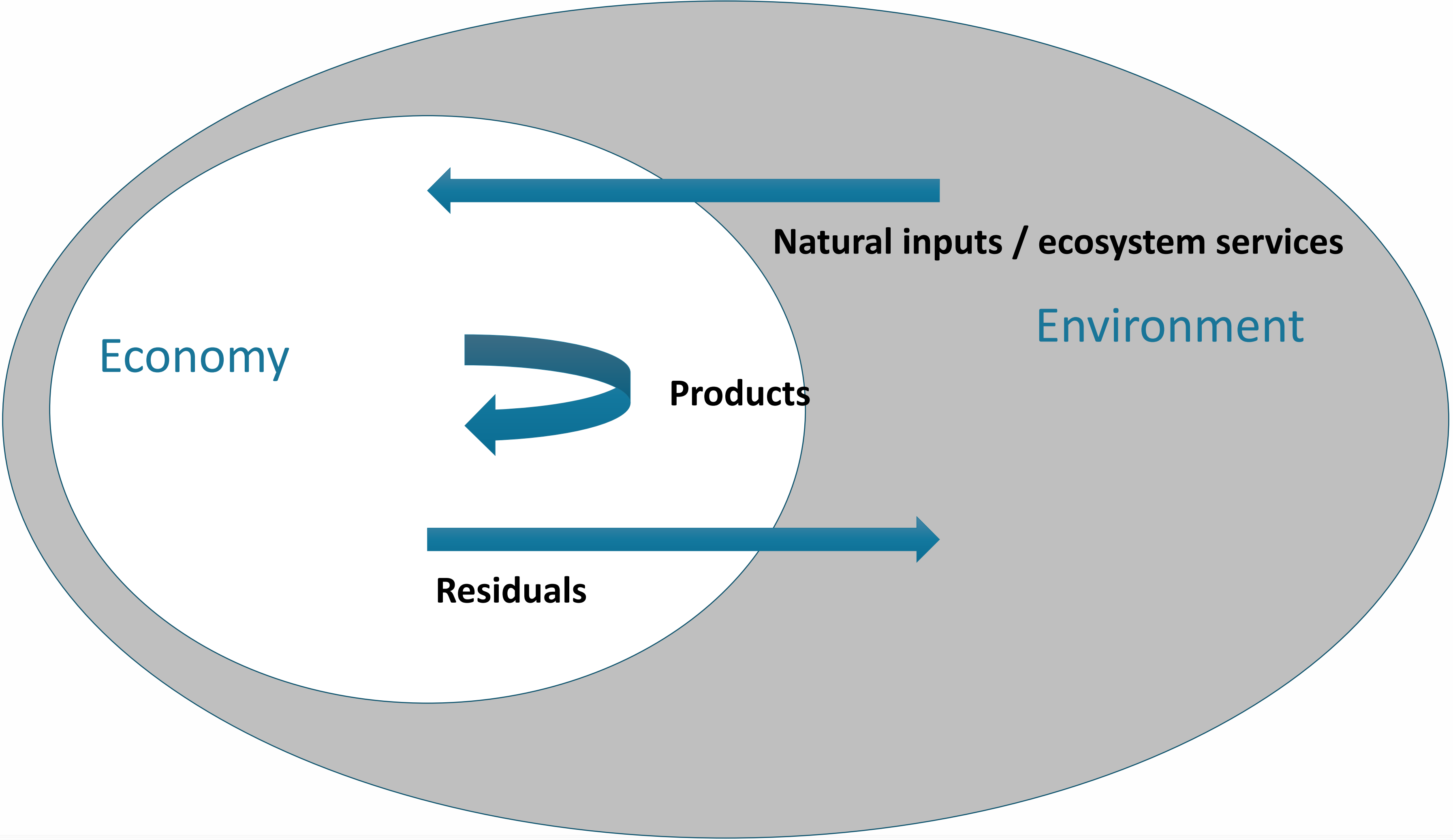
SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounts:

Ecosystem assets (spatially based)

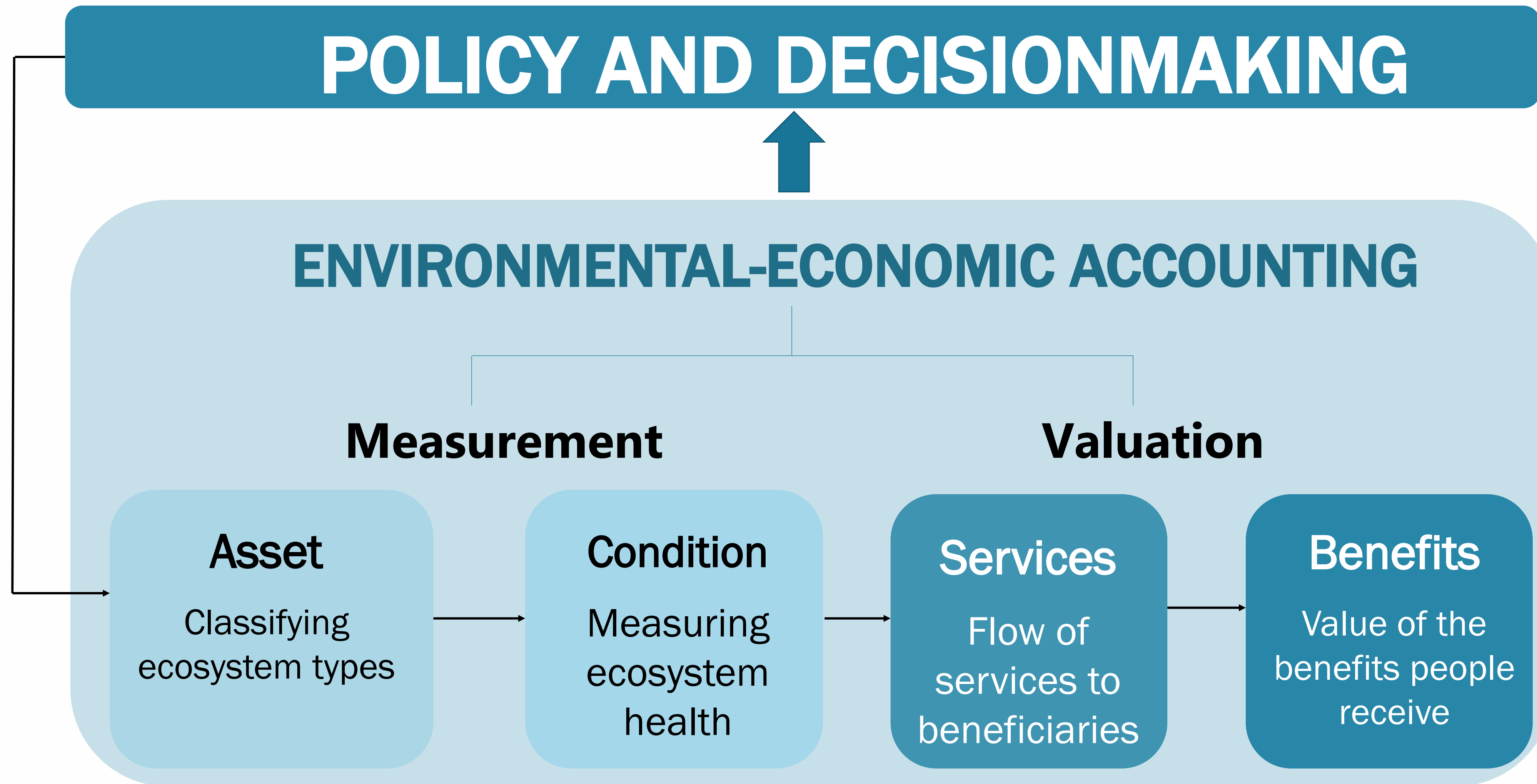
- Forests
- Lakes
- Agricultural areas

Ecosystem Assets are environmental assets viewed from a systems perspective

The Environment-Economy Nexus



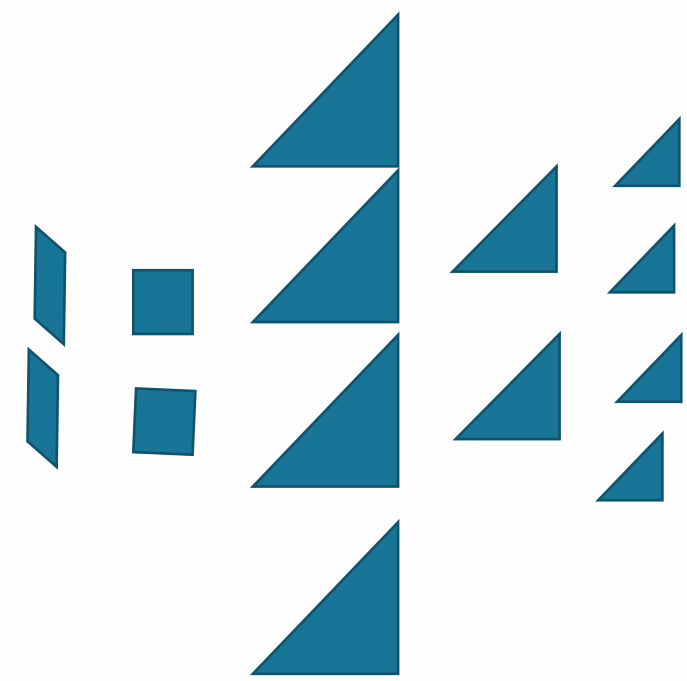
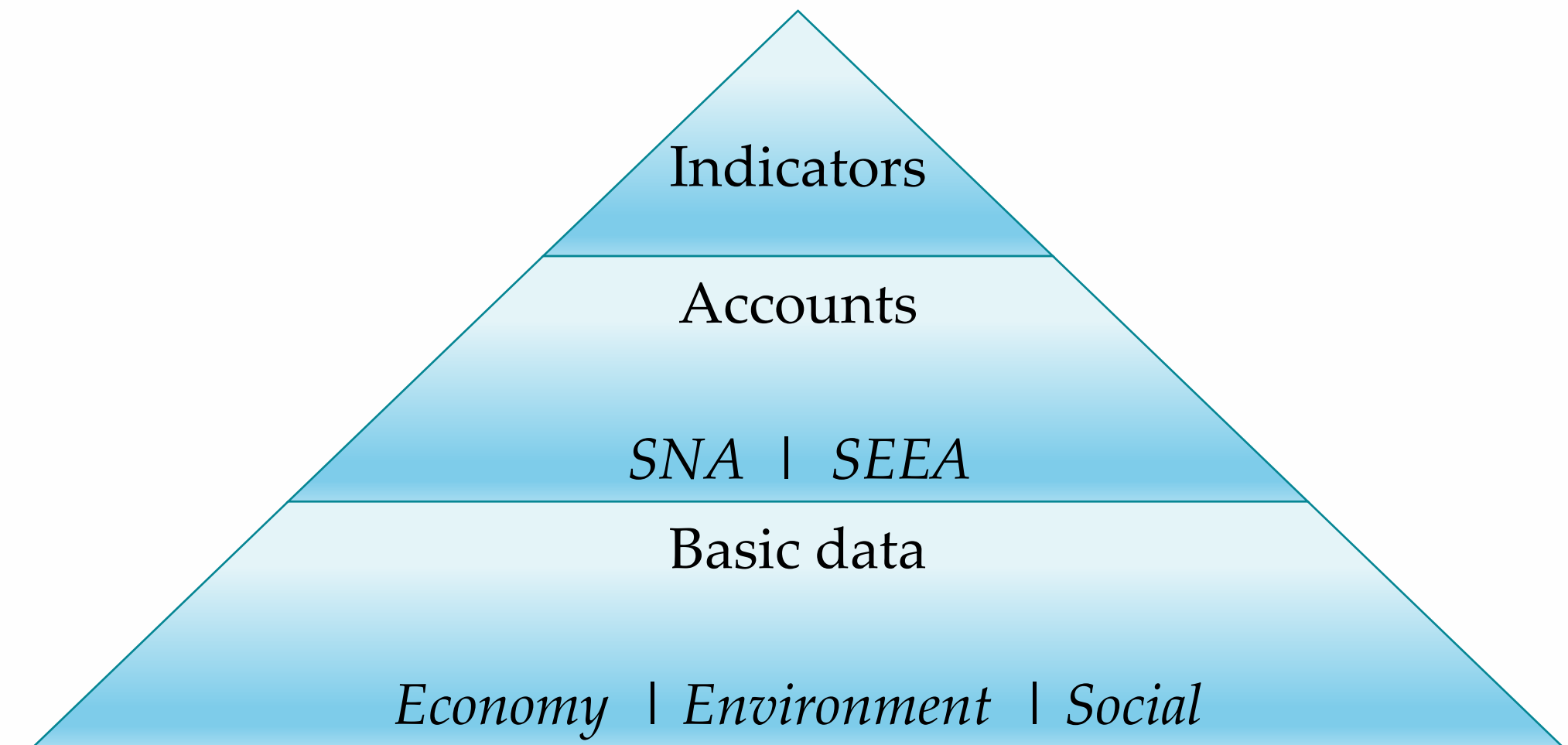
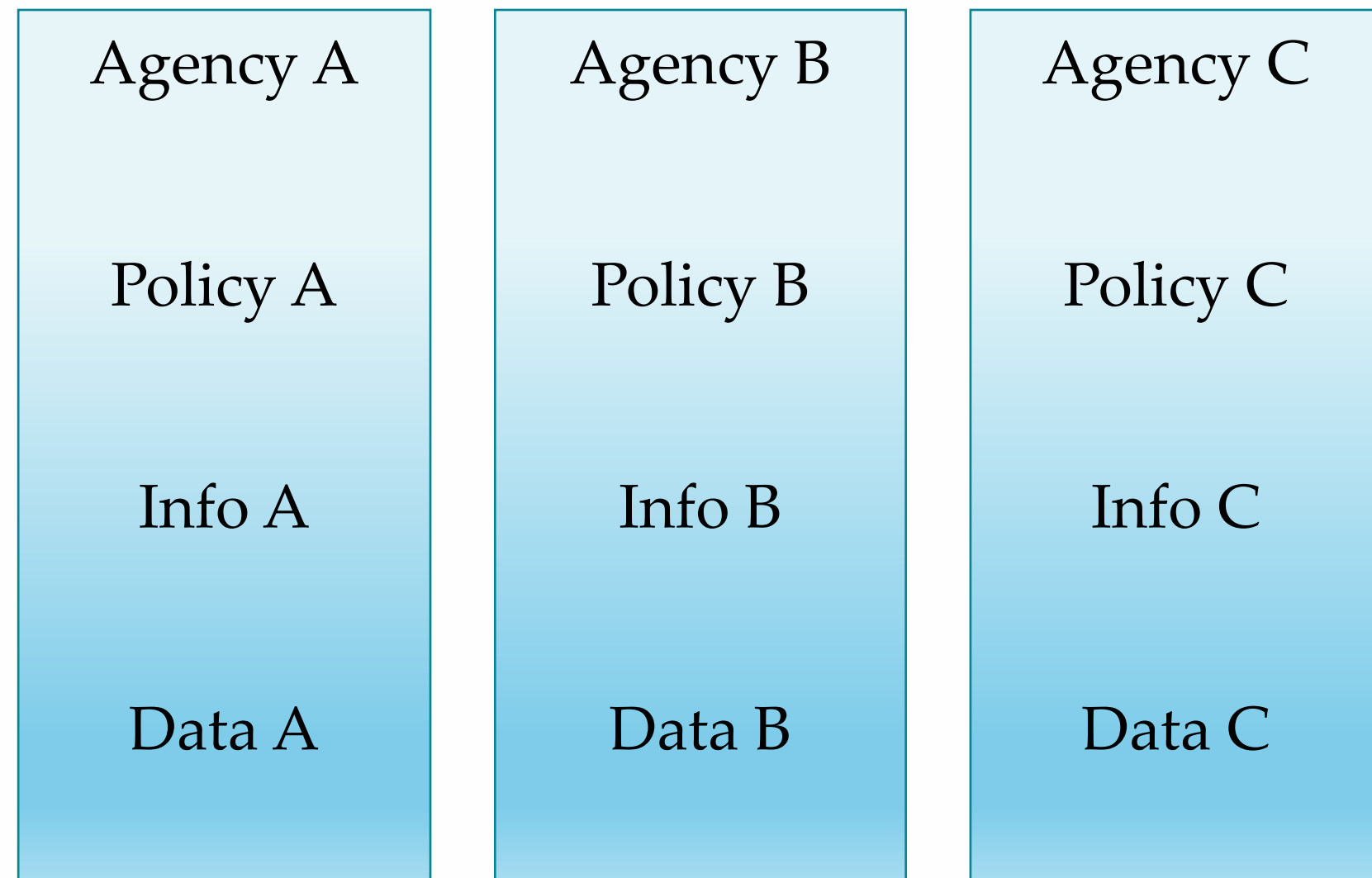
SEEA-Ecosystem Accounting



Revision of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

- Elevation to an agreed methodological document
- Engagement with various stakeholders
- Obtaining buy-in
- Timeline by end of 2020 – endorsement by UN Statistical Commission by March 2021
- Process aligned with the Post-2020 biodiversity framework, review of SDG and Climate change process

SEEA: From Silo approach to Integration

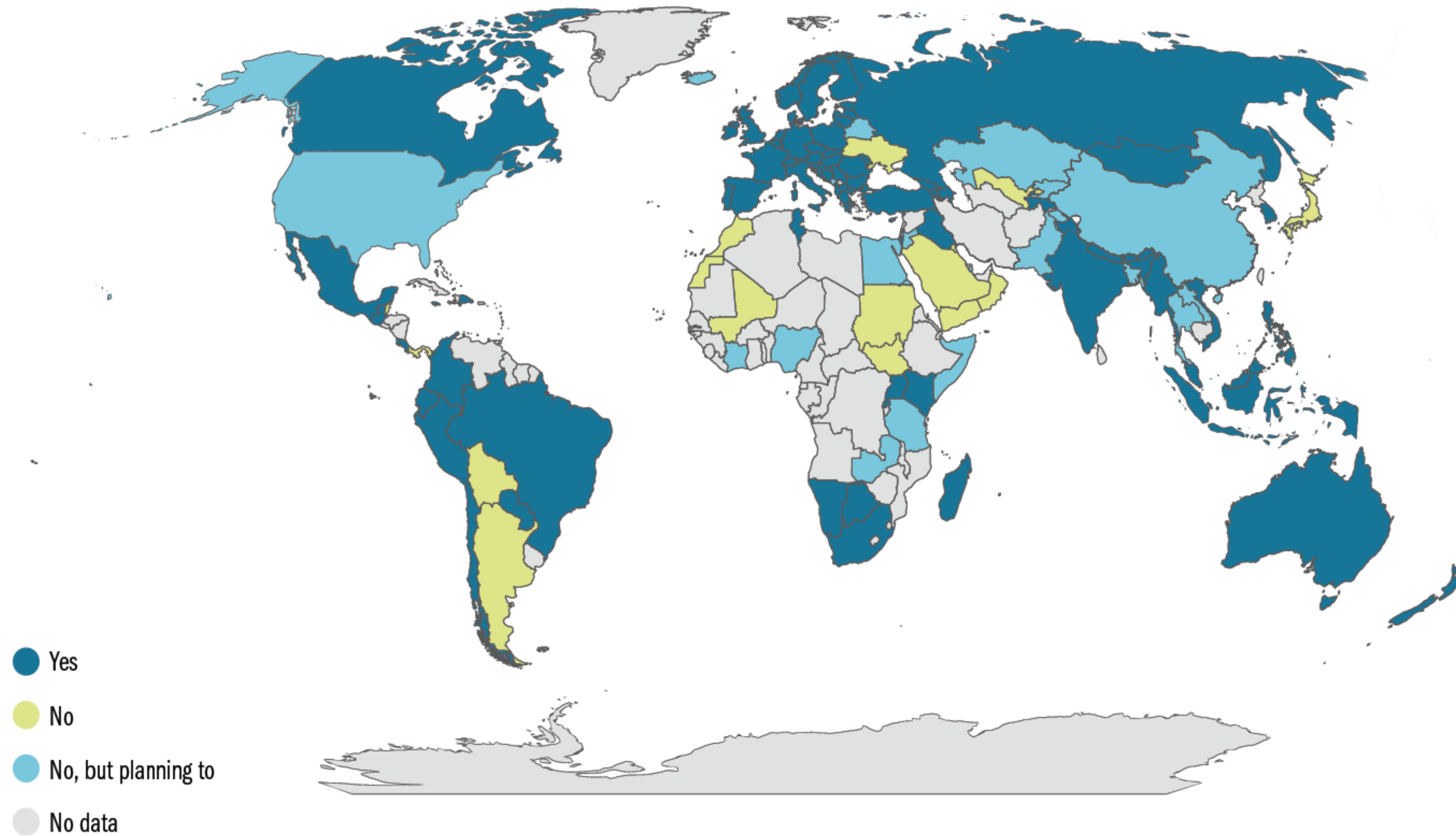


Implementation of SEEA

- National Statistical Offices
 - > Credibility
 - > Reliability
 - > Replicability
 - > Mainstreamed in statistical production process
 - > Arms length from policy
- MoE, line ministries, think tanks
 - > Science
 - > Data production
- Ministry of planning and finance
- Promotes inter-institutional mechanisms

Inter-
institutional
collaboration

SEEA Around the World



What do we expect from the Forum?

- NCA enables the transformative agenda that is needed to mainstream natural capital in decision making
- How can we mobilize the communities represented to develop a coherent message to make the case for NCA?
- What is missing?
 - Do we need a systematic analysis on potential of NCA policy applications?
 - Do we need capacity building on how to use the accounts?

THANK YOU

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