

SEEA Ecosystem Accounting: Implementation Strategy & Research Agenda

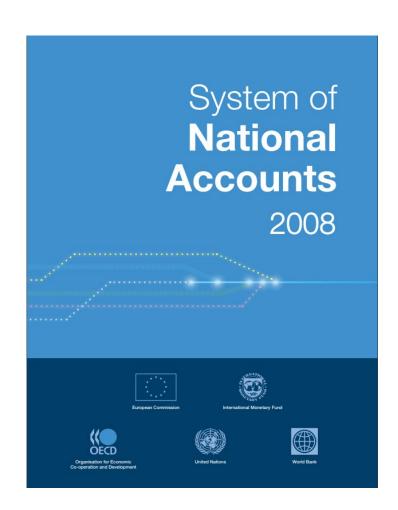
Alessandra Alfieri

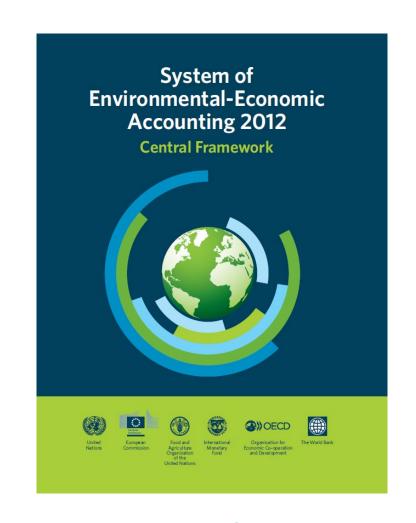
Chief, Environmental-Economic Accounts Section

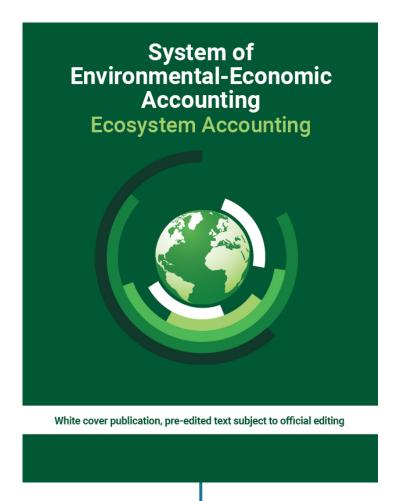
United Nations Statistics Division

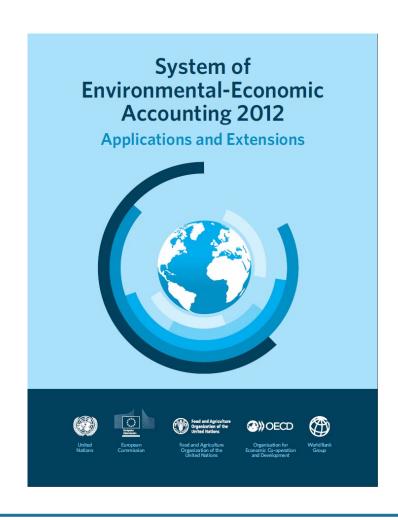


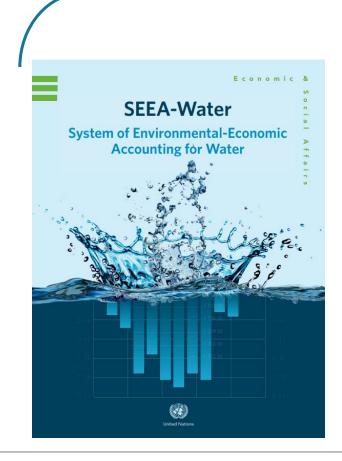
SNA and SEEA - statistical standards

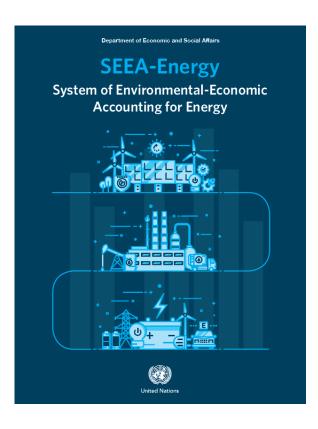


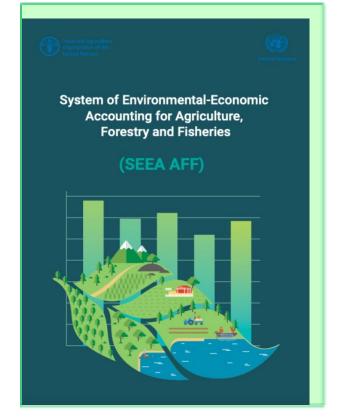






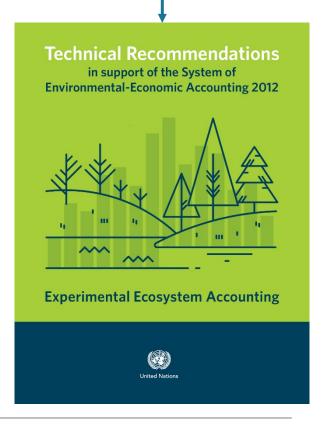






Measuring
Sustainability
of Tourism

Ocean Accounts **Biodiversity Accounts**



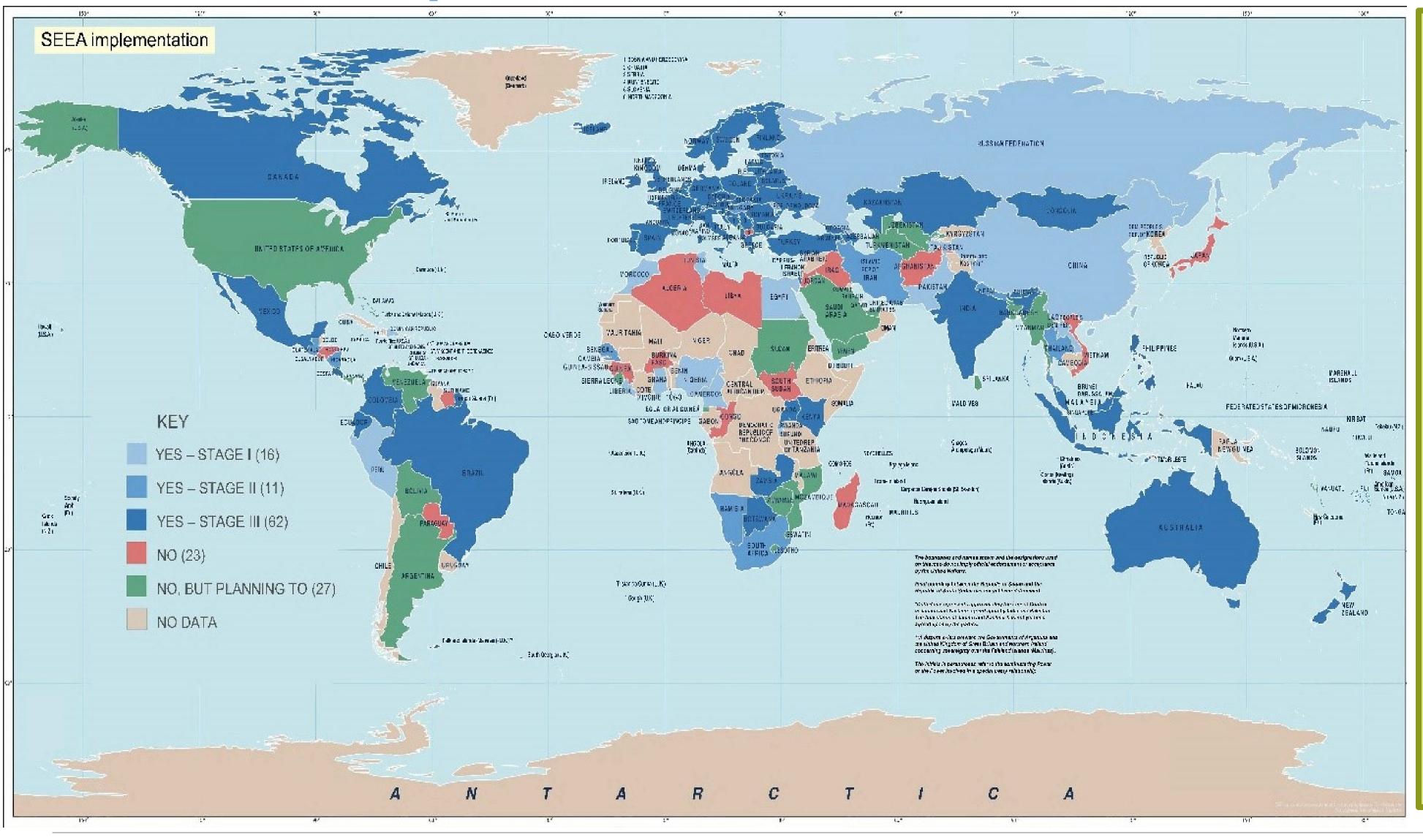


Adoption of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting

- In March 2021, the UN Statistical Commission **adopted** the revised System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) as:
 - > the first **international statistical standard** to measure ecosystems, their condition and services (chapters 1-7 physical accounts)
 - > as internationally recognized statistical principles and recommendations on monetary accounts and valuation of ecosystem services and assets (chapters 8-11 on monetary valuation)
- The UNSC also encouraged countries to implement the SEEA EA depending on their priorities and asked for an implementation strategy and methodological and implementation guidelines to help countries



SEEA implementation

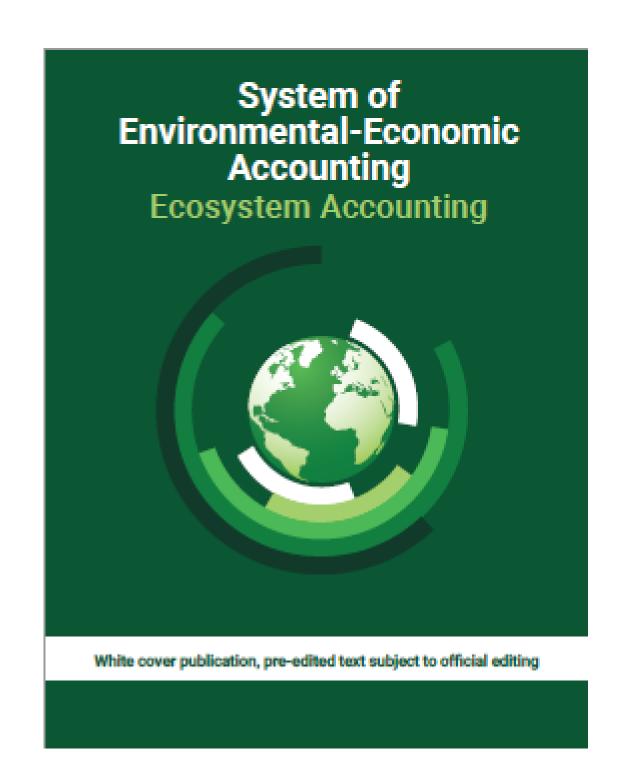


- 2020 Global Assessment for Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics
- > 89 countries implementing the SEEA Central Framework
- > 34 countries compiling SEEA Ecosystem Accounts
- > 27 countries planning to start implementation of the SEEA



Next steps

- 'White cover' version is currently being finalised, it will be released in September 2021, formal UN edited version probably early 2022
- Further work at the global level will focus on implementation
 - > Implementation strategy
 - > Interoperability strategy (better (access to) data/models)
 - > Advancing the research agenda
- Continuing work to support compilation:
 - > Guidelines for Biophysical Modelling
 - > Guidelines for valuation of ecosystem services and assets
 - > Guidelines for scenario analysis
 - > ARIES for SEEA explorer a tool to support the compilation of ecosystem accounts
- Training programmes and E-learning





Implementation strategy: Approach and main principles

Multi-stakeholder engagement

Flexible and modular approach

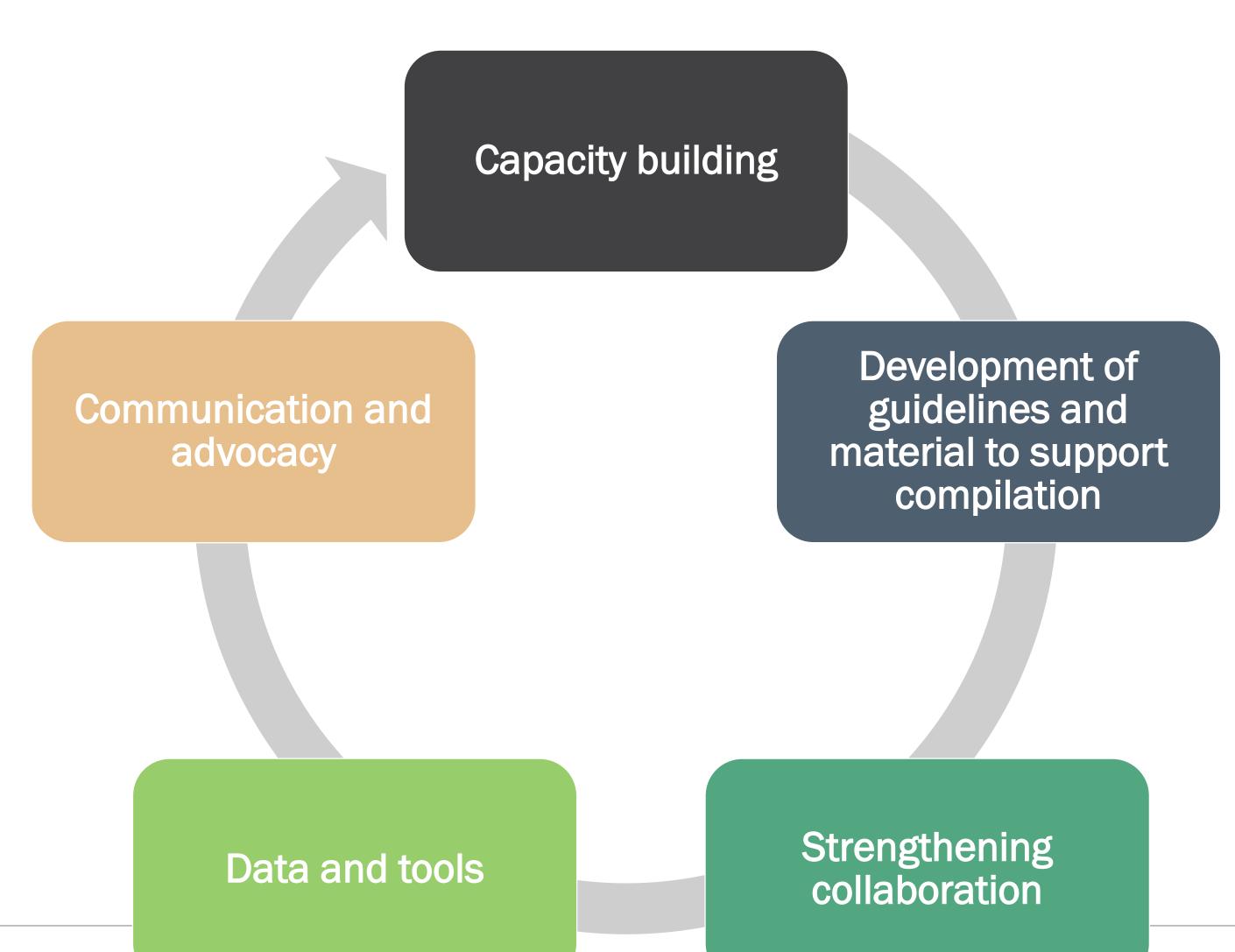
Tiered implementation

(Sub)regional approach

South-south cooperation



Implementation strategy: Activities





Implementation strategy: Governance mechanism

UNCEEA

UNCEEA Bureau

Area A:
Cooperation and communication

Area B: Methodological development Area C: Data Area D: Capacity building

Strengthening collaboration

Identifying entry points for NCA:

- -circular
- economy -biodiversity

-climate change

Classifications ISIC/CPC

SNA update

Physical accounts/Bio physical modelling

Valuation treatment and integration into the accounts

Data dissemination

Data interoperability / ARIES for SEEA

Global assessment

Capacity building

Working
Group on
indicators

Thematic areas:

- Accounting for biodiversity
- SEEA Ocean
- Urban Accounts

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Some thoughts

- Strong demand for integrated data
- NCA catalysts for change
 - Provides a common language between decision makers and stakeholders from different background
 - Integrates data from different sources breaking the sylo
 - Encourages institutions to work together
- Urgent need to strengthen national statistical systems to support evidence base decision making
- Learn by doing, start small and expand progressively, rely on expertise from other community, use non-conventional sources, keep stakeholders engaged, release experimental results
- NOW IS THE TIME!



THANK YOU

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