

System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

SEEA EEA REVISION PROCESS

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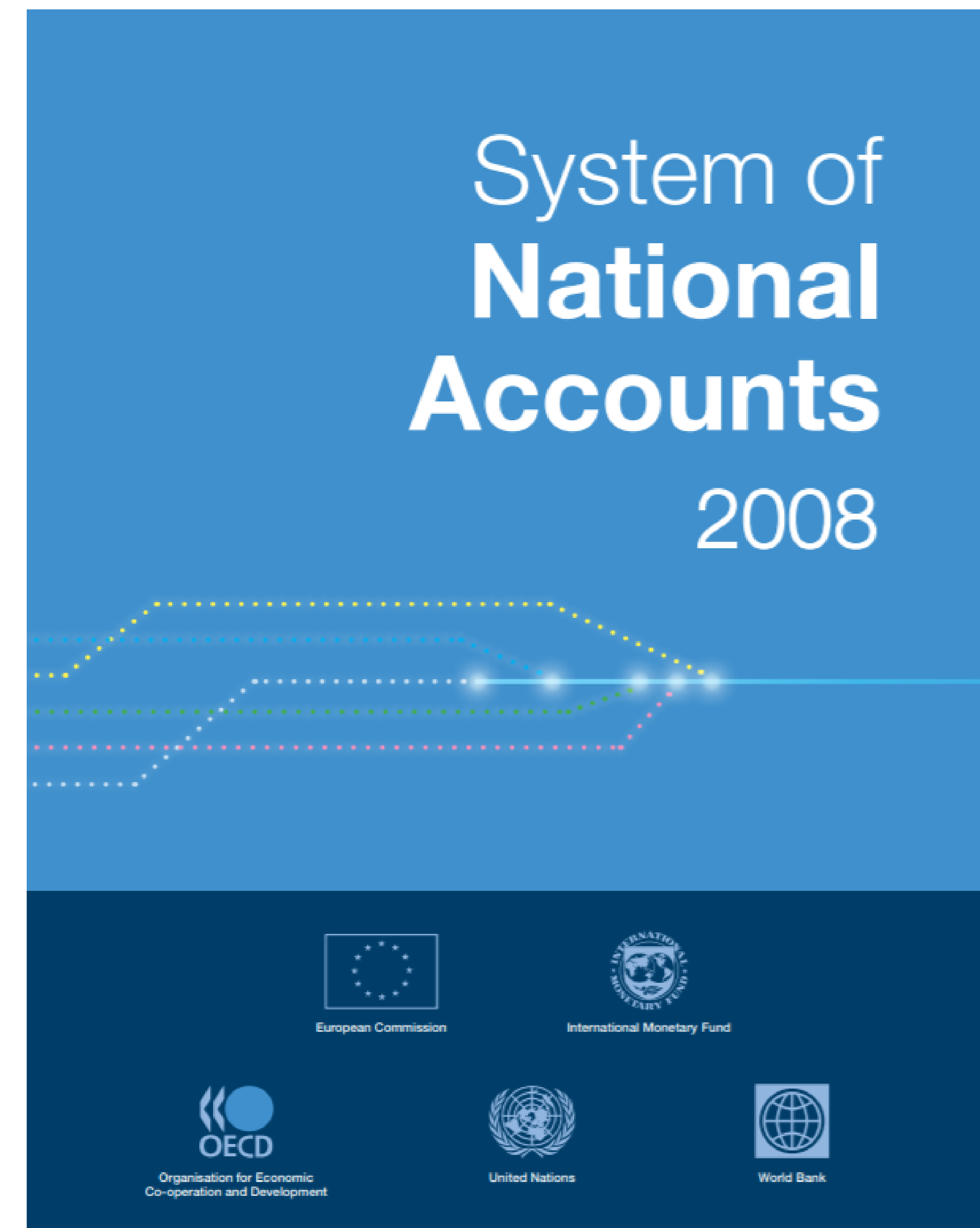
United Nations Statistics Division



United Nations

National Accounts

- The United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) formalised in 1950s
 - Most recent version SNA 2008
 - Updates in 1953, 1968, 1993, 2008
- SNA accounts contain vital information economic activity and are one of the key building blocks of the macroeconomic statistics that form the basis for economic analysis and policy formulation.
- **But ...**



Limitations of Traditional Accounts

The SNA and headline indicators like GDP, the unemployment rate and inflation do not capture the economic contributions of nature.

As a result, decision-makers don't have access to key information necessary to effectively pursue and track sustainable development.

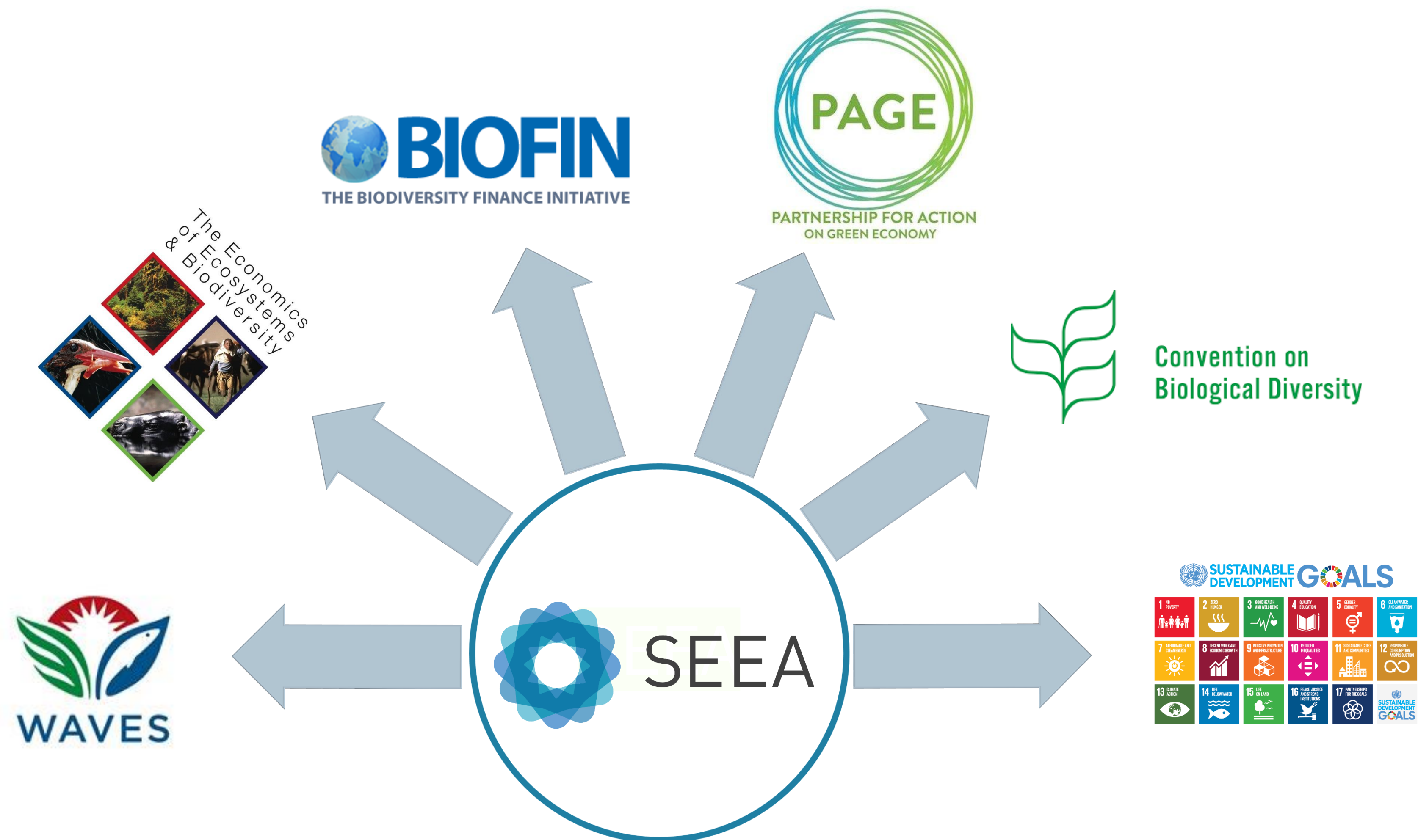
For example, traditional accounts don't help us understand how the depletion of natural resources affects measures of the real wealth of a nation.



Why use an accounting framework for the environment?

- Organizes environmental and economic information together in a consistent way
- Allows for environmental data to be connected with existing System of National Accounts measures
- Provides:
 - International comparability
 - Broad credibility
 - Replicability
- *Transforms data into information*

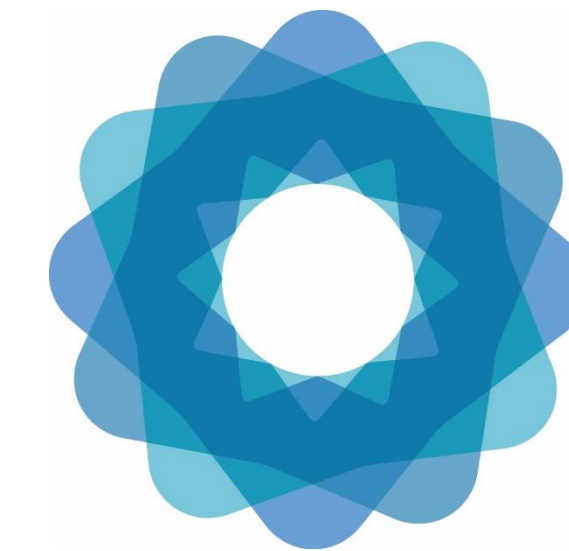
SEEA as supporting framework



The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

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

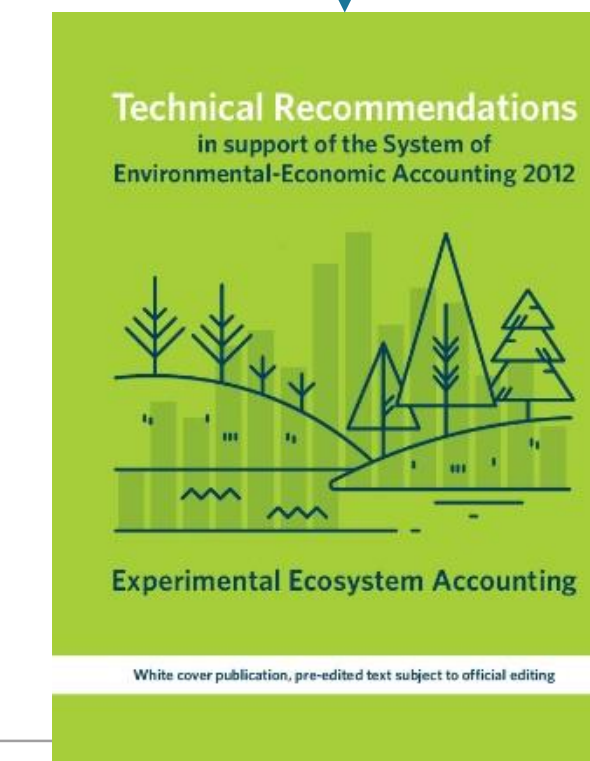
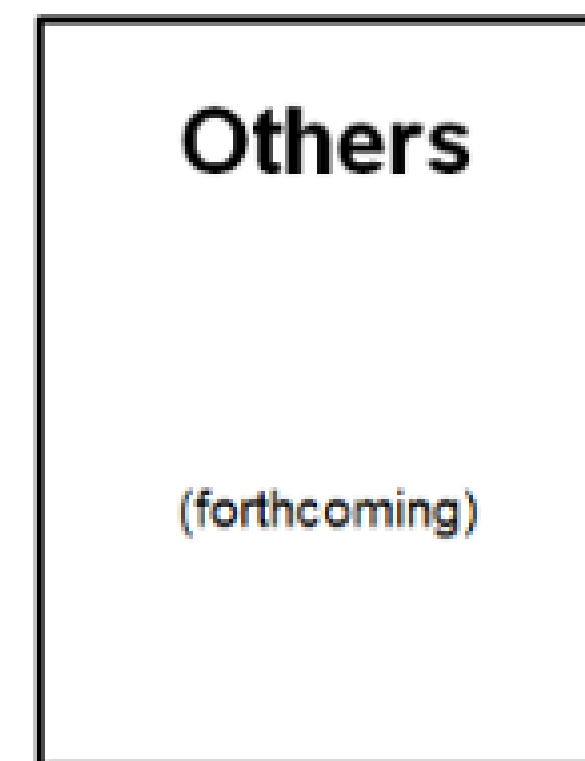
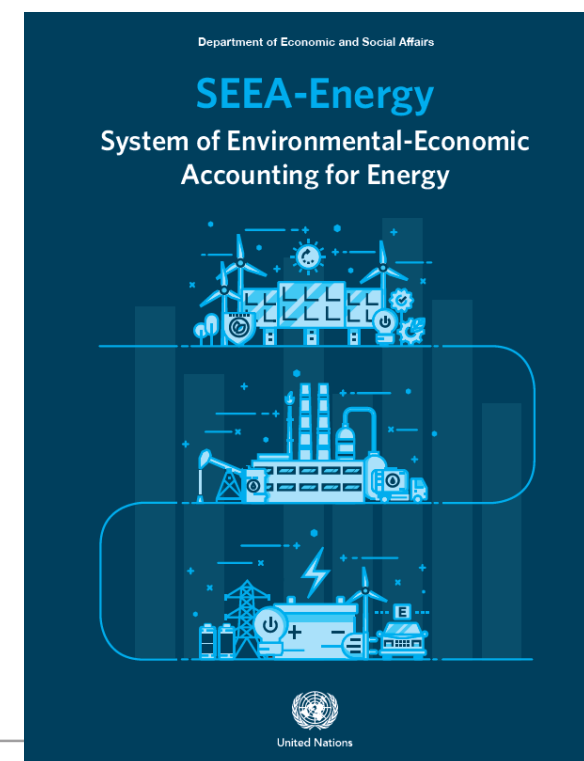
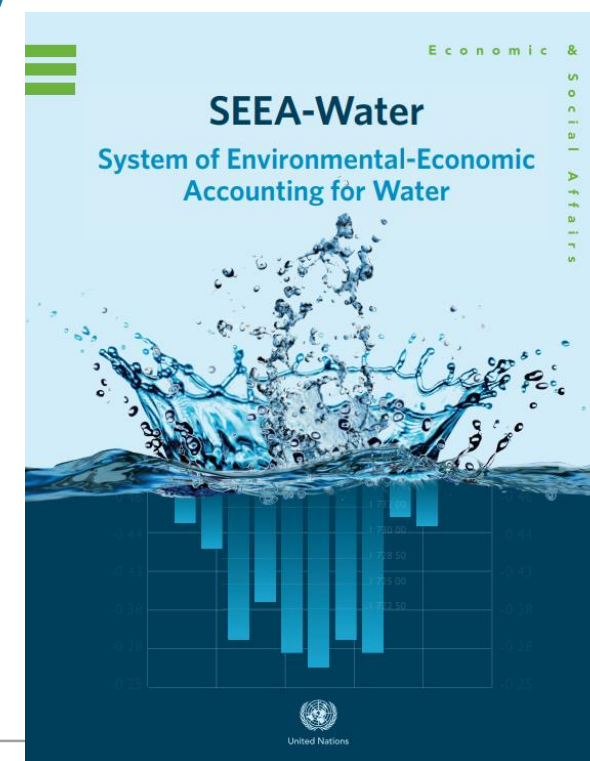
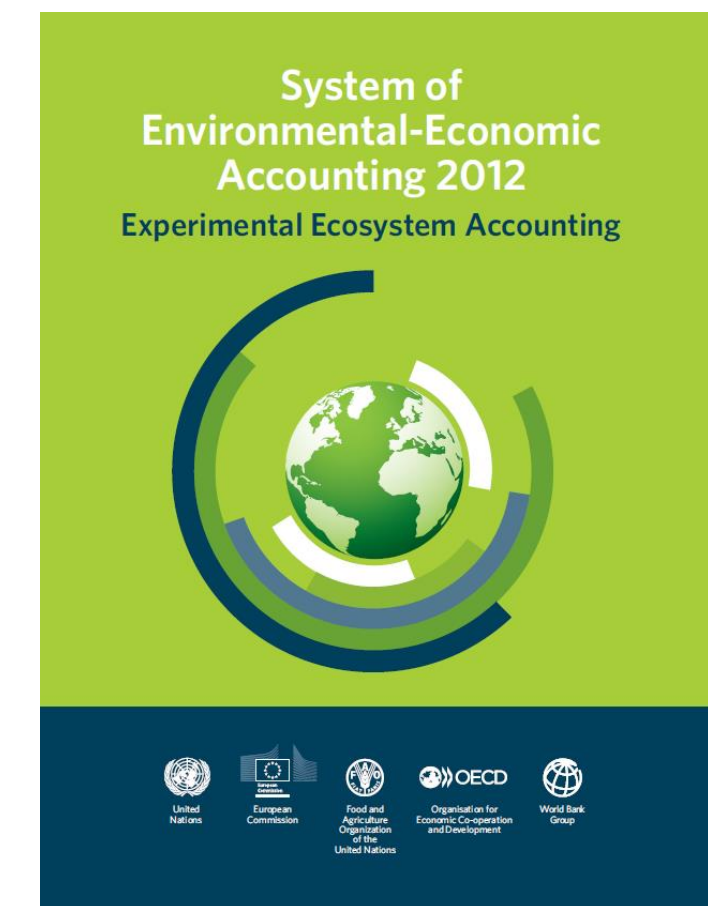
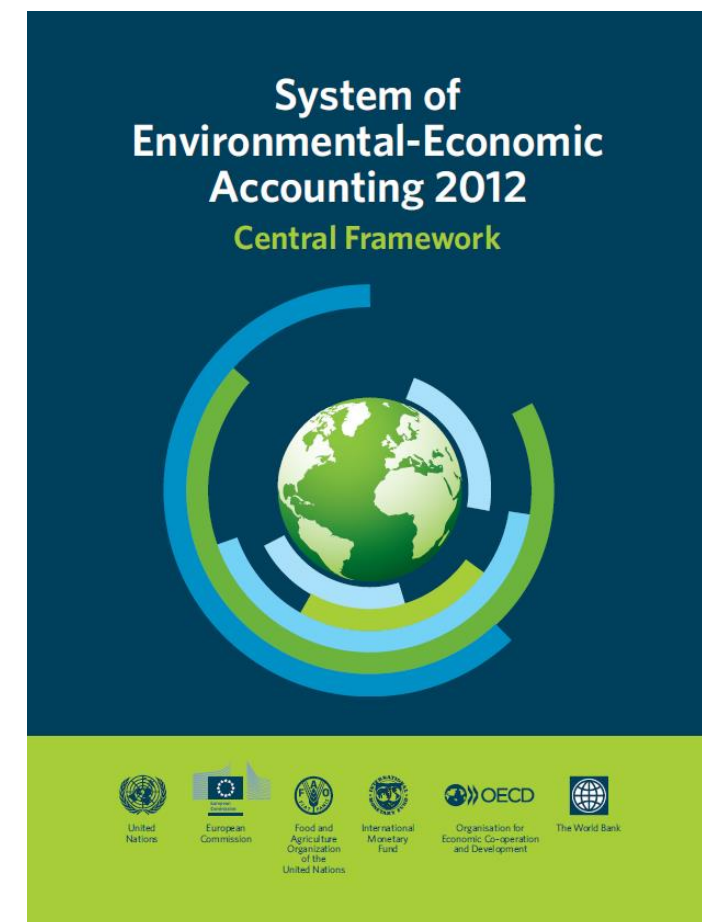
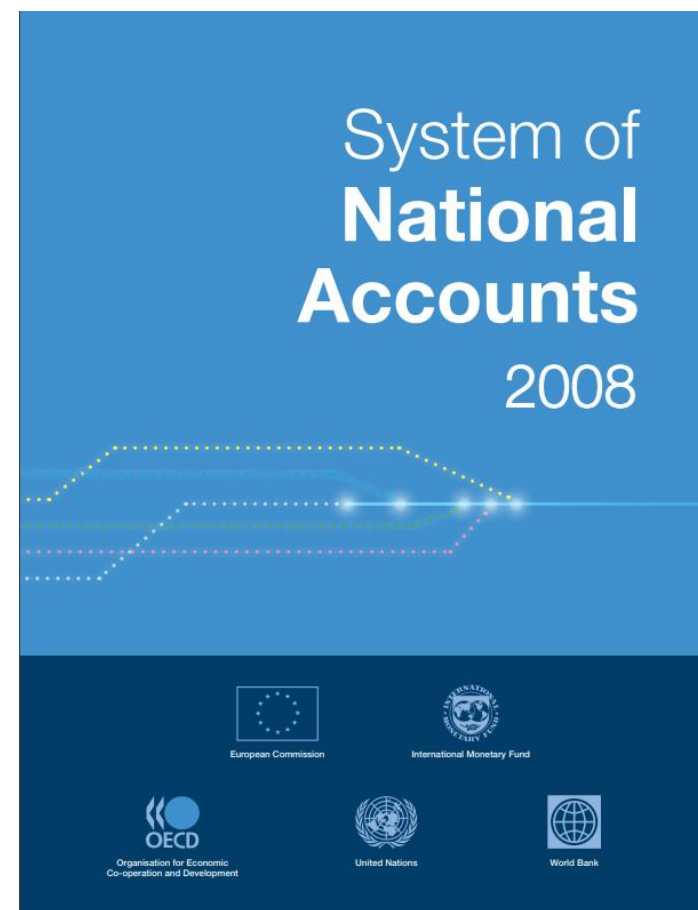
- The **SEEA Central Framework** was adopted as an international statistical standard by the UN Statistical Commission in 2012.
- The **SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting** complements the Central Framework and represent international efforts toward coherent ecosystem accounting.
- **SEEA Applications 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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The SNA and SEEA: Systems of integrated information



One Environment: Two perspectives

Individual
environmental
assets & resources:

Timber
Water
Soil
Fish



Ecosystems: Biotic
and abiotic elements
functioning together:



Forests
Lakes
Cropland
Wetlands

**SEEA Central
Framework (SEEA_CF)**
starts with economy and
links to physical
information on natural
assets, flows and
residuals

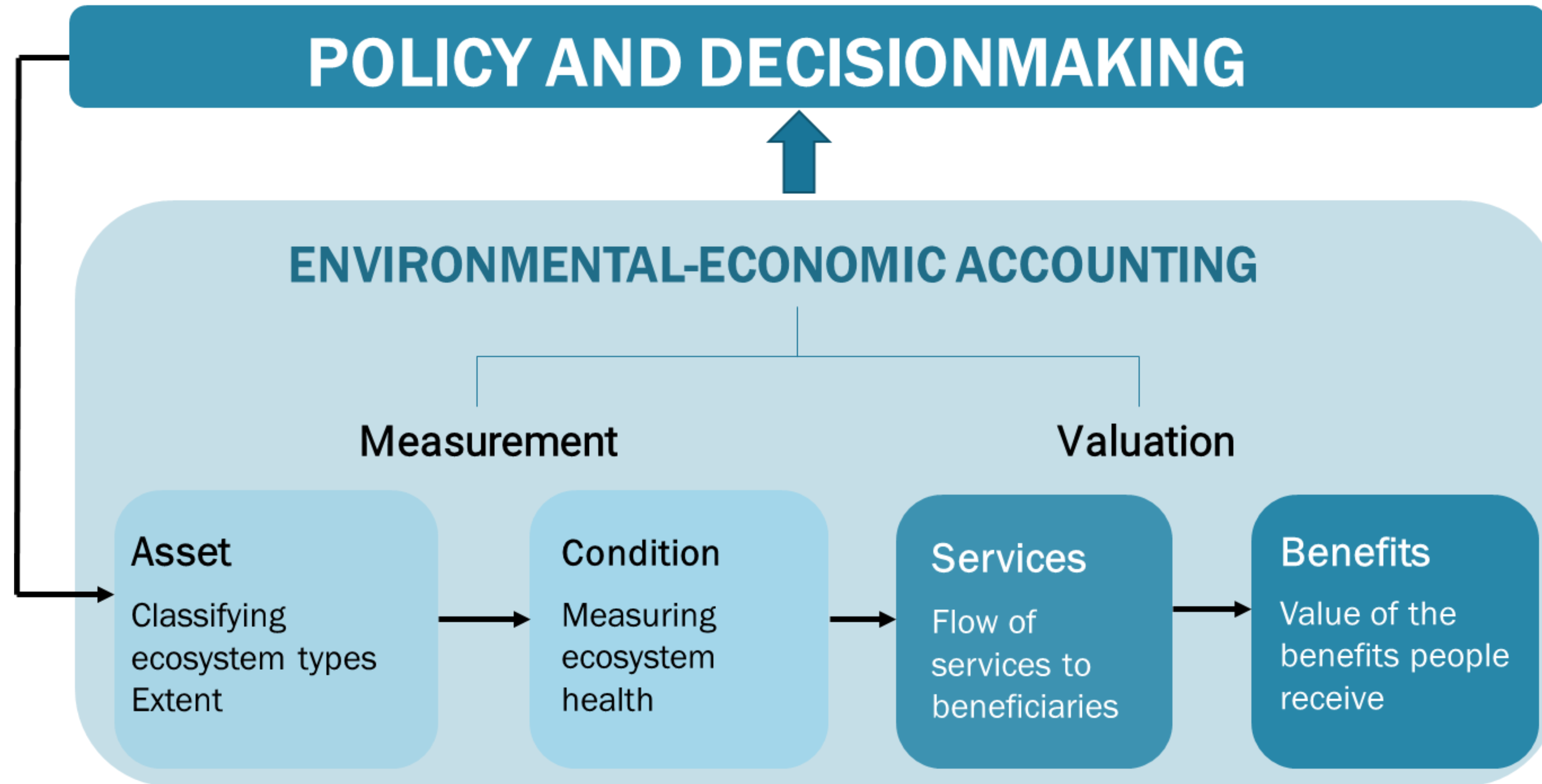


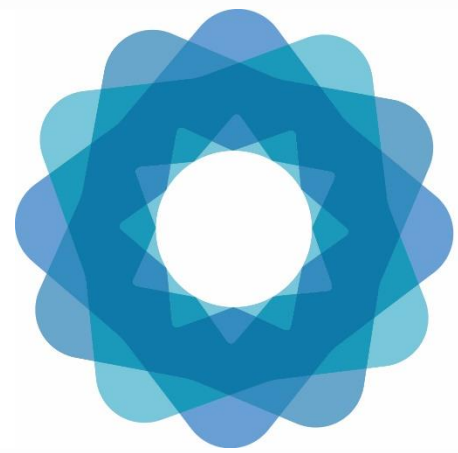
**SEEA Experimental
Ecosystem Accounting
(SEEA-EEA)** starts with
ecosystems and links
their services to
economic and other
human activity



Together, they provide
the foundation for
measuring the
relationship between the
environment, and
economic and other
human activity

SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting





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SEEA EEA revision process

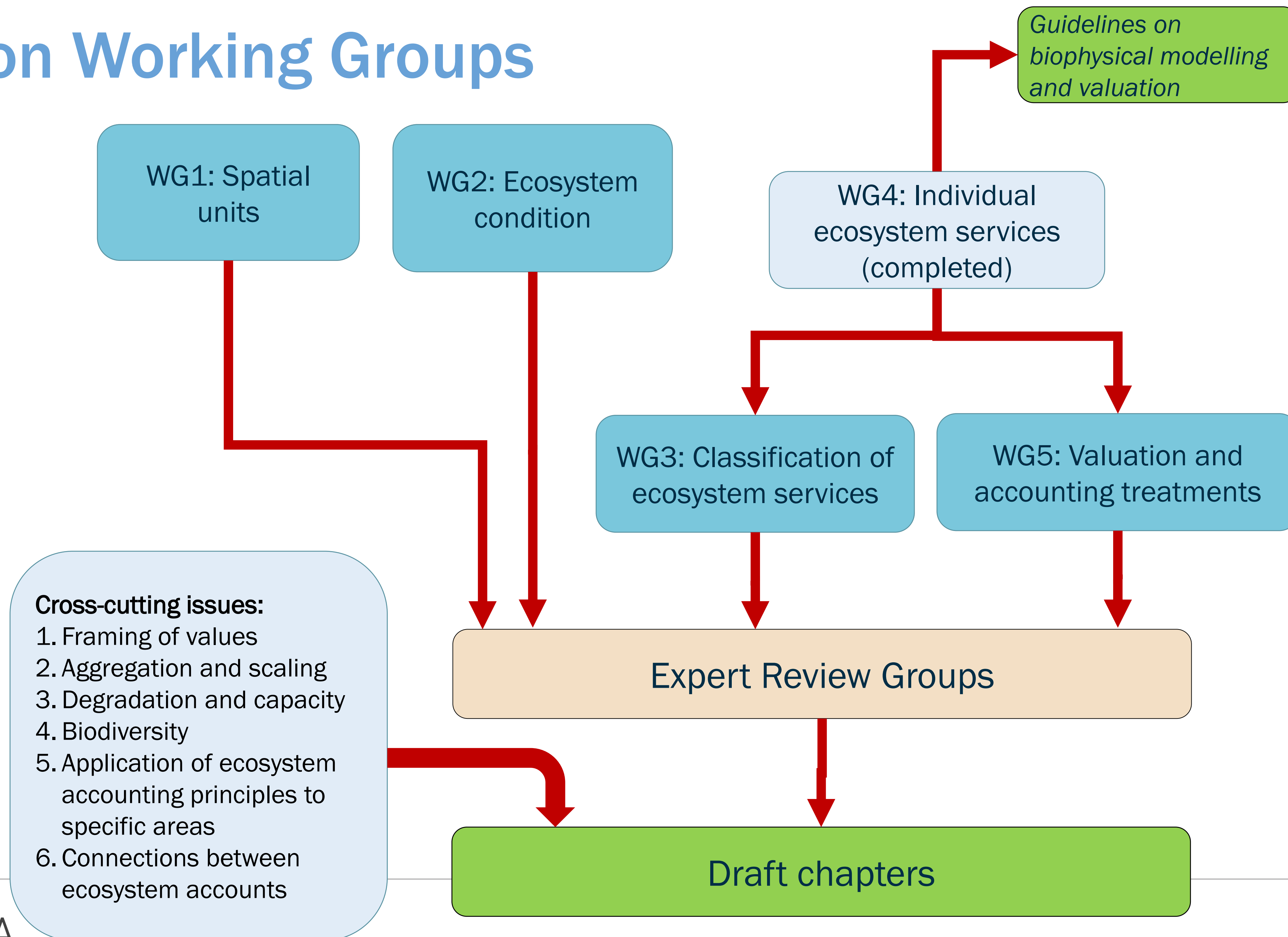


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Revision of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

- 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 Working Groups



Planning of work: July – December 2019

- Finalization of discussion papers on ecosystem services (WG3) and valuation (WG5) and carry out expert review of the discussion papers
- Drafting of chapters – editor to start drafting chapters in close consultation with the Technical Committee
- Continue research on remaining specific issues and cross-cutting issues – in small groups
- Testing of current proposals in particular on:
 - > Ecosystem type classifications
 - > Ecosystem condition indicators by ecosystem type
 - > Ecosystem services modelling and valuation

Planning of work: 2020

- Jan-Mar: Revision of the chapters
- Apr-Jun: Global consultation on (grouped) individual chapters
- June: Report to UNCEEA and discussion at the 2020 Forum of Experts
- Jul-Sep: Revision of the chapters
- Oct-Nov: Global consultation on complete document
- Dec: Submission of draft to UNCEEA and UNSC

Revision process: keystones & timeline





THANK YOU

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