



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Area B2 presentation to the 2025 meeting of the UNCEEA

UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA)
Twentieth Meeting
Thursday, 26 June 2025

Mandy Driver
Chair of the Technical Committee on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting



United Nations

Presentations today

- Overview of the activities of the Technical Committee
- Update on the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) – Kieran Mooney, Secretariat of the CBD
- UNSD project on biodiversity indicators – Marko Javorsek, UNSD

Overview of activities of the Technical Committee

- Met six times since June 2024
- Continued work under the programme of work for 2023-2025, with **six components**:
 1. Development of **practical guidance notes** for countries for the compilation of SEEA ecosystem accounts
 2. Supporting **development of headline indicators** for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)
 3. Overseeing **working groups** on forest ecosystems and ocean accounting
 4. Contributing to the broader **SEEA and SNA processes**
 5. Engaging with **relevant initiatives**
 6. Promoting the **community of practice** on ecosystem accounting

Component 1: Development of practical guidance notes

Priorities identified for guidance to support countries in compiling SEEA ecosystem accounts include:

a) Operationalizing the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology, including

- Guidelines for *classifying agricultural and plantation forestry ecosystems* in the Global Ecosystem Typology – IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management and Technical Committee
- Standards, methods and guidelines for *cross-referencing ecosystem classifications and maps* to the Global Ecosystem Typology – led by IUCN
- Guidelines for developing a *national ecosystem map* – led by Group on Earth Observations (GEO) as part of the Global Ecosystems Atlas initiative

b) Approaches and methods for compiling **ecosystem extent accounts**

- Will be taken forward as part of guidance on compiling GBF Indicator A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems (Component 2 of the work programme)

c) Methods for **measuring ecosystem services**

- Ecosystem Services Accounting Compatibility Assessment Tool (ESA-CAT) – support from JRC

Component 3: Working groups

- Due to the update of the SEEA Central Framework and resource constraints, the work of the two WGs (established in 2021) slowed down over the past year – WGs are dormant for the time being
- Working group on **forest ecosystems**:
 - > Technical note being developed to provide guidance on identifying forest ecosystems in the classification of ecosystem types and explaining the links with relevant definitions of forests from a land cover perspective
- Working group on **ocean accounting**:
 - > Worked on a series of papers related to ocean accounting, with support from the Global Ocean Accounting Partnership (GOAP) (2 finalized, 1 in development)
 - > Provided expert inputs on a set of draft guidance notes for marine and coastal ecosystem service accounts, developed by the IDEEA Group (on aquatic biomass provisioning services, recreation-related services, and nursery and habitat services)

Component 4: Contributions to the broader SEEA and SNA processes

- Closely engaged in the SEEA Central Framework update (especially alignment with Ecosystem Accounting)
 - > Participating in relevant task teams of SEEA Central Framework update (mainly TT-A on overarching issues)
 - > Engagement on Guidance Notes on the eight issues that have been identified as having significant links to SEEA Ecosystem Accounting
- Received regular updates on the 2025 SNA revision process and gave input as needed

Components 5 & 6

- **Component 5: Engagement with related initiatives**
 - > Continue regular engagement, including with the IUCN, Secretariat of the CBD, Group on Earth Observations (GEO), European Space Agency (ESA), and others
 - > Close dialogue with the Global Ecosystems Atlas initiative led by GEO and the World Ecosystem Extent Dynamics (WEED) project led by ESA
 - > Representation in Steering/Advisory Boards
- **Component 6: Community of practice on ecosystem accounting**
 - > Aspirational goal to facilitate a closer network of experts
 - > Possibility to organize a Forum of Experts on Ecosystem Accounting (late 2026 or 2027)

Component 2: Supporting indicator development for the Global Biodiversity Framework



Kunming - Montreal

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Four Goals (2050)

Goal A

Protect and Restore

Goal B

Prosper with Nature

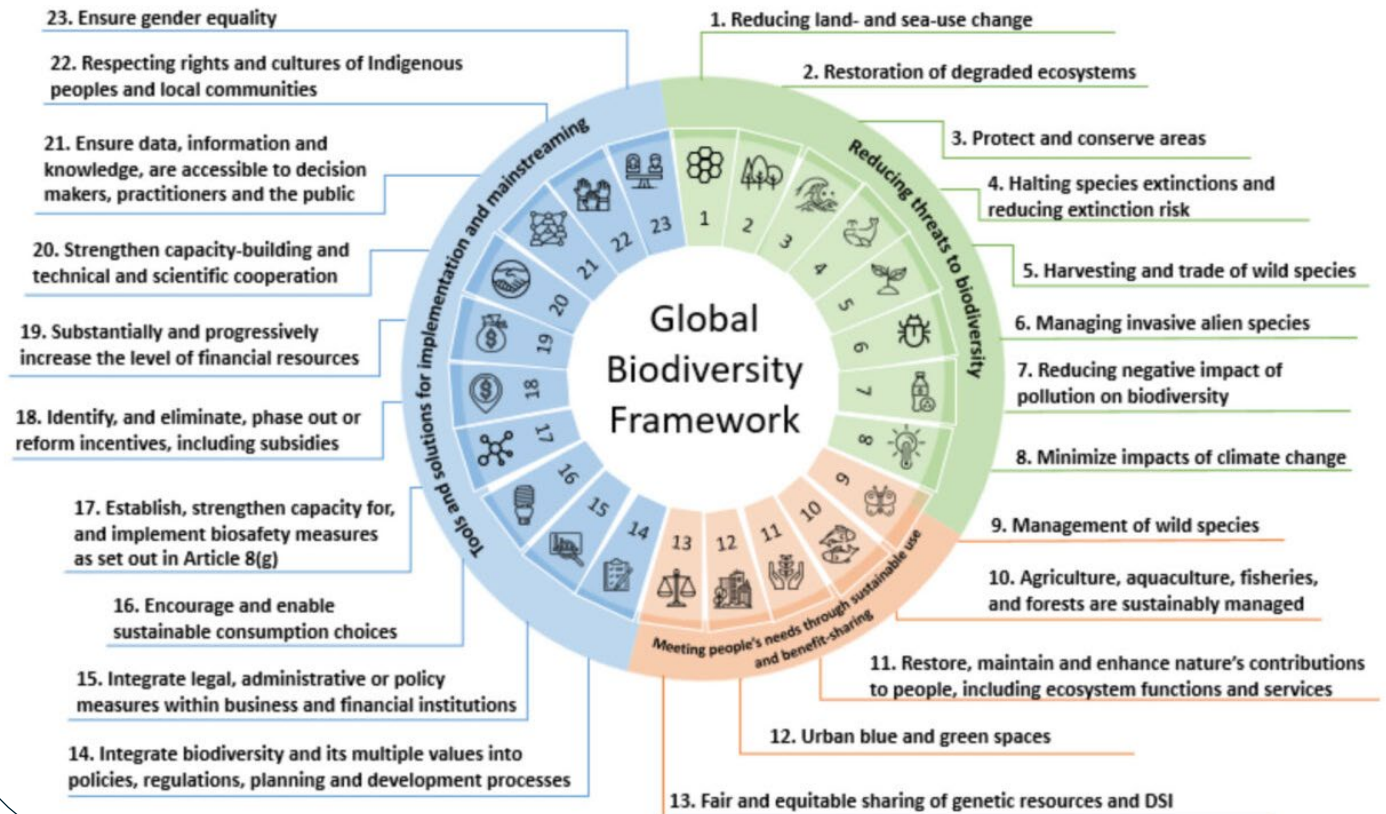
Goal C

Share Benefits Fairly

Goal D

Invest and Collaborate

23 Targets (2030)



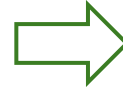
Monitoring Framework, including 28 headline indicators

Goal A: Protect and Restore

Three elements:

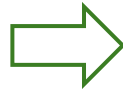
Ecosystems

The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all **ecosystems** are maintained, enhanced, or restored, *substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050*;



Species

Human induced extinction of known threatened **species** is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels;



Genetic diversity

The **genetic diversity** within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.



Headline indicators:

A.1 Red List of Ecosystems



A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems

(based on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting)



A.3 Red List Index for Species



A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500

Goal B: Prosper with Nature

Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and **nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services**, are valued, *maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored*, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

Headline indicator:

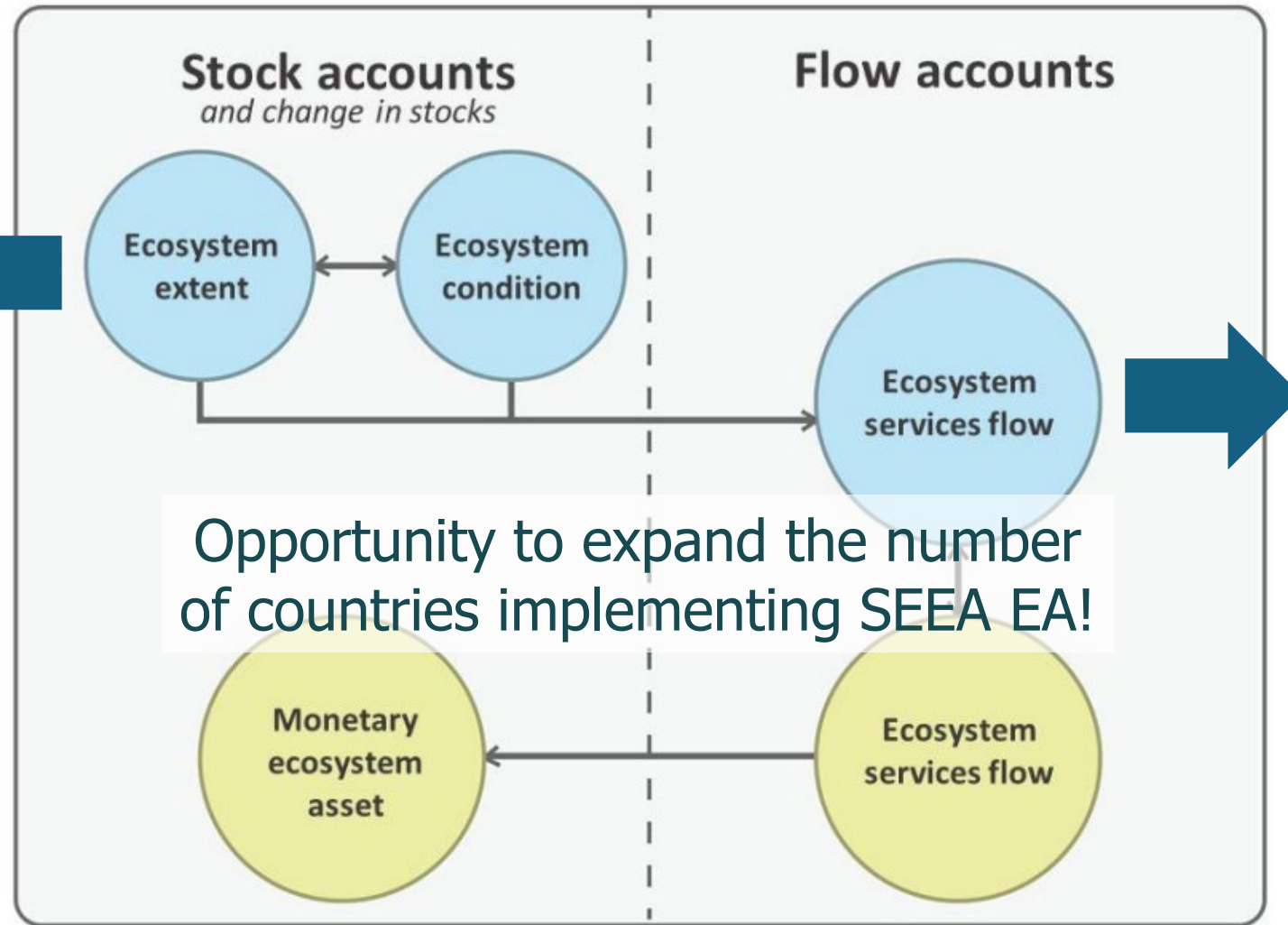
B.1 Services provided by ecosystems

(based on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting)



Linking the core ecosystem accounts to indicators

Ecosystem extent account provides the basis for **Indicator A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems**



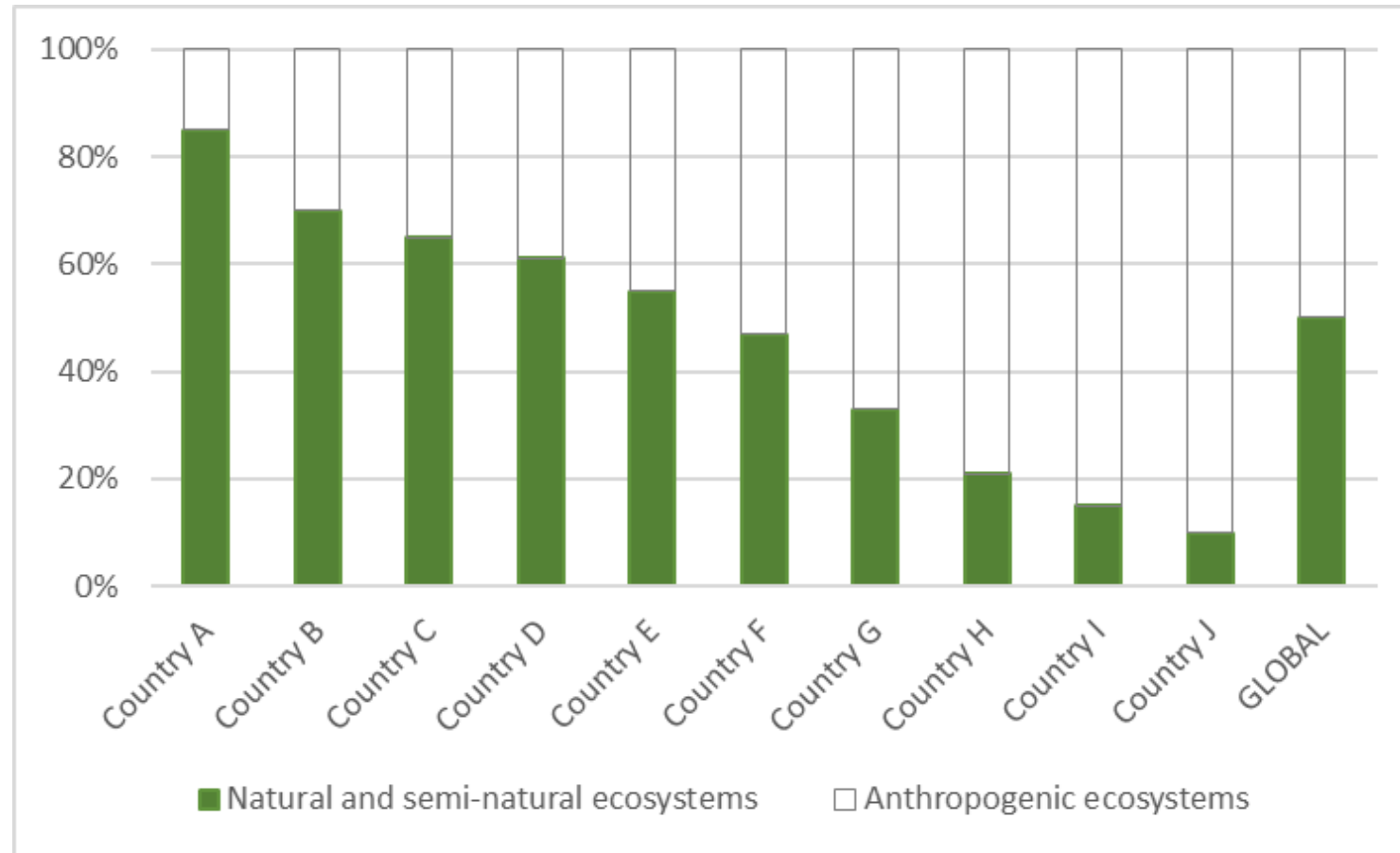
Ecosystem services account (physical) provides the basis for **Indicator B.1 Services from ecosystems**

Getting from accounts to indicators

- The big challenge: Getting from the large amount of information in an accounting table to a **single indicator**
 - > Two task teams worked on this in 2023/2024 under guidance of the Technical Committee
- For Indicator A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems:
 - > Extent of natural ecosystems as a proportion of total area
- For Indicator B.1 Services provided by ecosystems:
 - > Average of trends in ecosystem service provision in biophysical terms

Metadata for indicators available at www.gbf-indicators.org

Mock-up of Indicator A.2: Extent of natural ecosystems as a proportion of total area

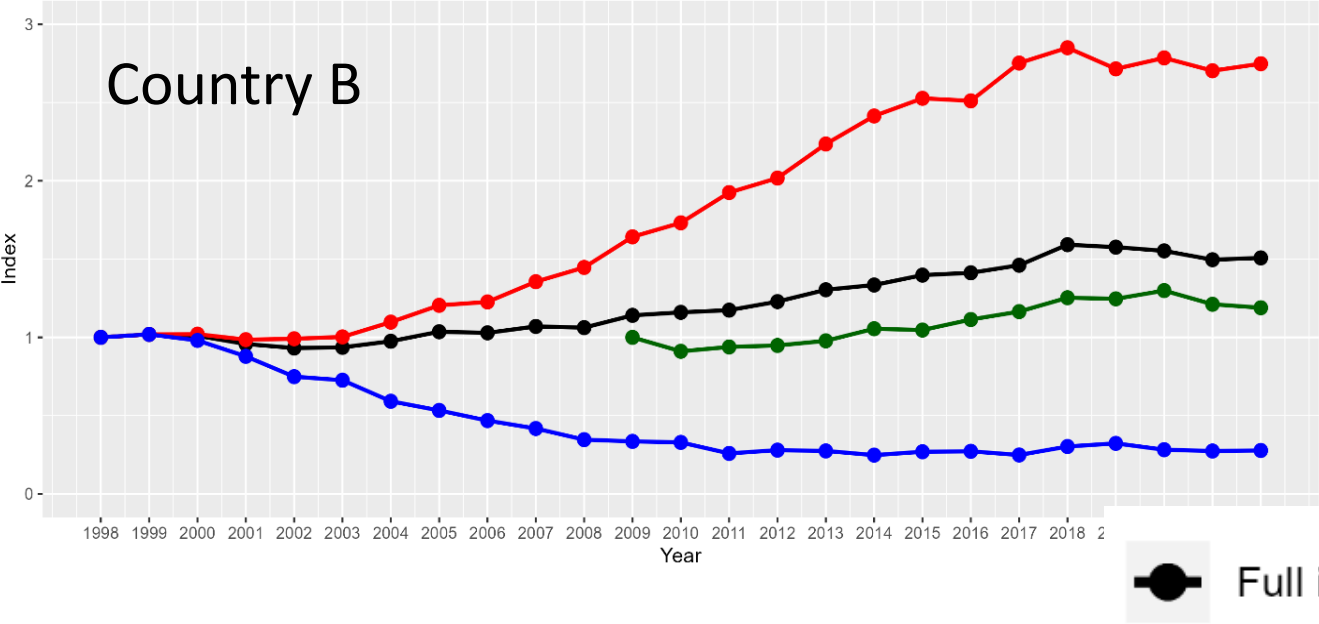
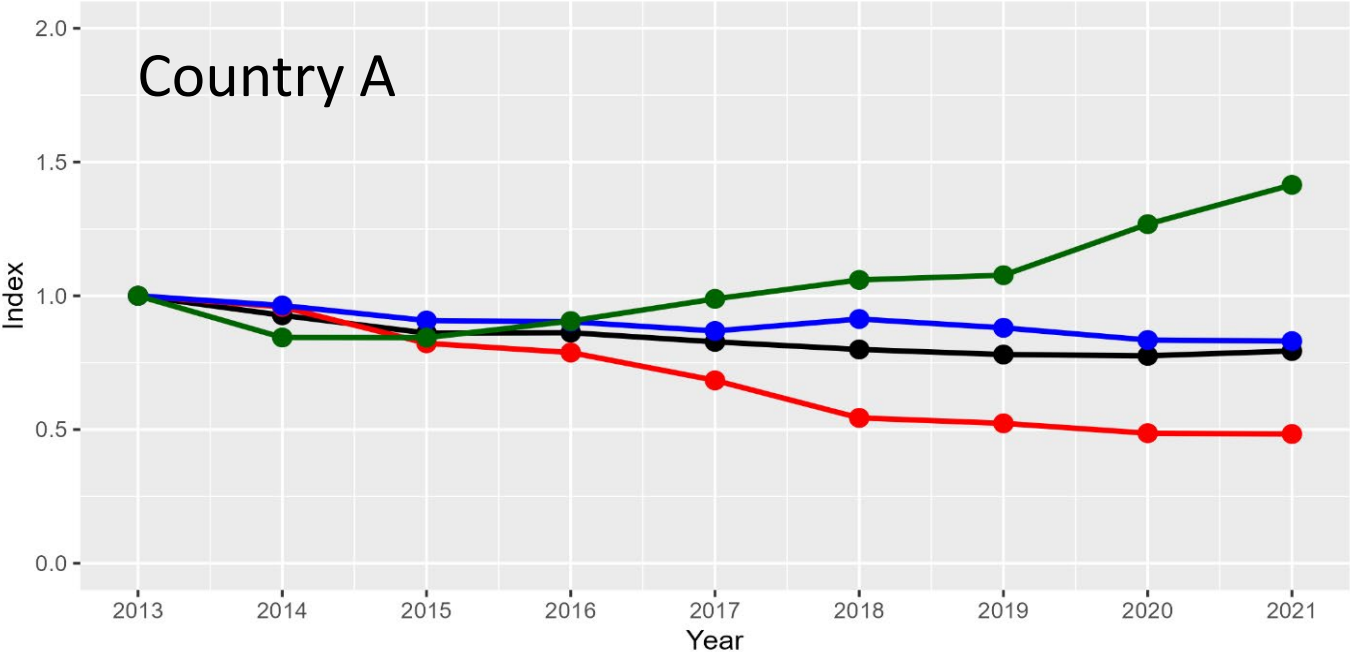


- Easy to understand snapshot of the relative area of natural ecosystems at national and global level
- Can be done for all natural ecosystems combined, OR disaggregated by ecosystem type
- Changes in this proportion show whether ecosystem areas are increasing or not

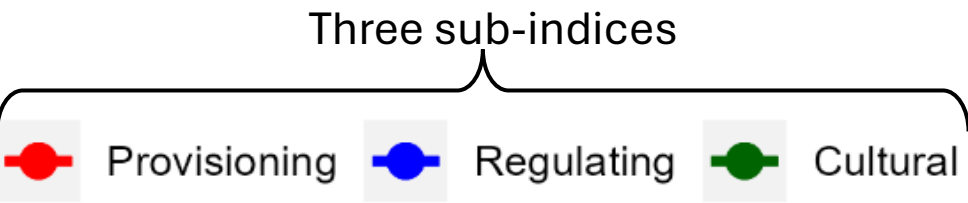
Figure 1. Proportion of natural ecosystems as at [end of accounting period]

Indicator B.1 Index of trends in ES provision

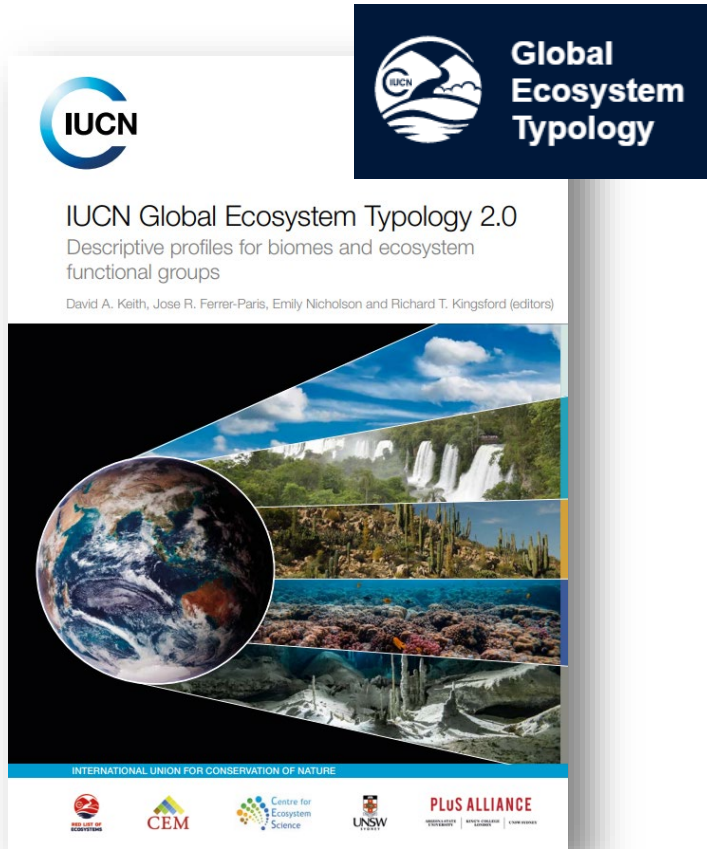
Some testing results based on existing national ecosystem services accounts



Shows trend in provision of ecosystem services relative to a base year represented by the value 1

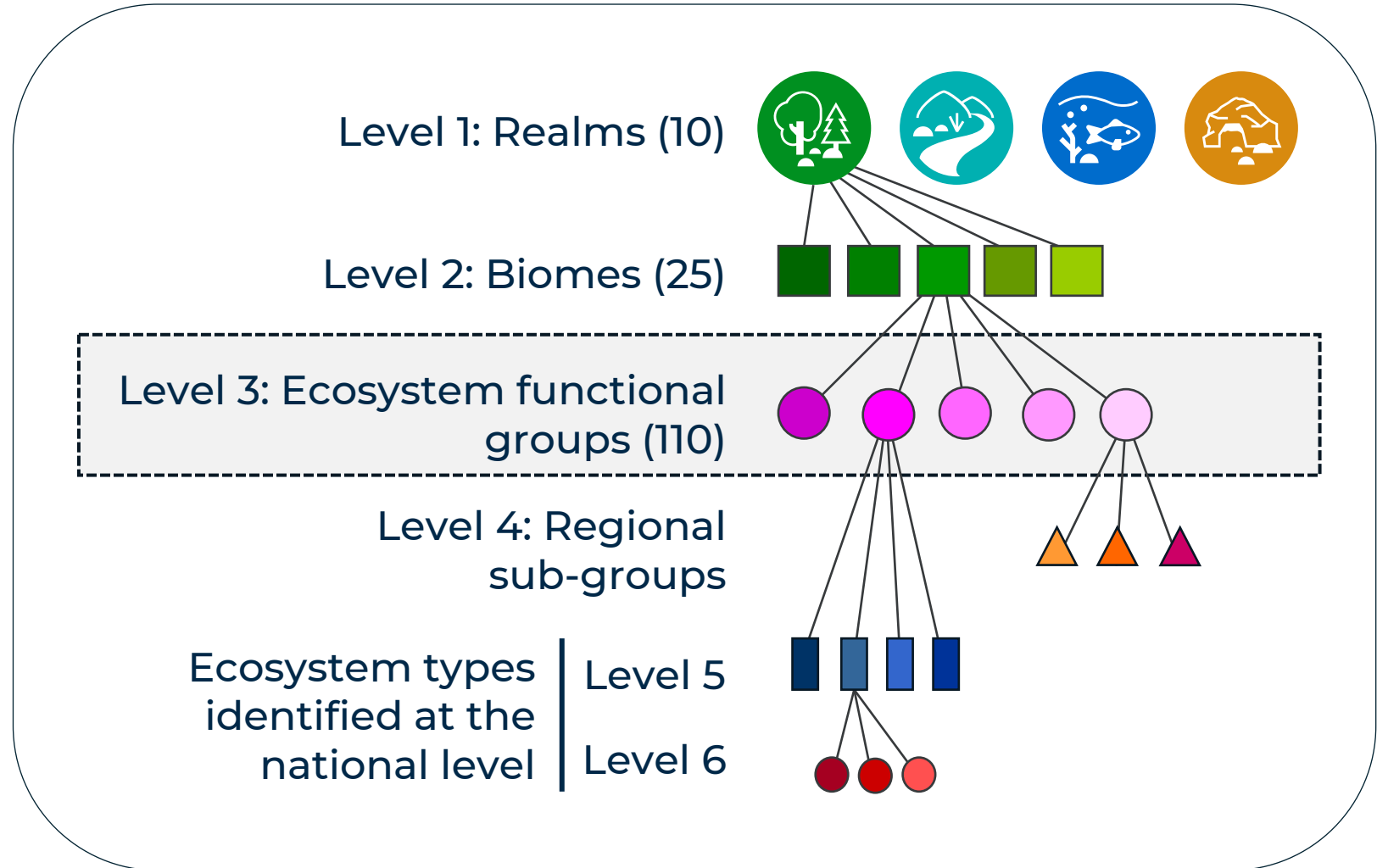


All ecosystem-related indicators for the GBF should be disaggregated by ecosystem functional groups in the **Global Ecosystem Typology**



Reference classification for
ecosystem types in SEEA EA

www.global-ecosystems.org



Component 2: Supporting GBF indicator development

- Metadata submitted in March 2024 to the CBD process for approval
- At its second resumed session in February 2025 in Rome, **CBD COP 16 welcomed the metadata** as part of the monitoring framework for the GBF
- The Technical Committee will now support the development of **compilation guidelines** for these two indicators, as well as **global tools and datasets**
- UNSD is implementing a project, funded by the EU, to support this work

Questions for the Committee

- The Committee is invited to:
 1. Express its views on the progress of work of the Technical Committee, as outlined above
 2. Provide advice on the planned activities