System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

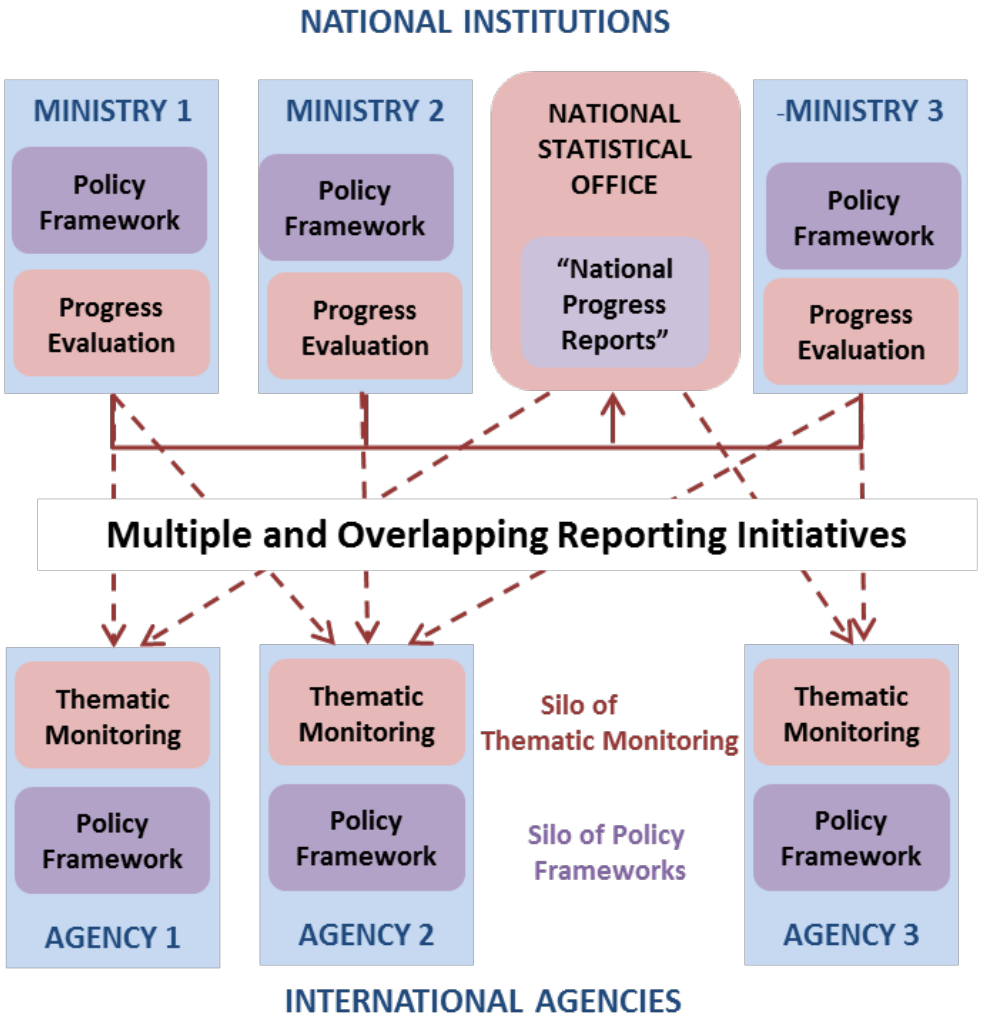
SEEA AND SDGs

United Nations

SDG Indicators and the SEEA

- The Statistical Commission *"recognized SEEA as an important statistical framework for the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals indicators"* in 2014.
- The SNA and SEEA are statistical standards that can be used to monitor a number of environmental-economic **SDG Indicators in an integrated way.**

Need for an integrated approach:



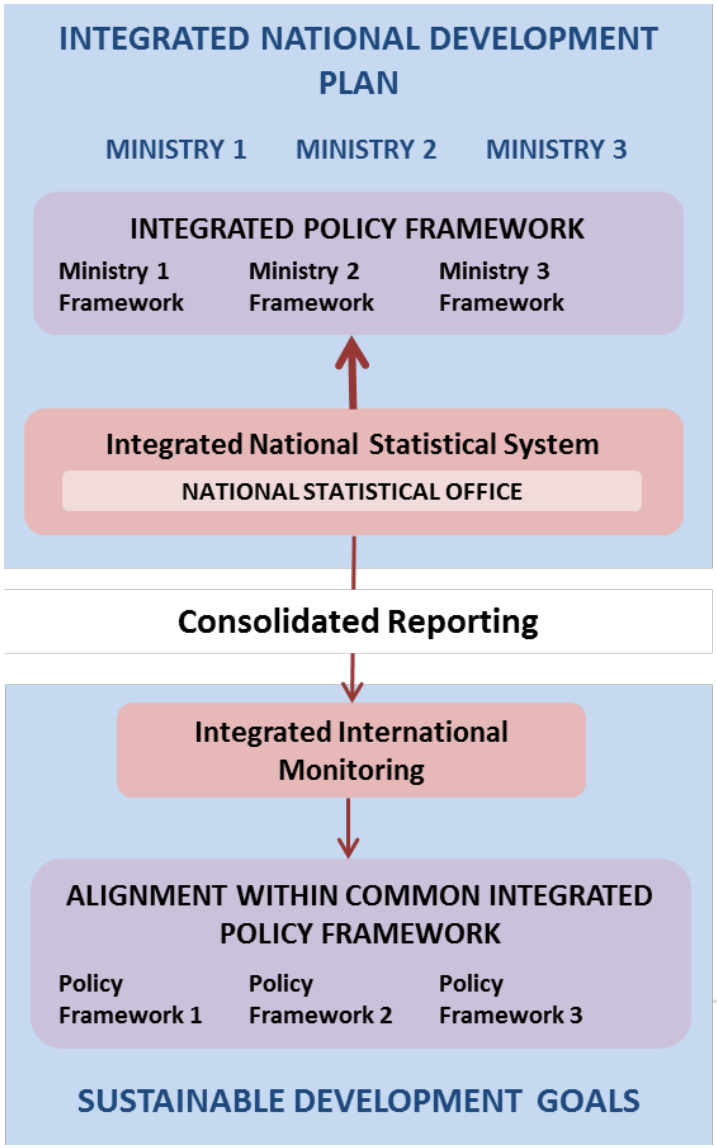
National statistical system operating in silos:

- Stove-piping of institutions, policy frameworks and monitoring at the national level
- Causes lack of integrated information for policy-making

Legacy Framework of International Organizations:

- Stove-piping of institutions, policy frameworks and reporting initiatives at the international level
- Results in multiple and distinct thematic monitoring initiatives

Towards a more integrated approach:



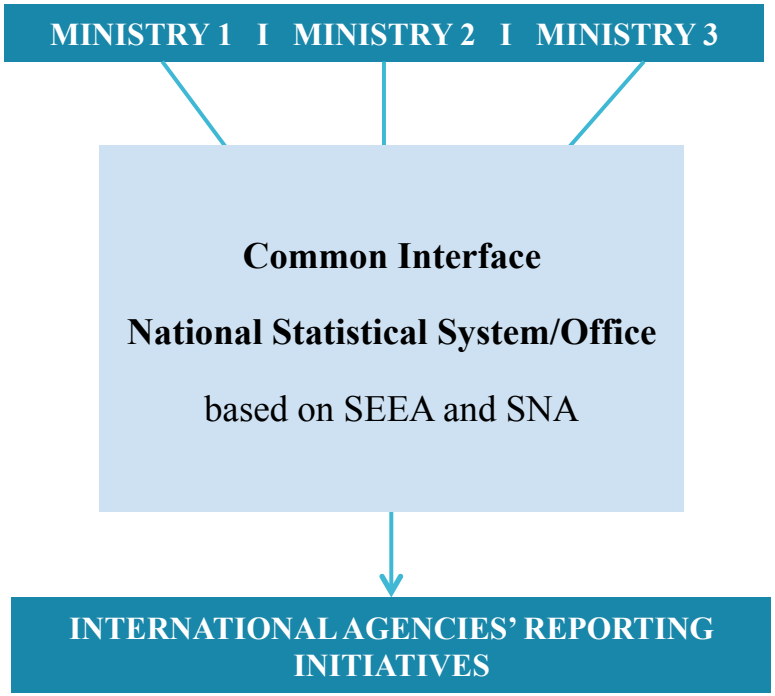
Integrated Policy: The SDGs represent important moves towards an integrated policy agenda

Statistics will require integration of:

- National Statistical Systems for an integrated information system to inform sustainable development based on a consistent conceptual framework
- Global Reporting Mechanisms to reduce overlap and streamline international reporting initiatives based on a consistent conceptual framework

Streamlined reporting

Methodological Consistency resulting from implementation of the SEEA reduces reporting burden of national ministries/agencies:



- Single Data System to Inform Indicators
- Data Compiled Once for Many Purposes
- Reduced need for countries to make arduous data adjustments for international reporting

Facilitates streamlined reporting process for global SDG Indicators

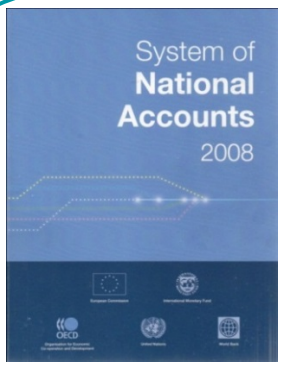
- Consistent definitions, classifications and spatial units at national and international level allows for **direct transmission of information**

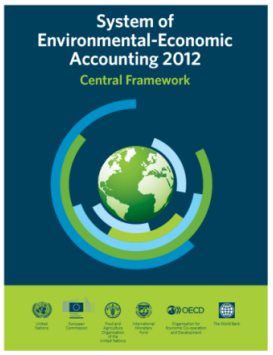
Indicators bas on standards

Indicators based on Standards

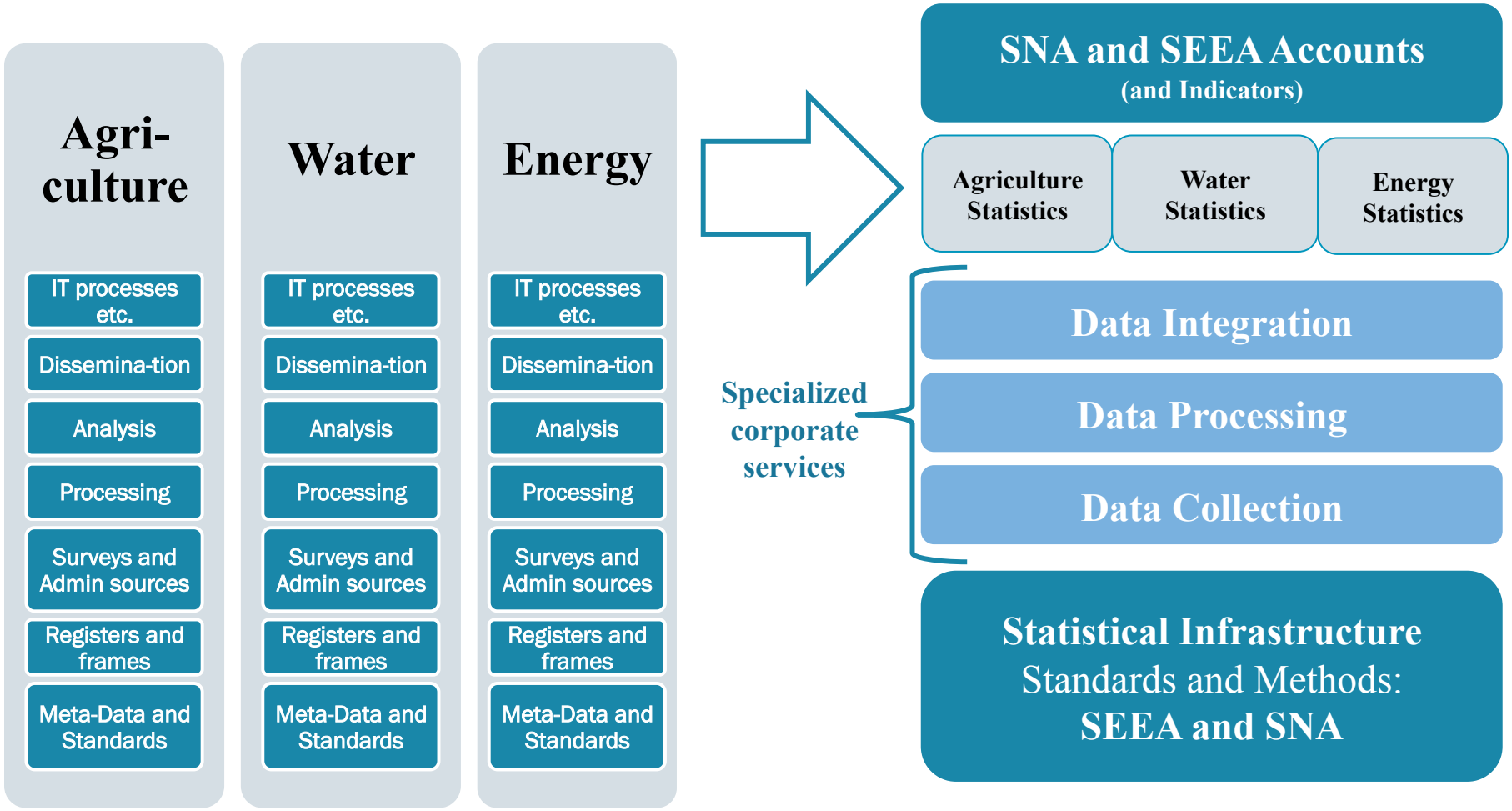
- Higher quality
- International comparability
- Comprehensive basis for (dis)aggregation

- **Standards for Statistics**
- Aligned Definitions and Classifications
- Improved capacity to compare and/or combine statistics from different sectors
- Basis for coherent and comprehensive data sets





SEEA: Statistical Architecture

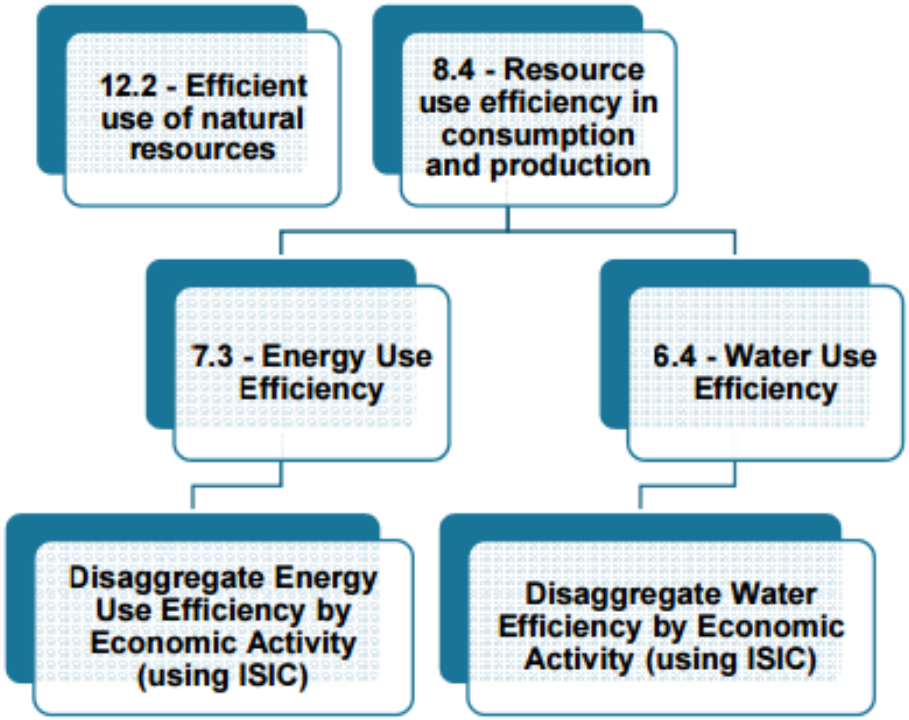


Integrated architecture for SDGs

Integrated monitoring for the SDGs requires methodological consistency.

The SEEA can be the basis for:

1. The development of coherent environmental-economic SDG indicators
2. The disaggregation of SDG indicators to inform national policy (spatial, sectoral, etc.)



A common conceptual approach across goals

	Material Flows & Solid Waste	Energy & Carbon Emissions	Water & Wastewater	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishery	Ecosystems	Land Use & Management
Efficiency/ Productivity in the use of Natural Resources	1. How do we define efficiency? How do we define productivity? 2. How do we measure efficiency/productivity in the use of natural resources? 3. How do we disaggregate and compare across sectors? 4. How do we juxtapose environmental and economic information to derive these indicators?					
Waste Minimization and Treatment	5. When is something considered waste? How is this defined? 6. How do we define reuse and recycling? How do we define 'regular collection', 'safe treatment' and 'good waste management'? 7. How do we disaggregate and compare this across sectors?					
Sustainability and Management of Resources	8. How do we define and compare economic uses of natural resources to their availability? 9. How do we classify and monitor management of those resources? 10. How do we use tools such as GIS and land accounting to inform this?					
Monetary Indicators	11. How do we measure and classify expenditure, taxes and subsidies on the management for different environmental issues?					

→ *The answers to these questions should be consistent across indicators.*

Aligning indicators to the SEEA and SNA helps build this consistency

SEEA

SDG indicators and SEEA EEA

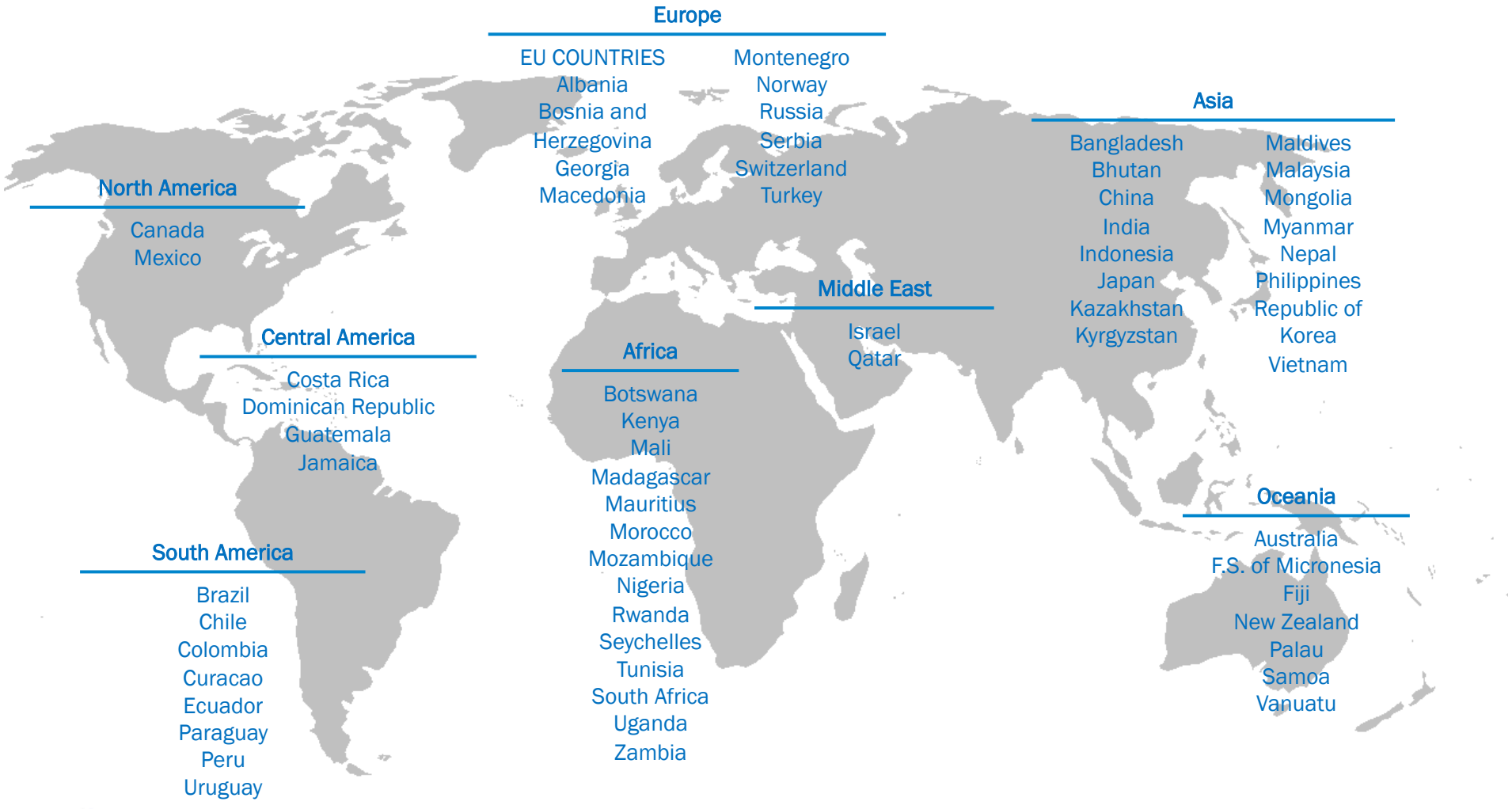
Target	Indicator
6.6.1	Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time
14.5	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas
15.1.1	Forest area as a proportion of total land area
15.1.2	Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas by ecosystem type
15.3.1	Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area - Land cover - Organic soil carbon - Primary productivity
15.4.1	Coverage by protected areas of sites for mountain biodiversity
15.5.1	Red List Index
15.a.1	ODA and public expenditure on biodiversity

SEEA

The SEEA and the SDG framework

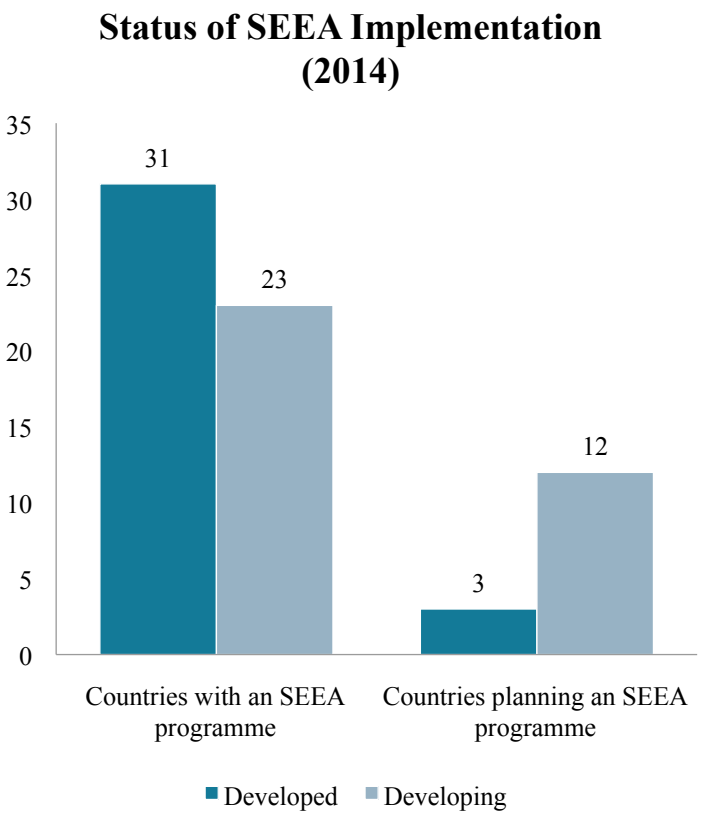
- UN Statistical Commission recognized the SEEA as a useful framework for measuring the SDG related to environment-economy
- Almost all indicators on ecosystems and biodiversity are Tier 3 indicators
- Methodology for the compilation of the SDG indicators is being aligned with the SEEA so as to move the indicator to Tier 2
- Global databases will be developed unless national data exists

Countries working on the SEEA



*Country list based on Global Assessment on Environmental Accounting (2014) (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc15/BG-UNCEEA.pdf), UNCEEA survey of where assistance is being provided (UNCEEA/BK/5(2) at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/meetings/eleventh_meeting/lod11.htm), and other current knowledge of technical assistance programmes. Some countries may be only just embarking on a project related to SEEA.

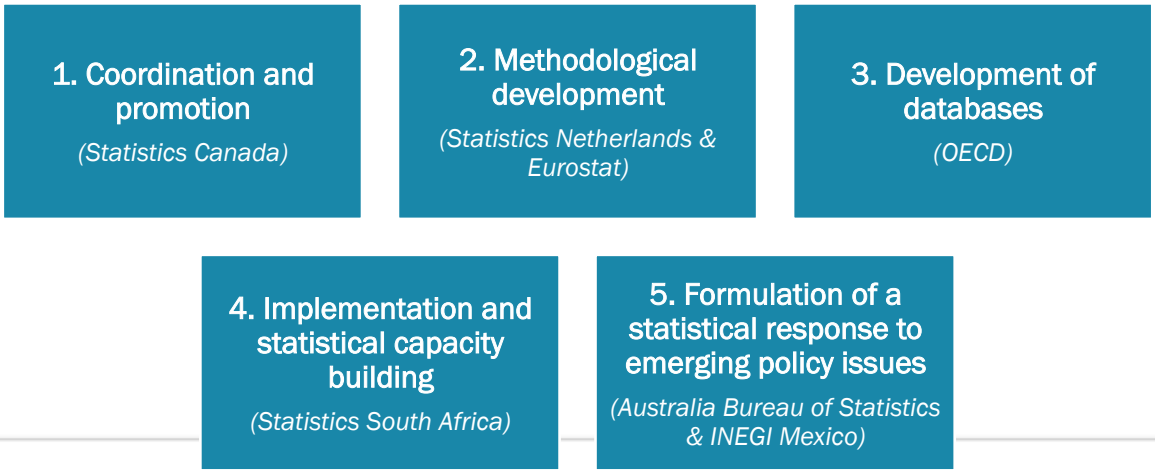
Status of SEEA Implementation



- Global Assessment on Environmental Economic Accounting 2014
- 84 countries responded
- 54 currently have an SEEA programme
- **Accounts most commonly compiled;**
  - Air Emissions, Material Flows, Energy
- **Priorities accounts going forward;**
  - Developed Countries: Energy, EPEA and EGSS
  - Developing Countries: Energy, Water and Environmental Taxes and Subsidies

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



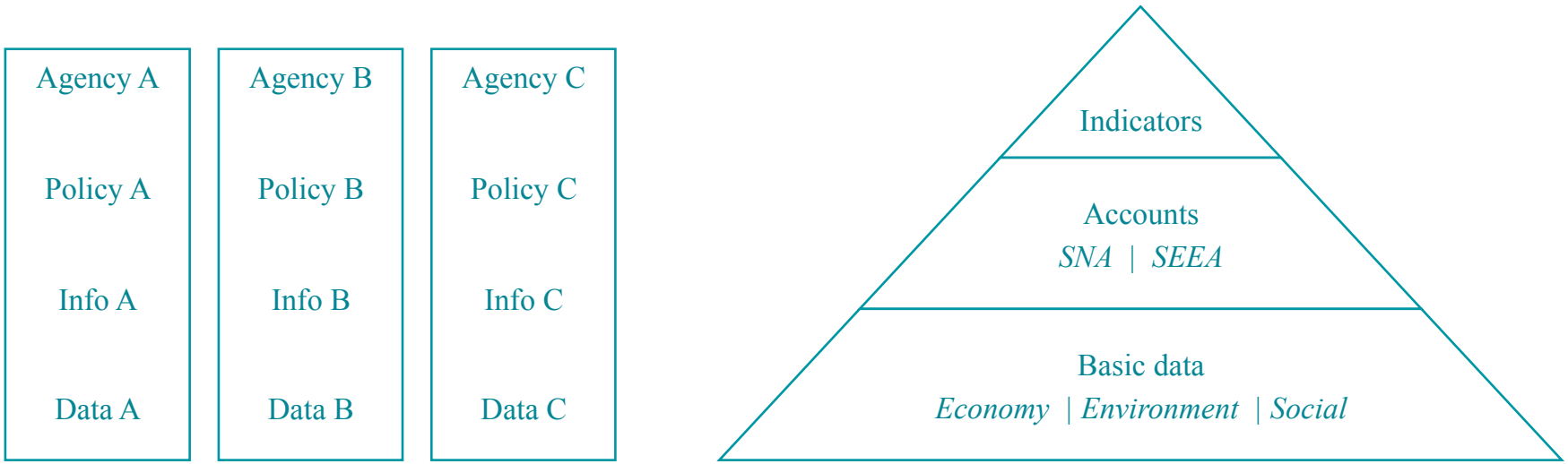
Questions

- How do better coordinate out activities?
- What are the more pressing capacity needs?
- How do we influence the broader discussion on the statistical framework development?

THANK YOU

seea@un.org

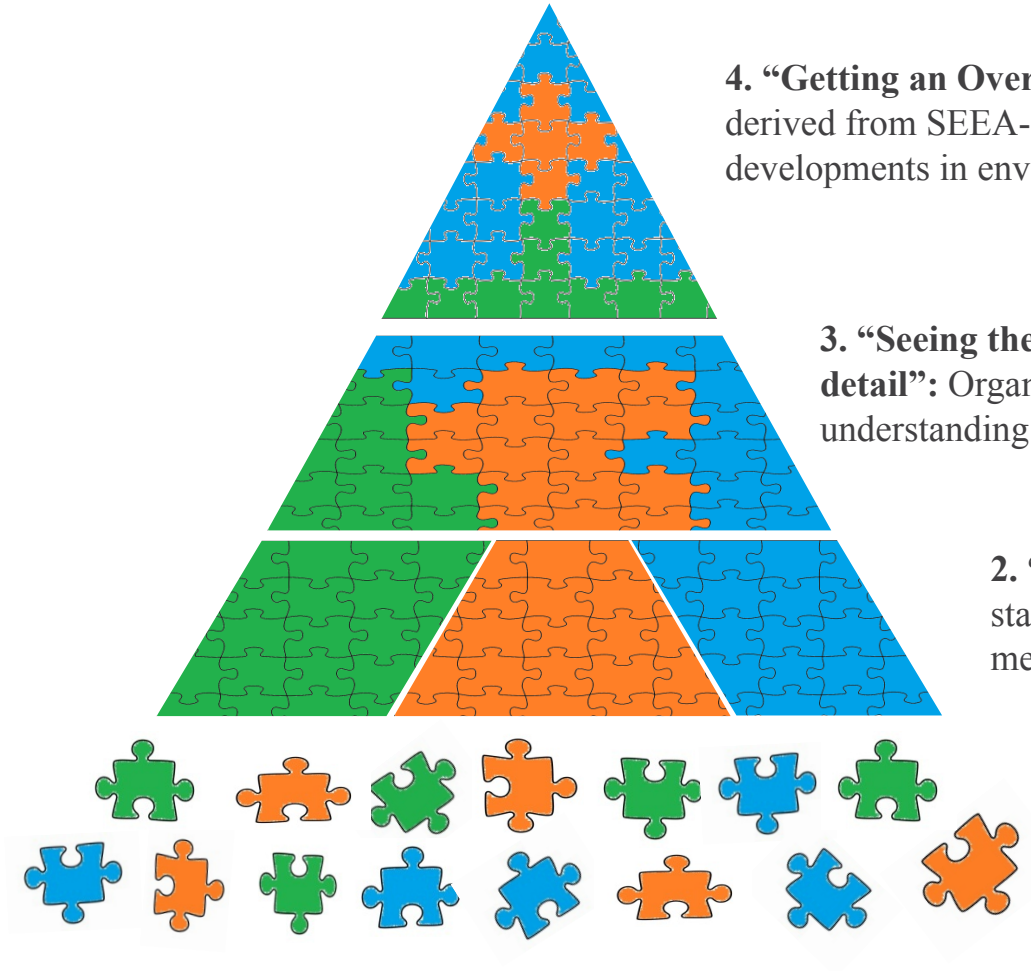
Silo approach → Integrated statistics



Accounts to integrate statistics:

- Address institutional arrangements
- Integrate statistical production process and services
- Ensure consistency between basic data, accounts and indicators

SEEA: A conceptual framework



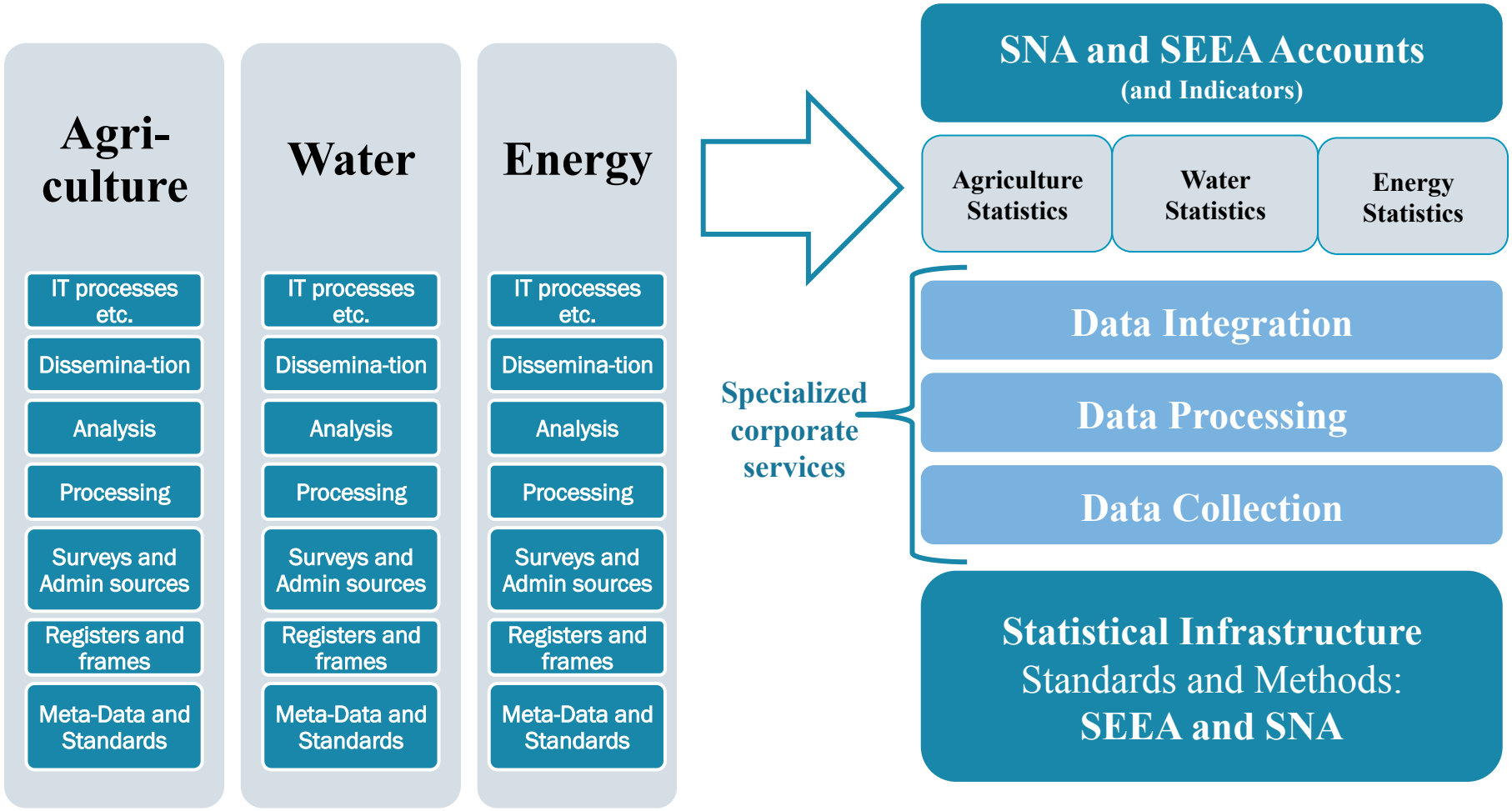
4. "Getting an Overview of the Picture": Headline indicators derived from SEEA-aligned Information for an indication of developments in environmental issues

3. "Seeing the overall picture and how things fit together in detail": Organizing data into accounts for 'systems level' understanding of the environment

2. "Harmonizing Basic Data": Application of statistical standards to reconcile divergent methodologies

1. Fragmented Environment Data: Data collection dispersed across agencies using different methodologies

SEEA: Statistical Architecture



SEEA: Producing High Quality Indicators

Statistical Frameworks and Indicator Frameworks are distinct but complementary:

- **Statistical Frameworks (i.e. SNA and SEEA):** Guide the whole production process through a systems approach to collecting, harmonizing, organizing, vetting and presenting statistical information
  - Standard definitions, classifications and related methods for compiling statistics
  - Lends rigor to the calculation of indicators without suggesting any in particular
  - Value proposition is ensuring indicators are defined and compiled in a methodologically coherent way, through an efficient production process

  → The **FDES** can further support the SEEA by providing a list of environment statistics by thematic areas to support and guide countries in initial data collection activities

- **Indicator Frameworks (e.g. CES Recommendations):** Provide organizing principles to facilitate the choice of indicators for different thematic aspects of sustainable development