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**BILBAO 2024**

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Sustainable Development Policies  
with Integrated Data

**BILBAO, SPAIN** | **10-14 JUNE 2024** | **#UNBigData2024**

# Importance of Ecosystem Maps for Ecosystem Accounting

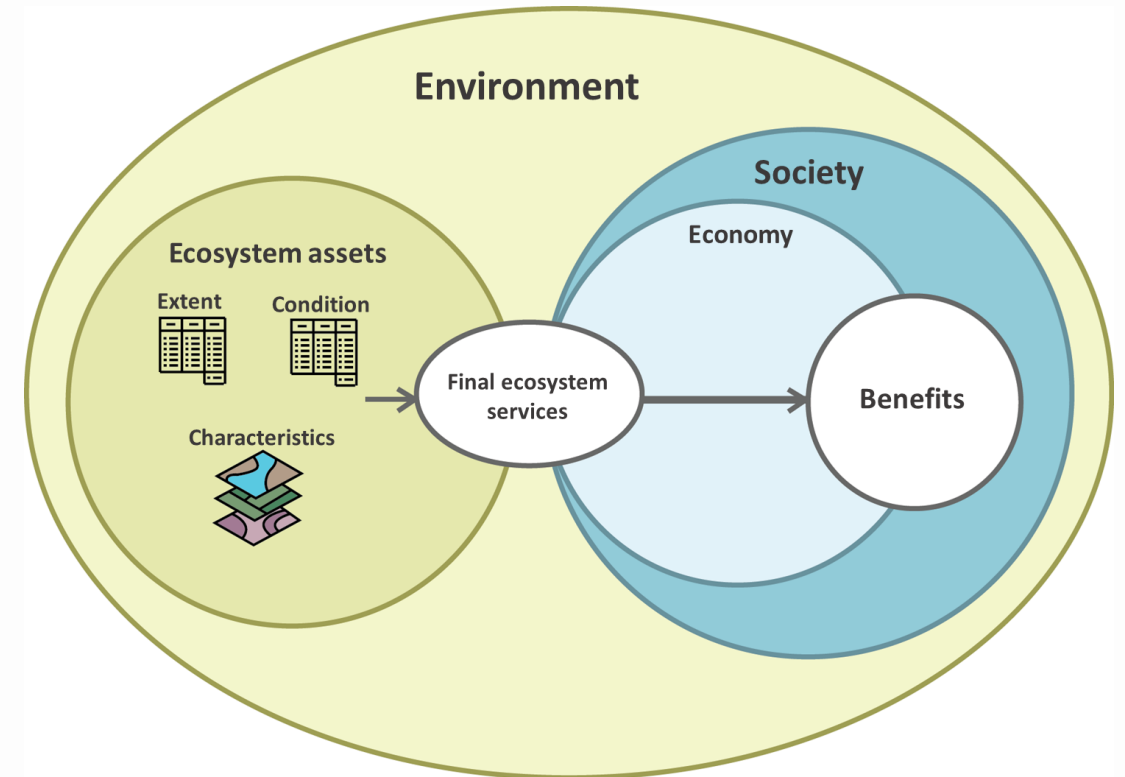
**Ilaria Di Matteo**  
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# System of Environmental-Economic Accounts Ecosystem Accounting

The SEEA EA is a spatially-based, integrated statistical framework for organizing biophysical information about ecosystems, measuring ecosystem services, tracking changes in ecosystem extent and condition, valuing ecosystem services and assets and linking this information to measures of economic and human activity

It uses the accounting principles of the System of National Accounts (SNA) to integrate environmental and economic data



# SEEA – a statistical standard for the environment



Adopted by the UN  
Statistical  
Commission in 2012



Adopted by the UN  
Statistical  
Commission in 2021



Brings together environmental and economic data using the same accounting principles of the SNA



Credibility, reliability, replicability of data



Consistency over time and space

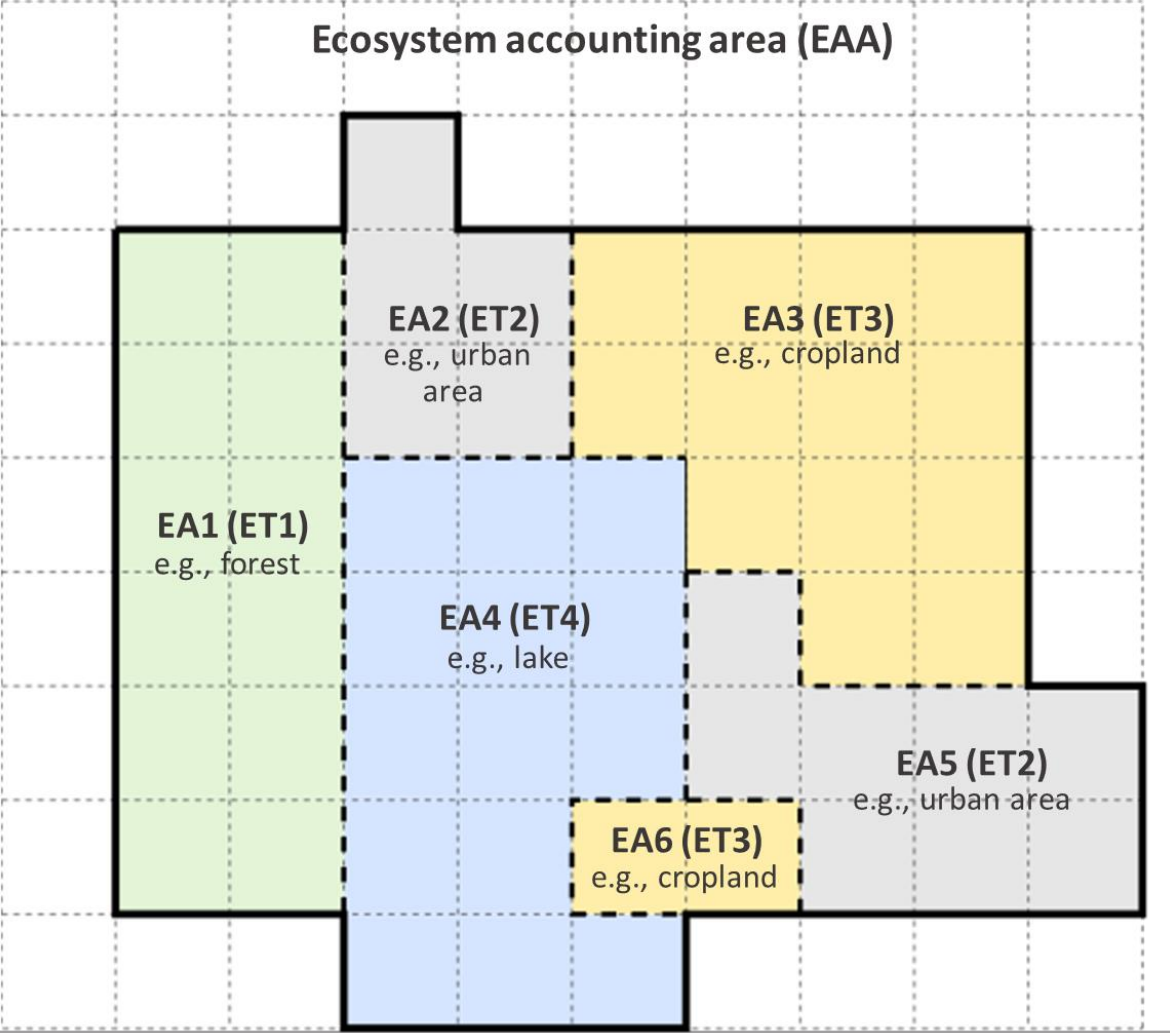
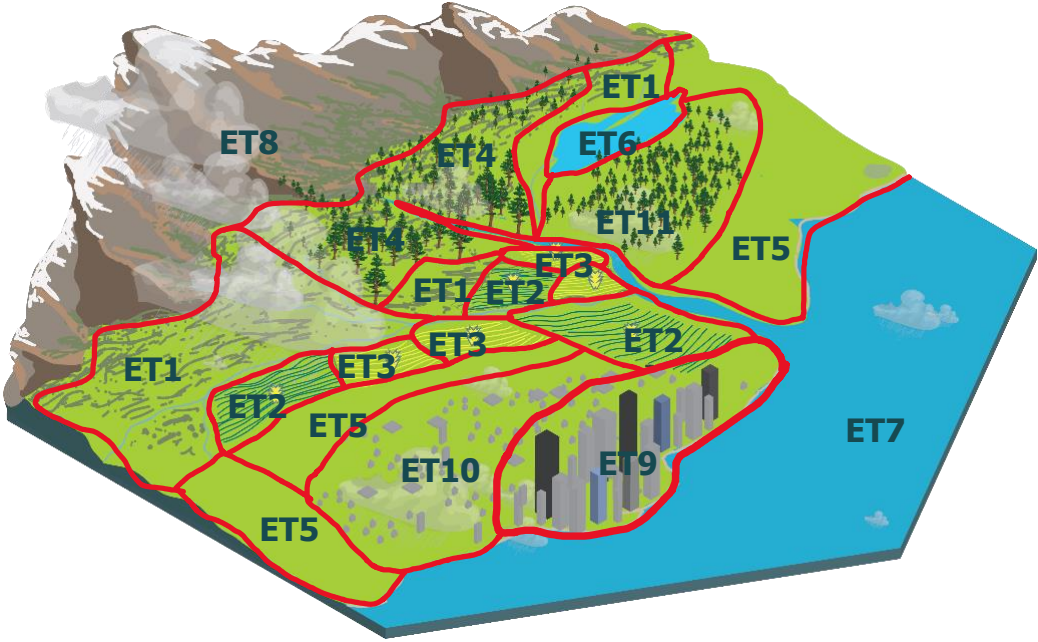


Common language between different communities



Breaks down silos and fosters collaboration

# Ecosystem maps are a fundamental element of the SEEA EA

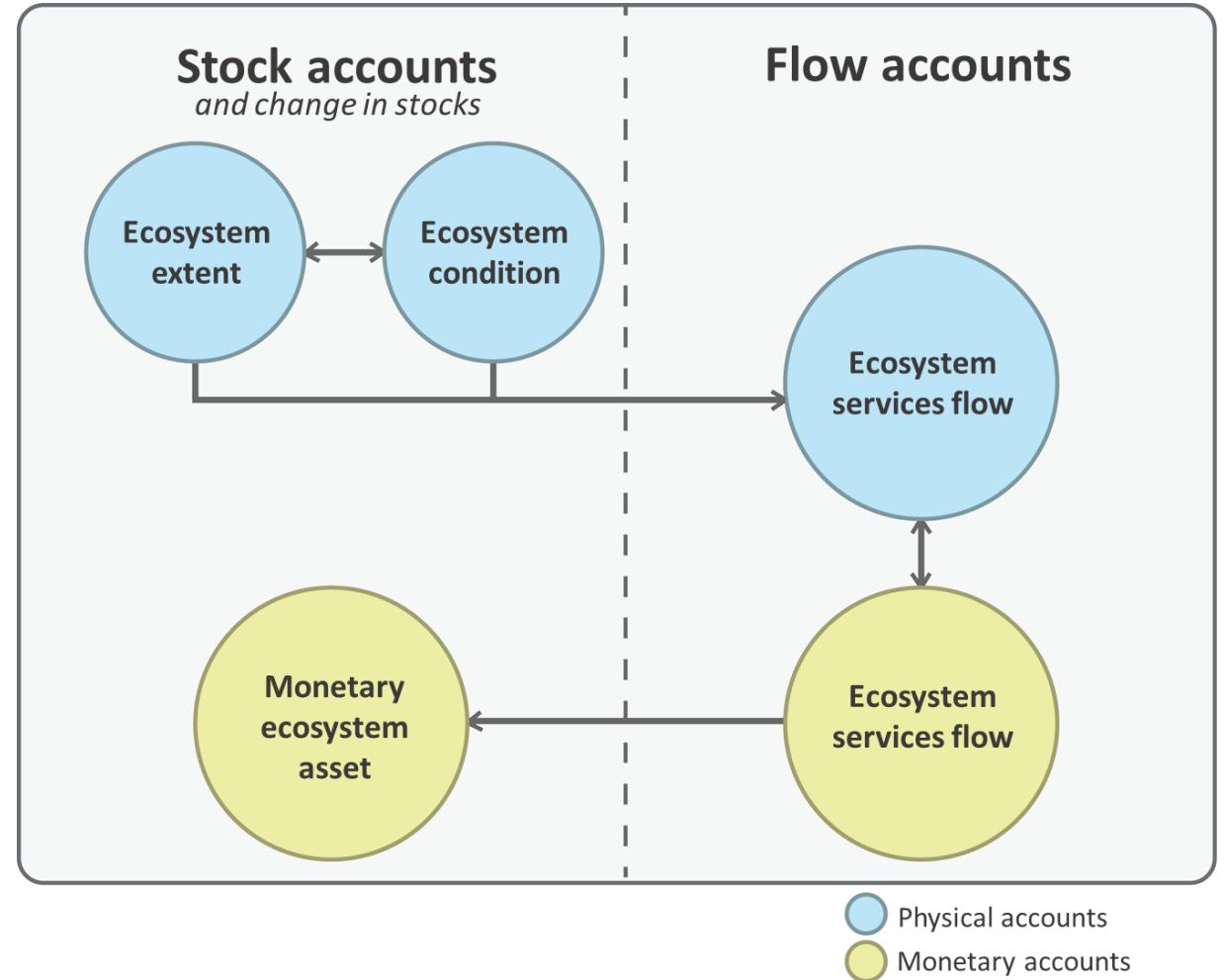


# SEEA Ecosystem Accounts

SEEA EA involves recording over an accounting period:

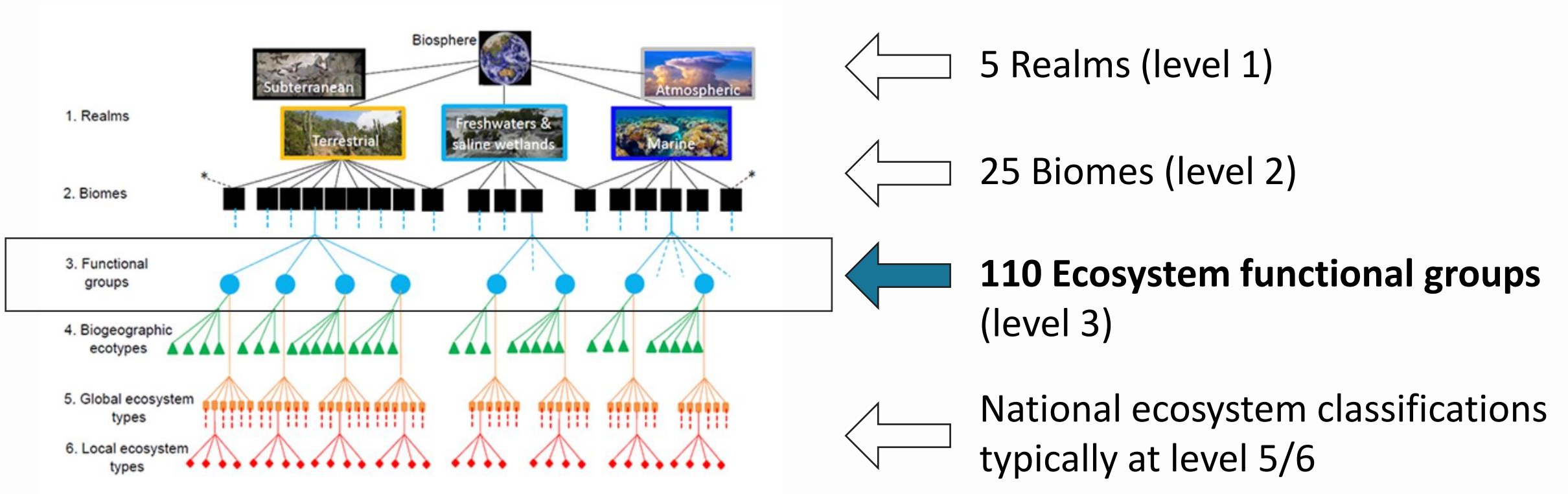
- (i) the stocks and change in stocks of each ecosystem asset (encompassing entries for ecosystem enhancement and degradation)
- (ii) flows from that asset in the form of ecosystem services

These are measure both in physical and monetary units

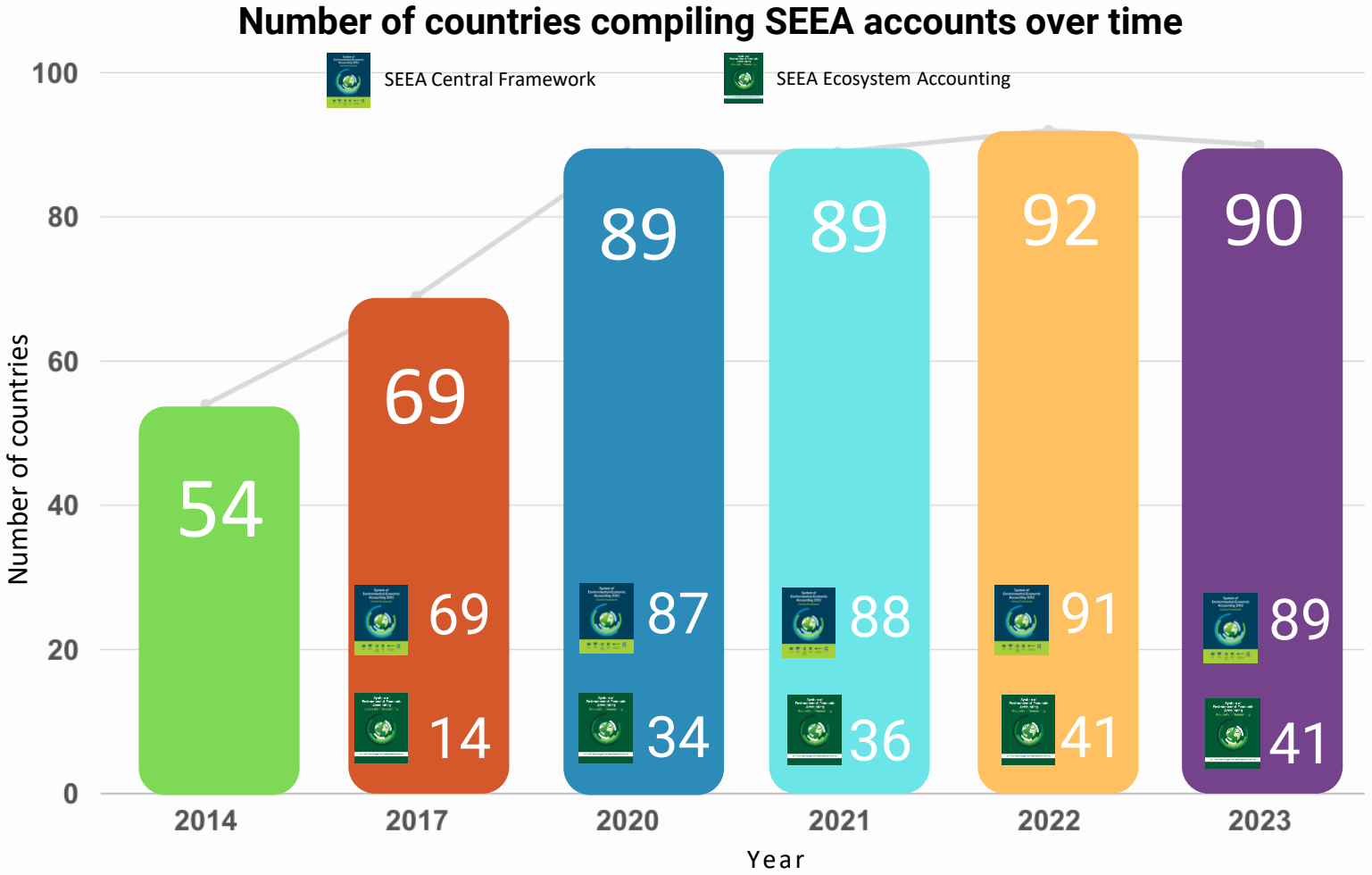


- The SEEA EA recommends a reference classification of ecosystem types:
  - > International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Global Ecosystem Typology (GET)
  - > IUCN GET was also endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission as an international statistical classification
- The SEEA EA recommends that existing national ecosystem classification schemes be used for ecosystem accounting wherever possible. Generally, such classification schemes provide detailed descriptions and classes that incorporate specific local ecological knowledge.
- Cross-referencing of national ecosystem typologies to the SEEA EA reference classification, the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology (IUCN GET), will enable national level accounts to be scaled up and compared between countries

# IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology

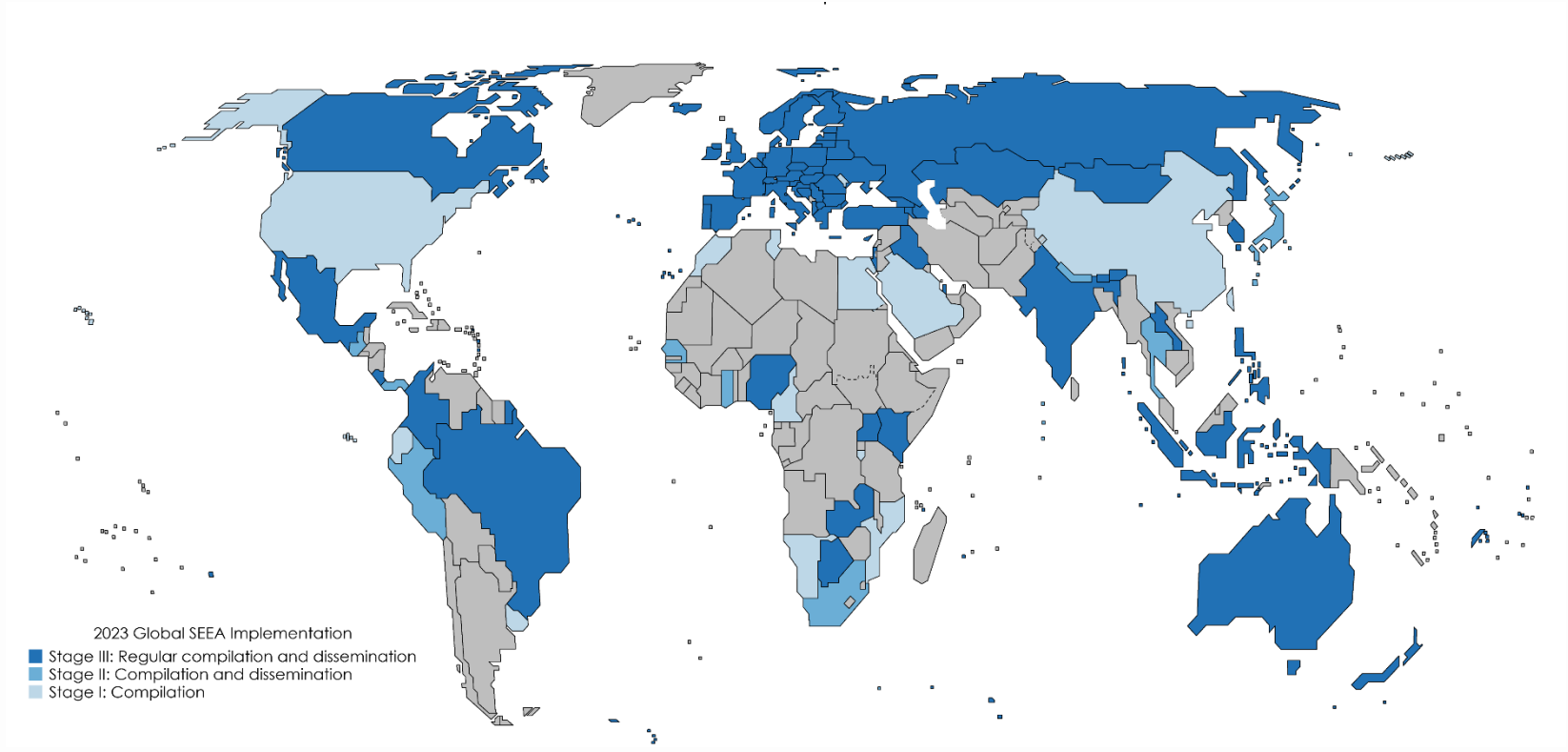


# Implementation of the SEEA around the world





# Implementation of the SEEA around the world 2023



The boundaries and names shown, and the designation used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

# Implementation of SEEA EA

- Given the highly cross-cutting and spatial nature of ecosystem accounting, the implementation necessitates a highly **collaborative and interdisciplinary** approach
  - > It requires the active involvement of many different agencies and disciplines, including geography, ecology, economics and statistics
  - > Particularly important is the role of environmental policy agencies, mapping agencies, and research agencies dealing with geographical and remote sensing data, climate, biodiversity and environmental monitoring. Critical role in collecting and validating local environmental data and knowledge
  - > NSOs, because of their role in the national statistical system, often have a coordinating role

# Some key messages

- Investing in foundational spatial data on ecosystems at the national level is worth the effort
  - > First and foremost: a good wall-to-wall national map of ecosystem types at a baseline date.
  - > Where a national classifications of ecosystems are not available, the IUCN GET may be used to develop one by scaling down to locally-derived and locally-relevant ecosystem types
- Crosswalks national ecosystem classifications with the Global Ecosystem Typology helps to achieve global comparability and coherence across GBF indicators

# THANK YOU

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