



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting - Ecosystem Accounting

ARIES for SEEA workshop, 13-14 June 2024, Bilbao, Spain

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Outline

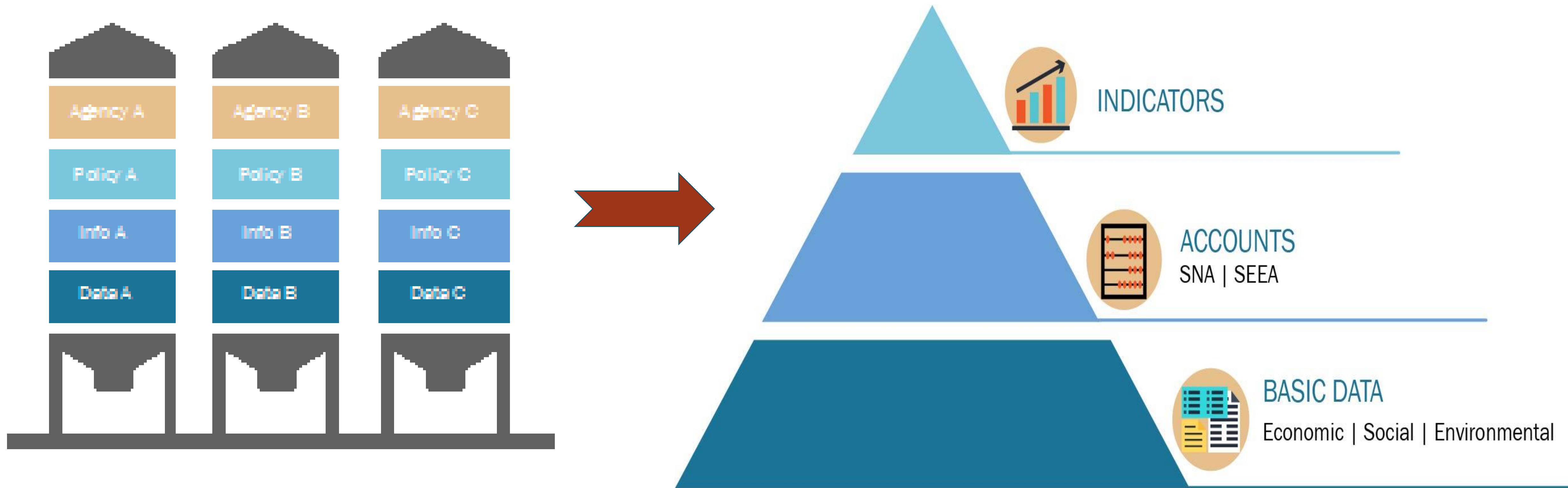
- Brief intro to the SEEA –EA
- Some considerations on the implementation of the SEEA EA

The need to account for the Environment

- Nature and the services it provides support almost every aspect of human well-being
- But headline indicators like GDP, the unemployment rate and inflation do not capture the full economic contributions of nature
- Traditional accounts don't help us understand how the depletion of natural resources and degradation of the environment affect the economy and wellbeing
- The System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA) fills that gap
- SEEA integrates information on the economy and the environment showing their interrelationship complementing the System of National Accounts



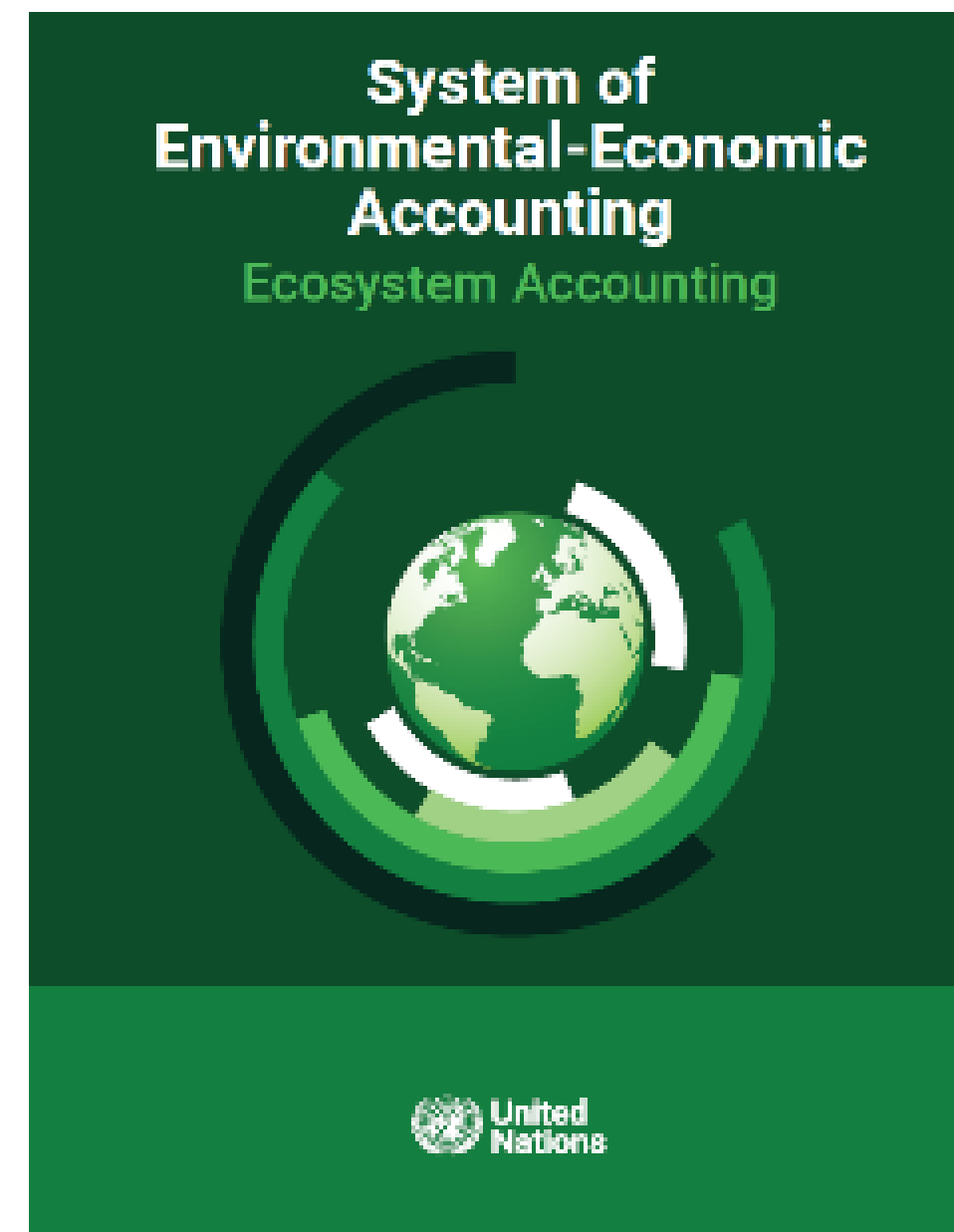
From data silos to integrated information



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



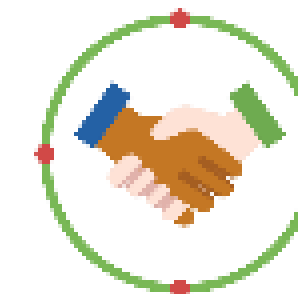
Credibility, reliability, replicability of data



Consistency over time and space

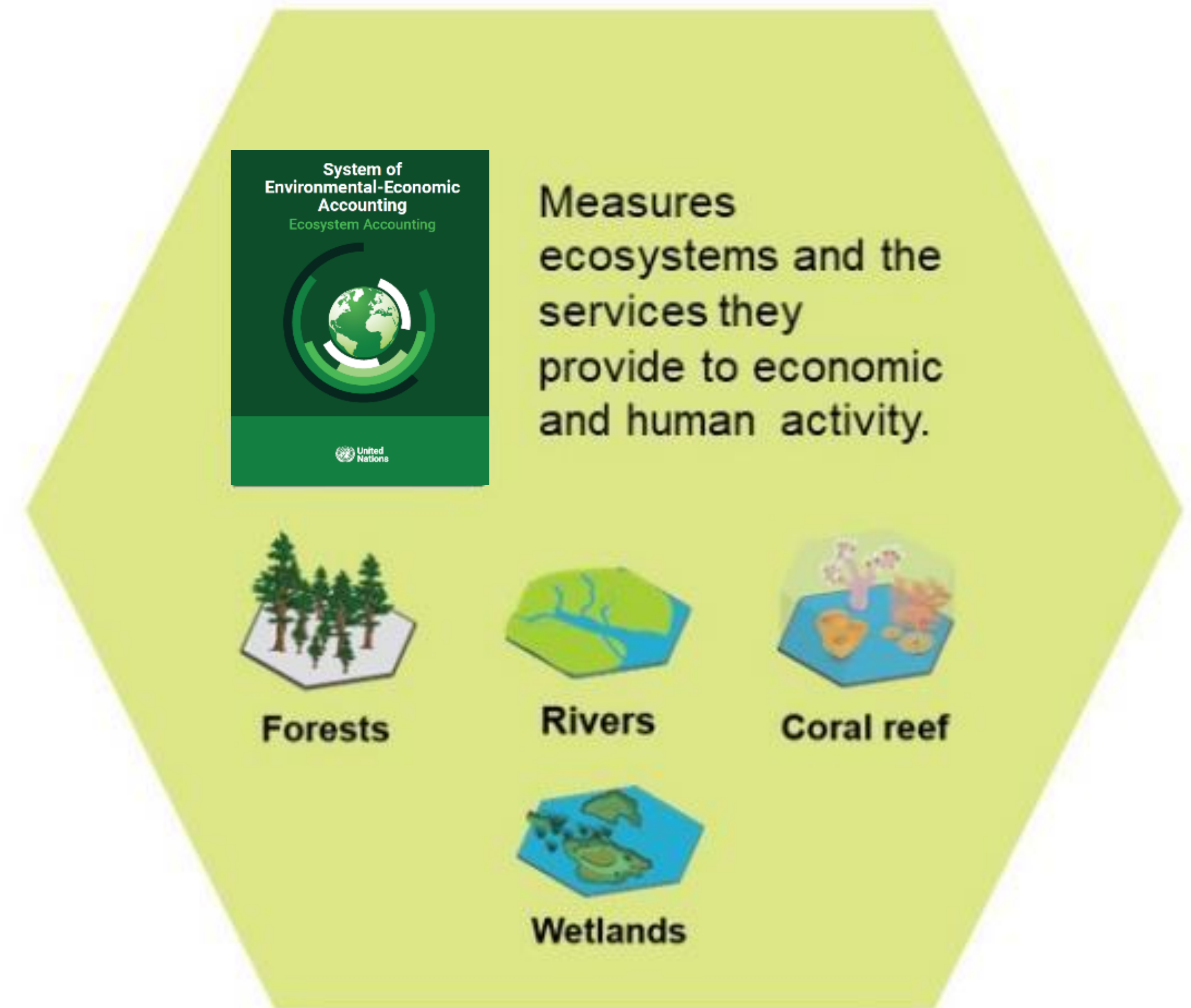


Common language between different communities

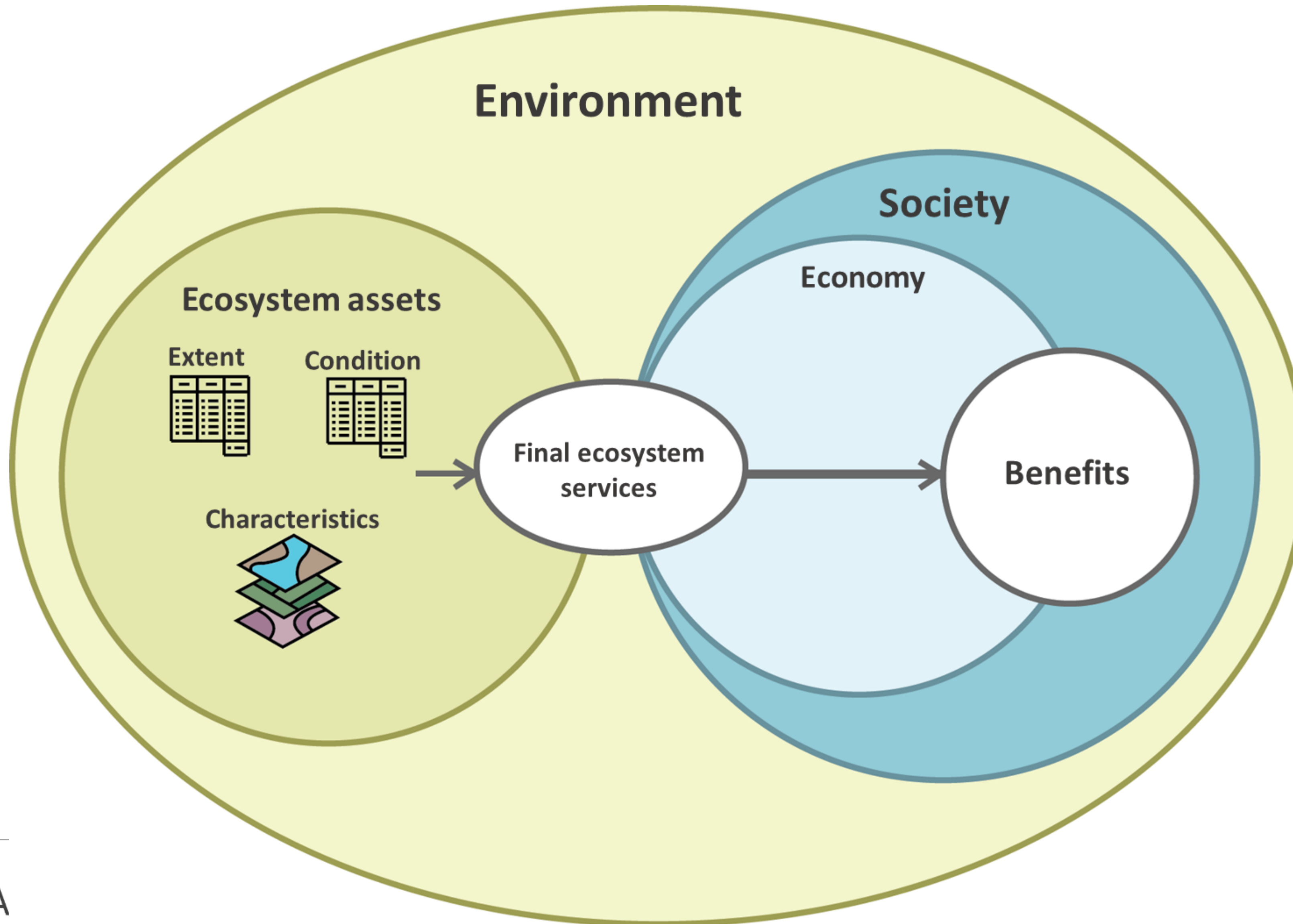


Breaks down silos and fosters collaboration

SEEA Central Framework and SEEA Ecosystem Accounting – Two sides of the same coin

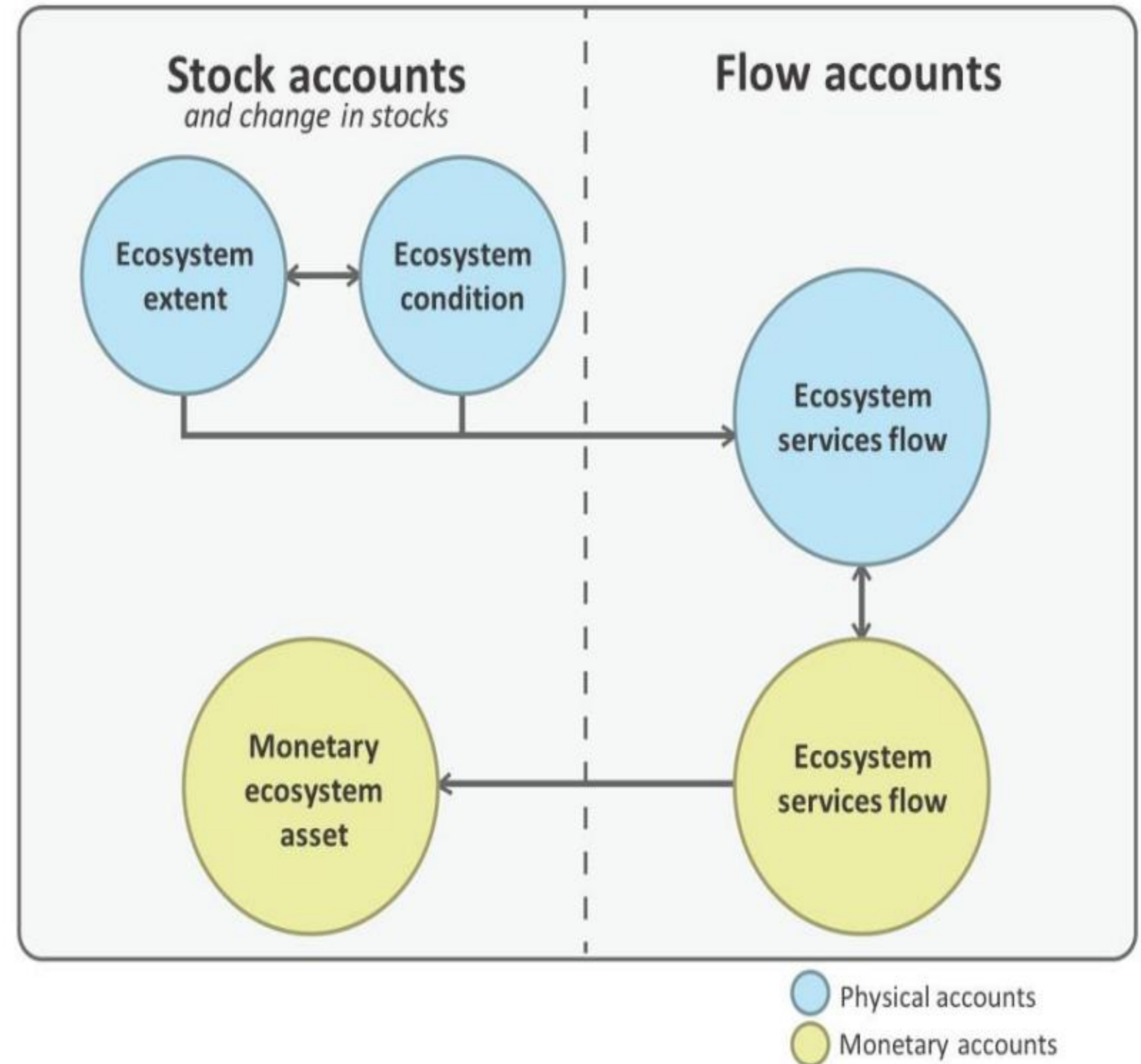


SEEA EA Framework



SEEA EA

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



The SEEA supports multiple ongoing initiatives



Implementation of the SEEA EA

1. Strategic planning

- Characteristics of a strategic plan and its development in two steps: (1) establishing a core group, and (2) conducting a national assessment

2. Mechanisms for implementation

- Potential institutional set-ups needed for successful implementation of the SEEA

3. Compiling the accounts

- Aspects related to compilation, such as data sources; work of the technical committee; collaboration with partners; and additional resources and activities to support implementation

4. Disseminating the accounts

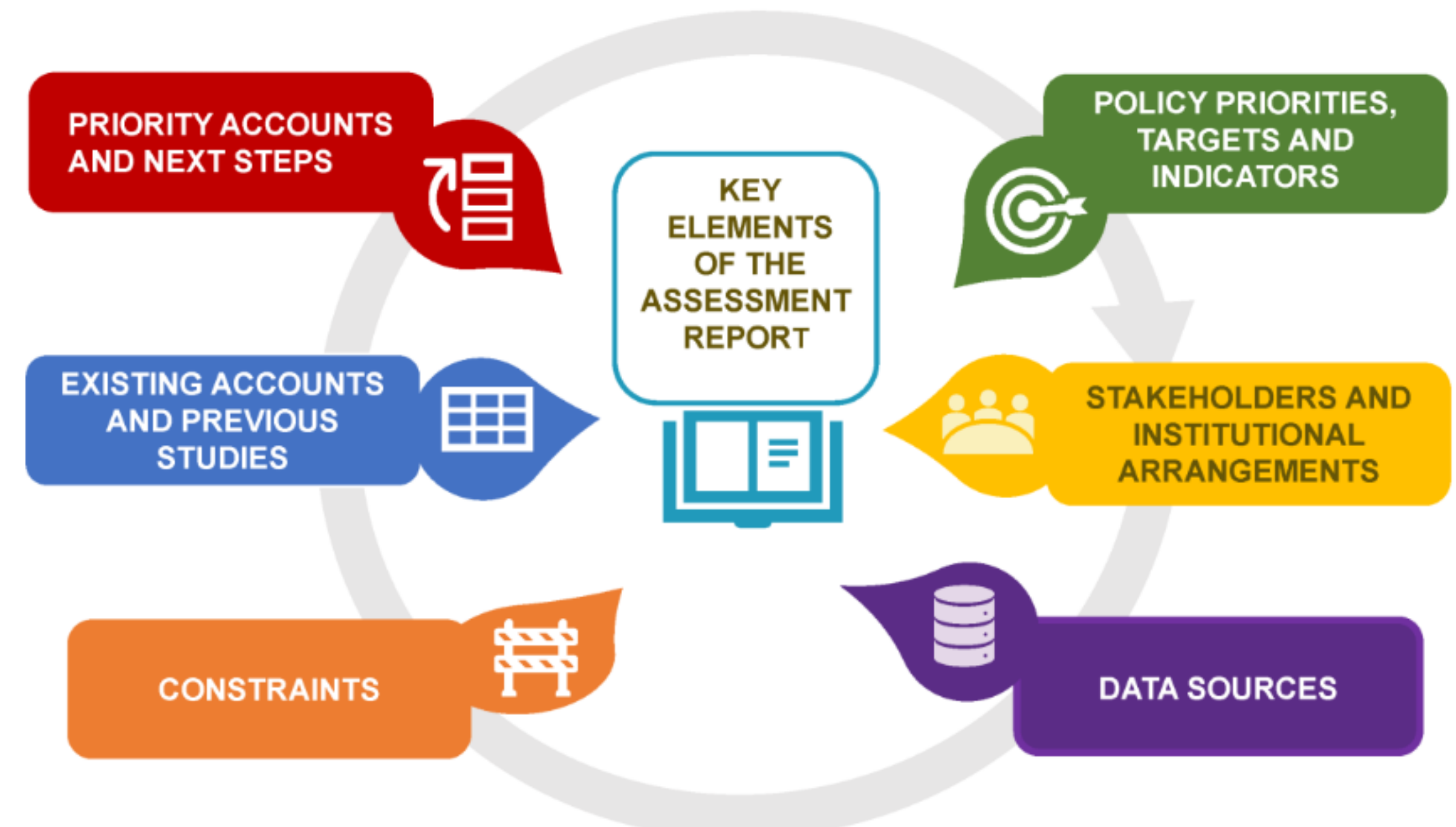
- Good practices around disseminating the accounts, identifying the main users of accounts and their information needs

5. Mainstreaming the SEEA

- Legal mandates, formalization of mechanisms between institutions, funding mechanisms, and moving from piloting to regular production

1. Strategic Planning

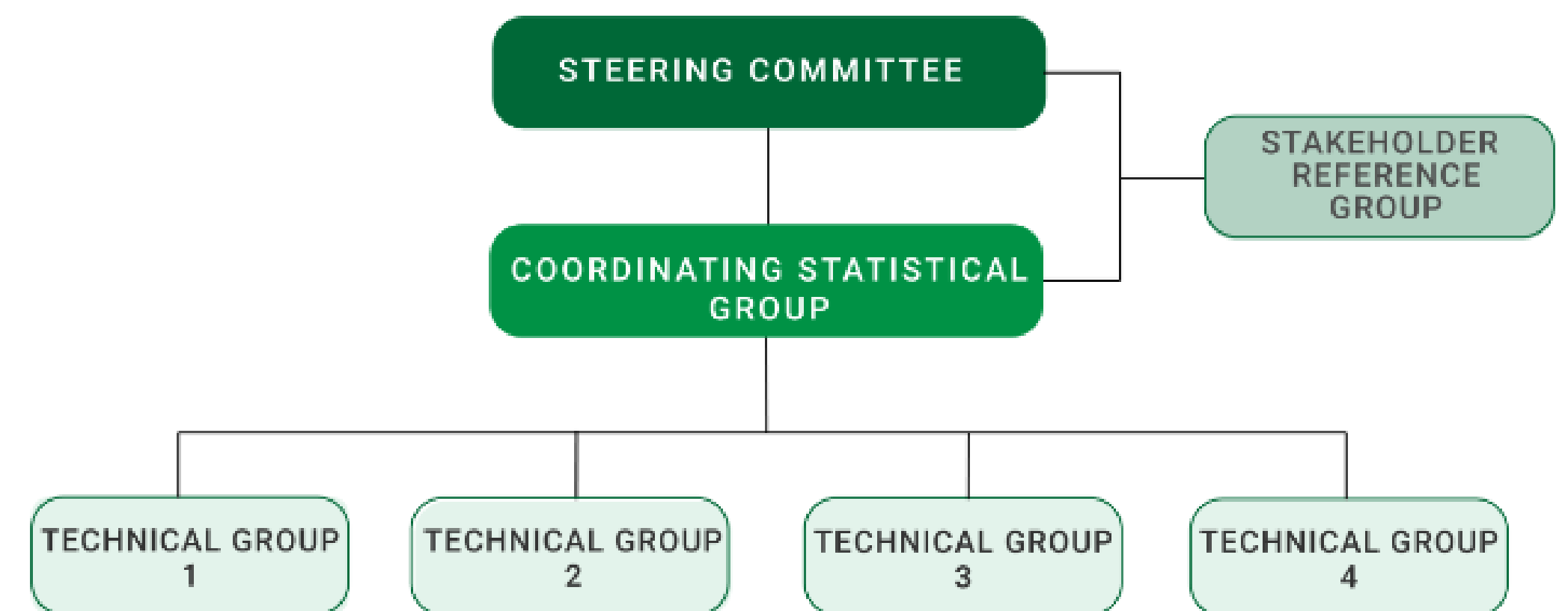
- Main objective: ensure that the compilation of the accounts is linked to policy and decision making
- Establishing a core national stakeholder group
- Conducting an assessment of the policy and data environment



2. Building mechanisms for implementation

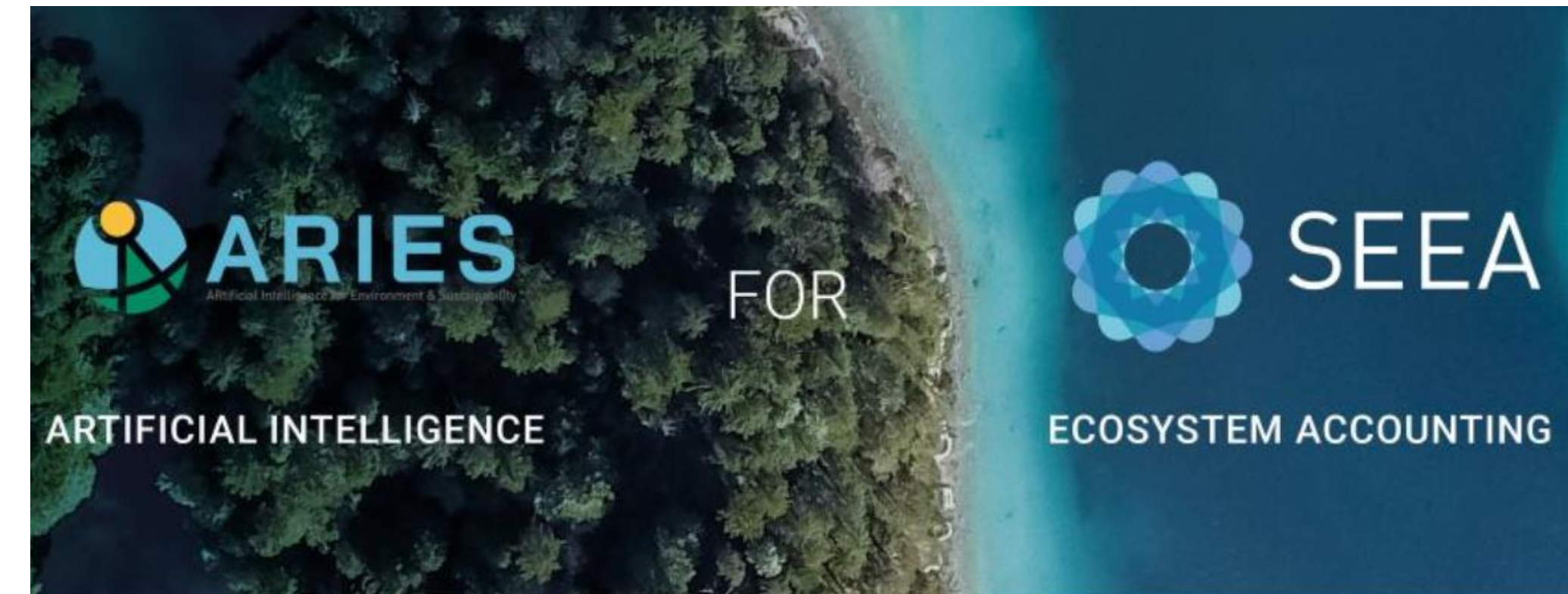
- Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the SEEA, it is important to bring build a coordination mechanism to oversee and do the work
- Steering committee: to oversee and facilitate the compilation of the accounts
- Implementation teams/ technical groups

A suggested illustrative example of a governing and collaborative structure



3. Compiling the accounts

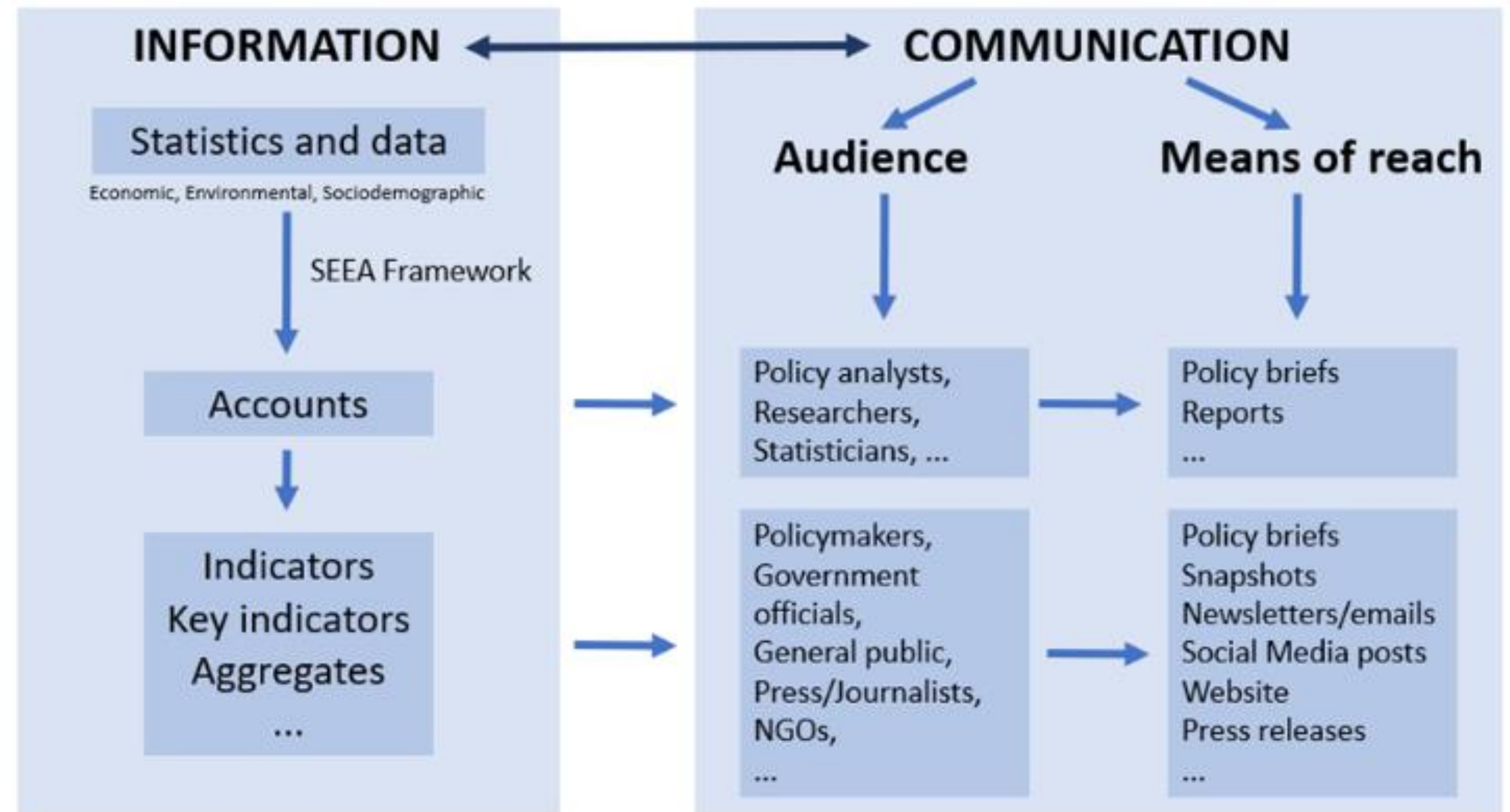
- Assessment of available data sources
 - > Land cover/use maps and cadastre data
 - > Ecological information (monitoring) systems
 - > Environment statistics
 - > Economic statistics
 - > National accounts
- Identifying gaps
- Important tools for the compilation of the accounts, such as ARIES for SEEA
 - > It generates ecosystem accounts for any user-specified terrestrial area in the world (such as a country, administrative region, watershed, etc.), by using freely available global remote-sensing derived data and models, and rapidly computes these accounts online, using a web browser.



<https://seea.un.org/content/aries-for-seea>
<https://aries.integratedmodelling.org/aries-for-seea-explorer/>

4. Disseminating the accounts

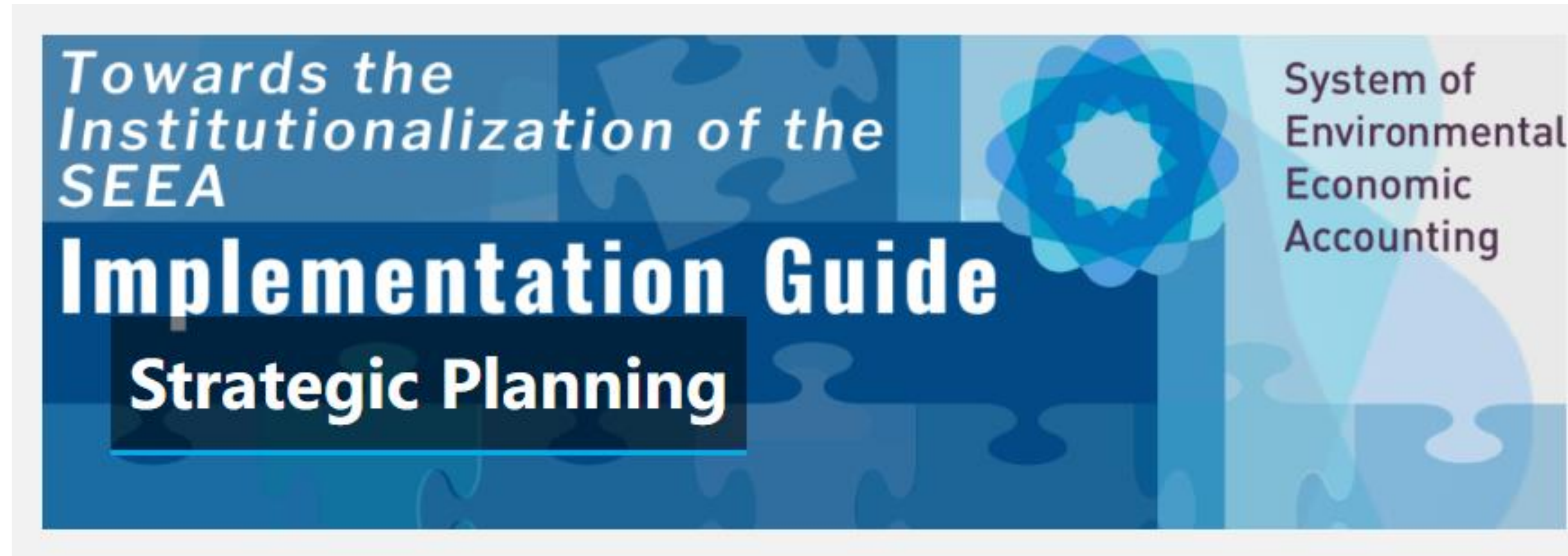
- Disseminating the accounts and communicating the findings and the links with the uses of the accounts is critical



5. Mainstreaming the SEEA

- Making the compilation of the accounts part of the regular work programme
- Useful elements
 - > Ensure that a mandate for the compilation of the accounts (e.g. legal framework)
 - > Establishing institutional arrangements
 - > Ensuring appropriate resources (human and financial resources)

More information on strategies for the implementation of the SEEA EA



<https://seea.un.org/content/seea-implementation-guide-strategic-planning>

THANK YOU

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