

System of Environmental Economic Accounting



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

SEEA FRAMEWORK, REVISION PROCESS AND RESEARCH AGENDA

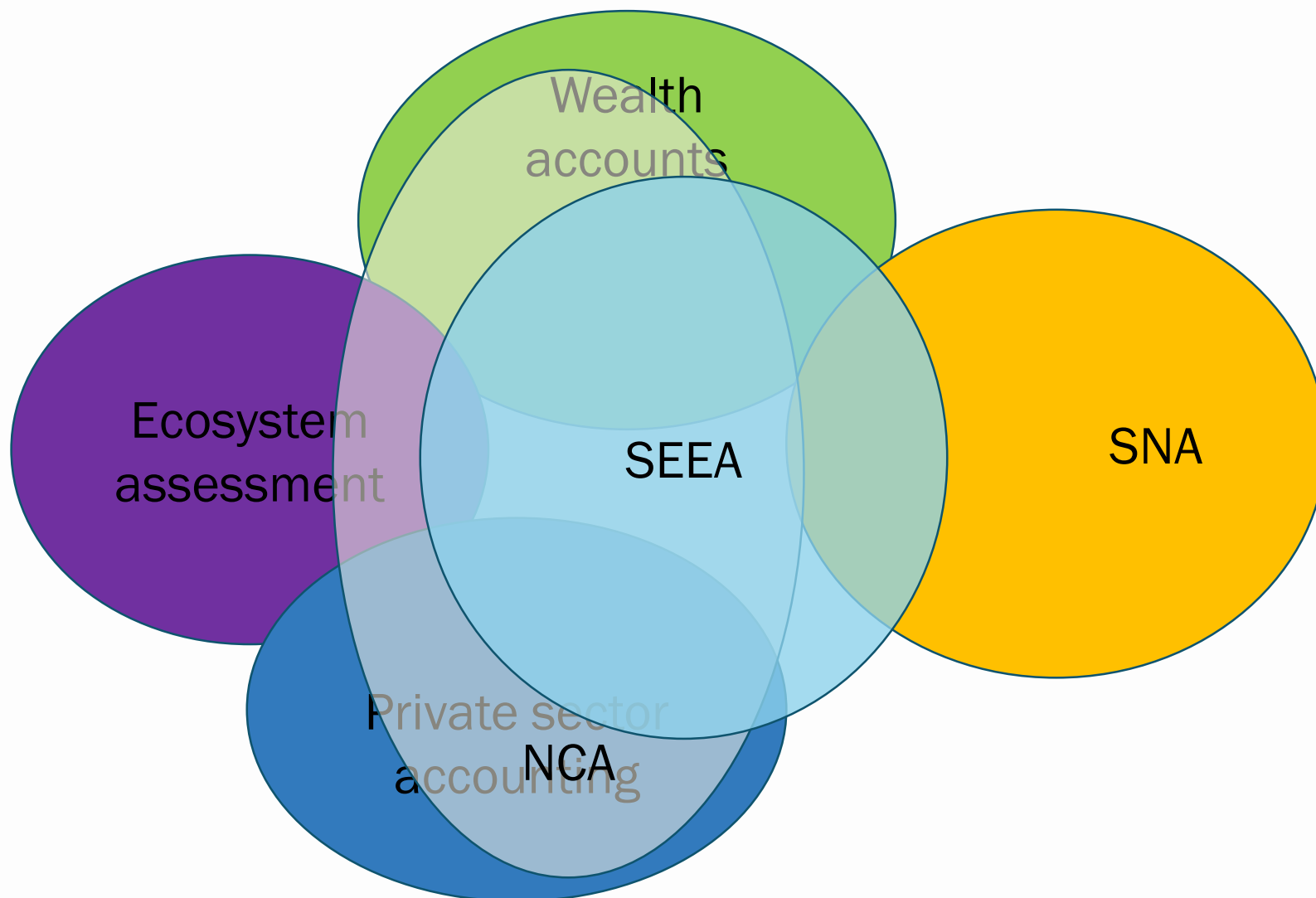
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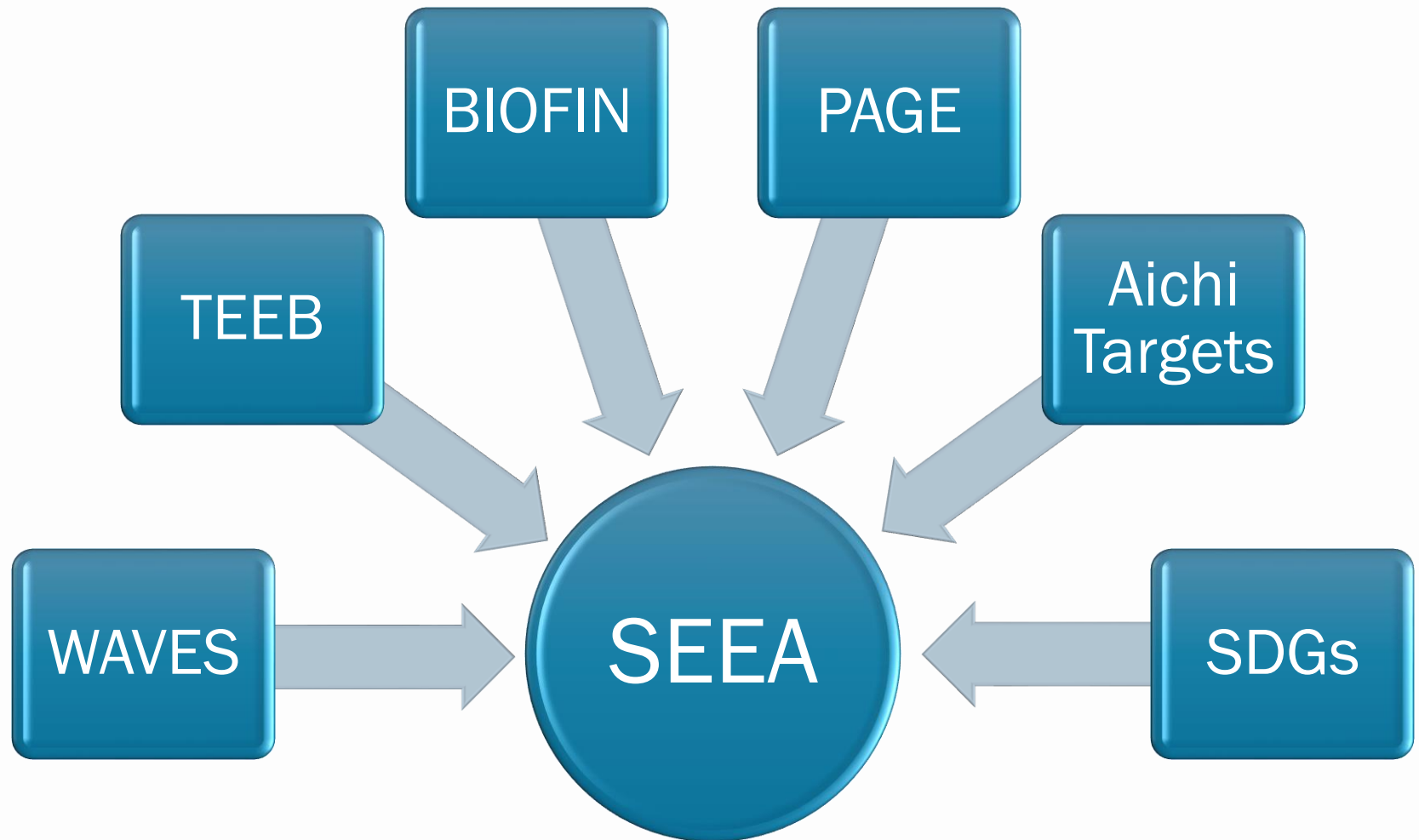


United Nations

System of Environmental-Economic Accounting - Context



SEEA and other initiatives



Sustainable Development Policy

Evidence Based

Integrated

Integrated Information System

Applies a uniform
standard approach

Integrates
environmental,
economic and social
information

Captures synergies and
trade-offs

The System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)

Two standards, one approach:

- The **SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF)** was adopted as an international statistical standard by the UN Statistical Commission in 2012 to measure the environment and its relation with the economy
- The **SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA)** complements the Central Framework and represents international efforts toward coherent ecosystem accounting



Two Different Perspectives

SEEA Central Framework:

Individual environmental assets/ resources

Timber
Water
Soil
Fish



SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounts:

Ecosystem assets (spatially based)

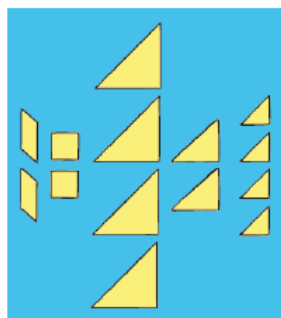
Forests
Lakes
Agricultural areas

Ecosystem Assets are environmental assets viewed from a systems perspective

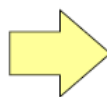
The Need for an Accounting Framework

Assessments or Statistics

- Often developed to answer one particular question or problem
- Not always easy to see the whole picture, or how it relates to other things

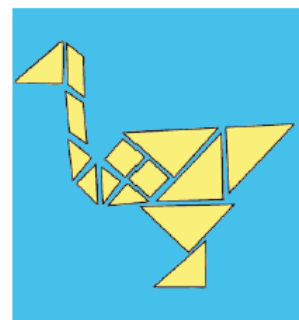


Sectoral Data



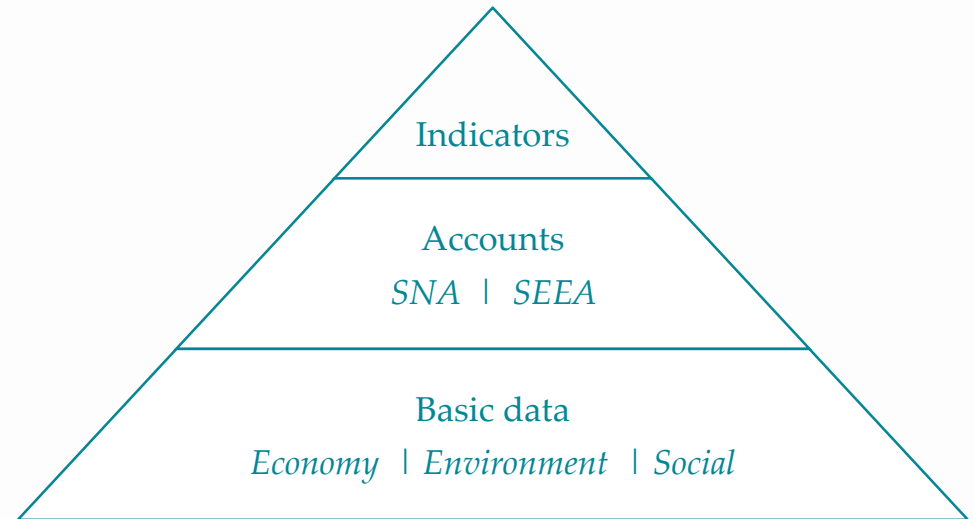
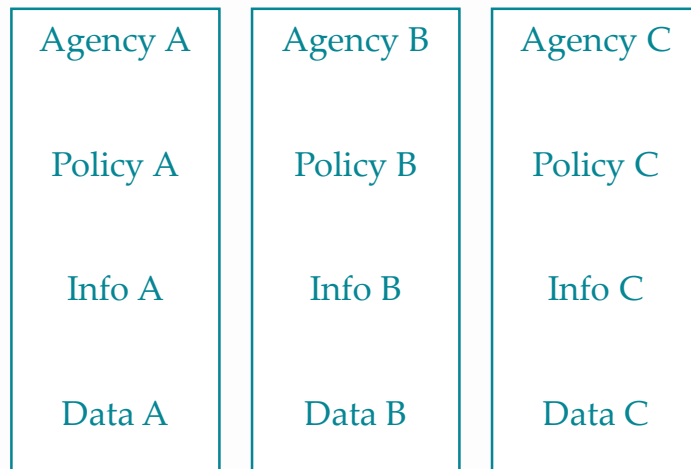
Accounts

- Help to make sense of the larger picture
- Can make connections to other statistics - especially economic statistics



Integrated information

Silo approach → Integration



Accounts to integrate statistics:

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

Results of 2017 Global Assessment

Global Assessment 2017: Summary of results

- Sent to national statistical offices of 193 Member States and 22 territories
- 109 respondents
- Results indicate 69 countries with a programme, 45 with regular funding
- A further 22 countries currently planning a programme
- Water and energy are priorities in both developed and developing countries
- In developed countries, accounts compiled appear to be driven by legislation



28%
increase in
number of
countries
with a
programme

Global Assessment 2017: Summary of results



SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting - *Revision by 2020*

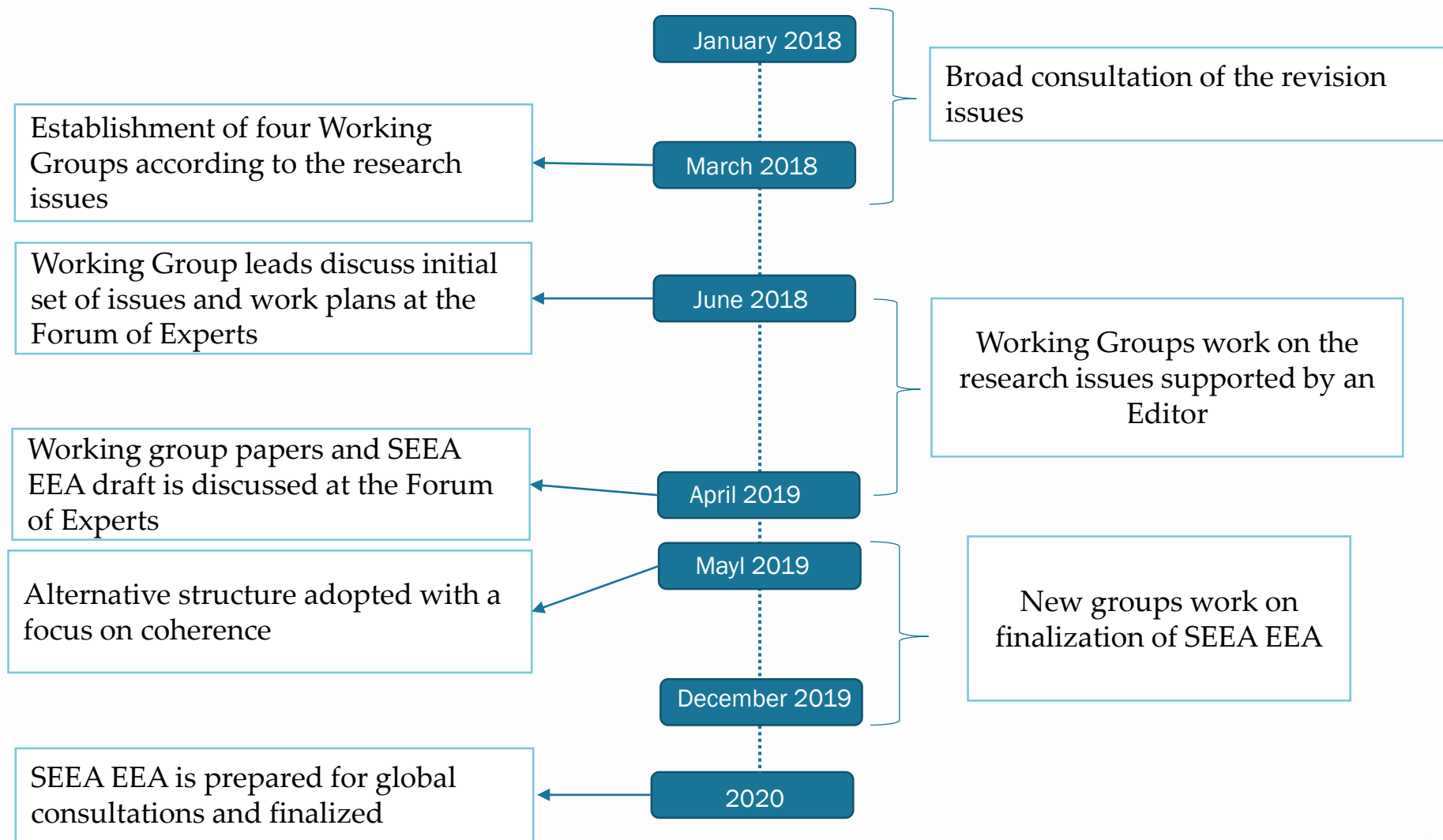
Revision of the SEEA EEA

- **Mandate:** Forty-eighth UN Statistical Commission (2017) supported efforts of UNCEEA to revise SEEA EEA by 2020
 - > In June 2017 UNCEEA determined to initiate the process of revision
- **Base for revision:** The revision will be based on the two main publications
 - > SEEA 2012–Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (published in 2014)
 - > Technical Recommendations in support of the SEEA EEA (published in 2017)
- **Scope:** Revision process will draw upon experience of ecosystem accounting initiatives and projects
- **Involvement:** We seek for broad involvement of partners and experts in the process, as well as for financial and in-kind contributions.
- **Oversight** will be provided by the SEEA EEA Technical Committee (established by UNCEEA) and the Bureau of UNCEEA with broad involvement of experts in the field.

Research agenda for the revision

- Revision structured around **four research areas**:
 - > **Spatial areas**: Classification of ecosystem types
 - > **Ecosystem condition**: Characteristics and indicators of ecosystem condition
 - > **Ecosystem services**: The description and classification of ecosystem services
 - > **Accounting treatments and valuation**:
 - Valuation concepts for ecosystem services and ecosystem assets
 - Valuation methods for key ecosystem services
 - Accounting for ecosystem capacity, degradation and enhancement
- There is also a number of **crosscutting domains**, such as oceans and marine ecosystems, freshwater ecosystems, urban ecosystems, etc..
- Testing and experimentation of specific topics (e.g. SDG indicator 6.6.1 on freshwater extent and 6.3.1 on land degradation, etc.)

Revision process: keystones & timeline





THANK YOU

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