

- **What are ocean accounts?**
- **Why are countries interested in ocean accounts?**
- **Introducing the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership**

Ben Milligan, GOAP Secretariat
info@oceanaccounts.org
www.oceanaccounts.org



Global Ocean
Accounts Partnership

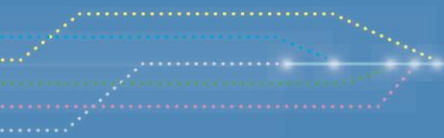
What are ocean accounts?

- Collections of **physical, monetary and other information** related to the ocean: environmental, economic and social
- Organized into a common data **structure**
- Compatible with international **statistical standards** for national accounting



System of National Accounts

2008



European Commission



International Monetary Fund



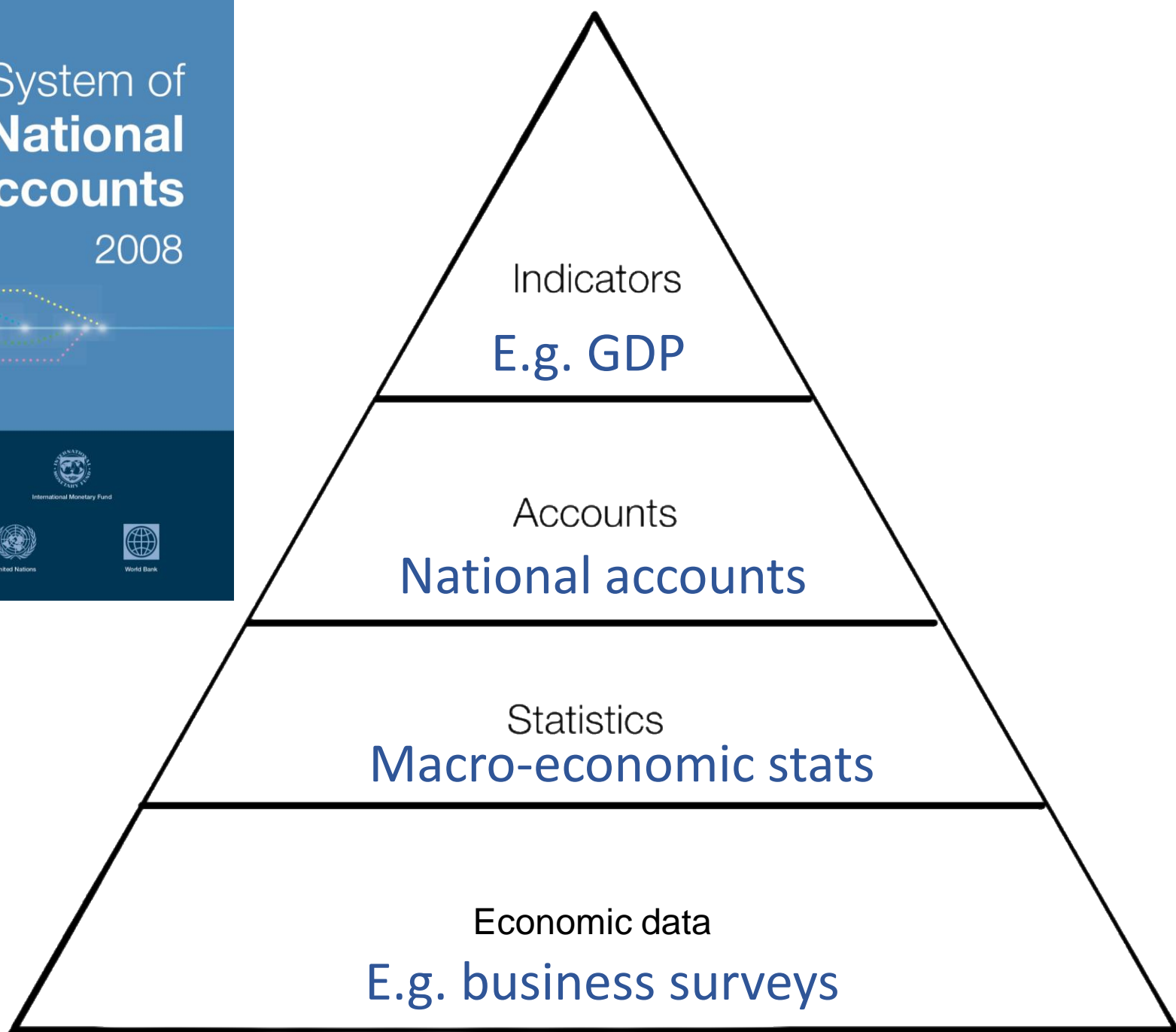
Organisation for Economic
Co-operation and Development



United Nations



World Bank



Climate data

National census

Fish stock assessments

Shoreline maps

Ecological assessments

Tourism data

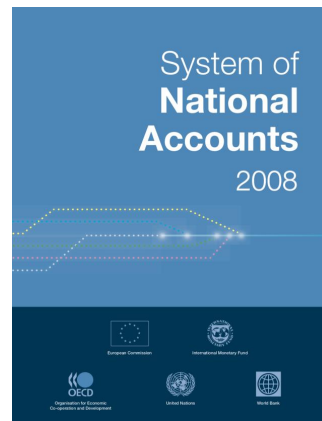
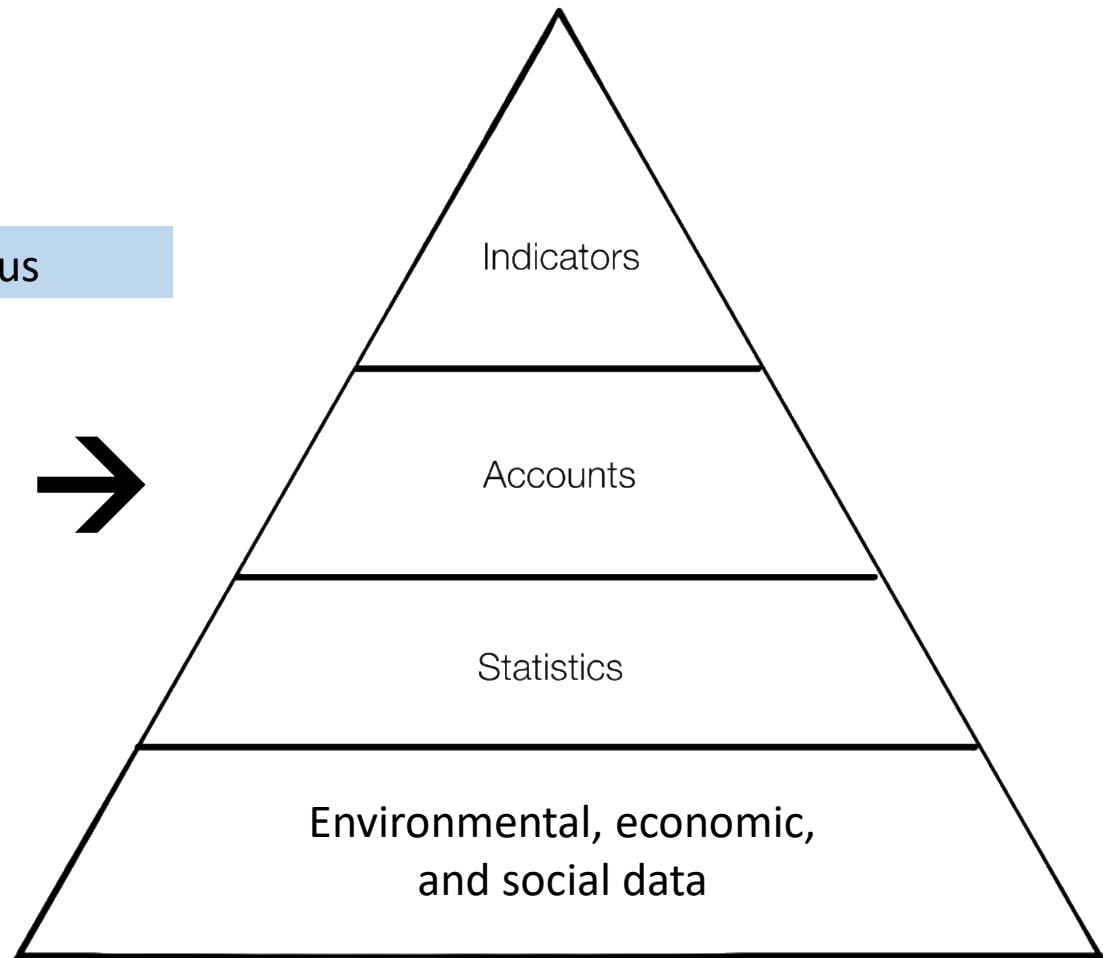
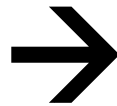
Hydrographic data

Biogeochemical data

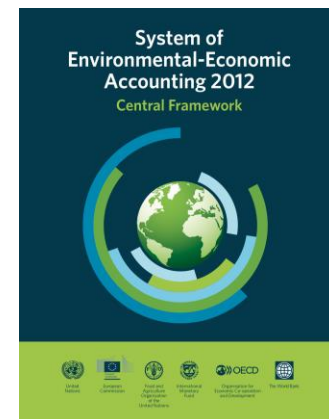
Ocean industry statistics

Laws and policies

Pollution data



+



Key questions answered by ocean accounts:

- What is the status of **ocean wealth**, including produced assets (e.g. **ports**) and non-produced assets (e.g. **coral reefs, mangroves, fish stocks**)?
- How are different groups of people benefitting from the ocean, ocean economy? (**income or welfare**)
- What is the status of **ocean-based economic production**?

Why are countries interested in ocean accounts:

- Demand from national strategies for ocean-based development (blue economy).
- Monitoring of progress towards sustainable development and other international commitments, “beyond GDP” (SDG 15.9, 17.19)
- Making better use of ocean science in economic decision-making
- Build a **common set of facts** for different parts of government: environmental protection, infrastructure development, planning and finance, transport, fisheries, energy, etc.

Some countries outside of Africa developing ocean accounts:

- Europe: Netherlands, Portugal, UK, + EU.
- Asia-Pacific: Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Samoa, Thailand, Vanuatu, Vietnam
- Americas: Canada, Costa Rica, USA
- **Key themes:** integrated ocean management, environmental monitoring, economic development planning

Many more countries have ocean assessment activities that provide foundation for accounts

Example from Thailand:

- Integrated accounting for tourism economies and environmental status in the Andaman sea
- 2019 pilot project supported by UN–ESCAP
- 2020 decision to invest in national pilot



Challenges for ocean accounting:

- Overcoming fragmentation of data across many different institutions (within and beyond government)
- Improving ocean monitoring and assessment
- Staff time and capacity
- Divergent approaches in different countries

Given current status of ocean accounting, **partnerships are crucial** for building capacity, sharing best practices, and overcoming outstanding challenges.


The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership:

- Established in 2019 to **accelerate ocean accounting** enabling **measurement and management of progress towards sustainable ocean development**
- Open to governments, international institutions, research-based organizations, others. Current co-chairs: UN–ESCAP, Canada. Supported by World Bank Blue Economy Program
- **2019 Sydney Global Dialogue:** 18 governments
- Supporting the work of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy: 14 countries
- Regional communities of practice, capacity support, clearing house, technical guidance.



The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership

Measuring progress towards sustainable ocean development

 Events

★ Featured


High Level Panel Blue Paper on Ocean Accounts

6 days ago • 2 min read

[BLUE PAPER: National Accounting for the Ocean and the Ocean Economy](https://www.oceanpanel.org/blue-papers/national-accounting-ocean-and-ocean-economy)
<https://www.oceanpanel.org/blue-papers/national-accounting-ocean-and-ocean-economy>

Photo by Silas Balsch on Unsplash

Commissioned by



HIGH LEVEL PANEL for
A SUSTAINABLE
OCEAN ECONOMY



System of Environmental and Economic Accounting

Resources and projects

Ecosystem accounting for the ocean

6 days ago • 1 min read