

System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Linking Environment with National Accounts: Making Nature Count

IUCN World Conservation Congress

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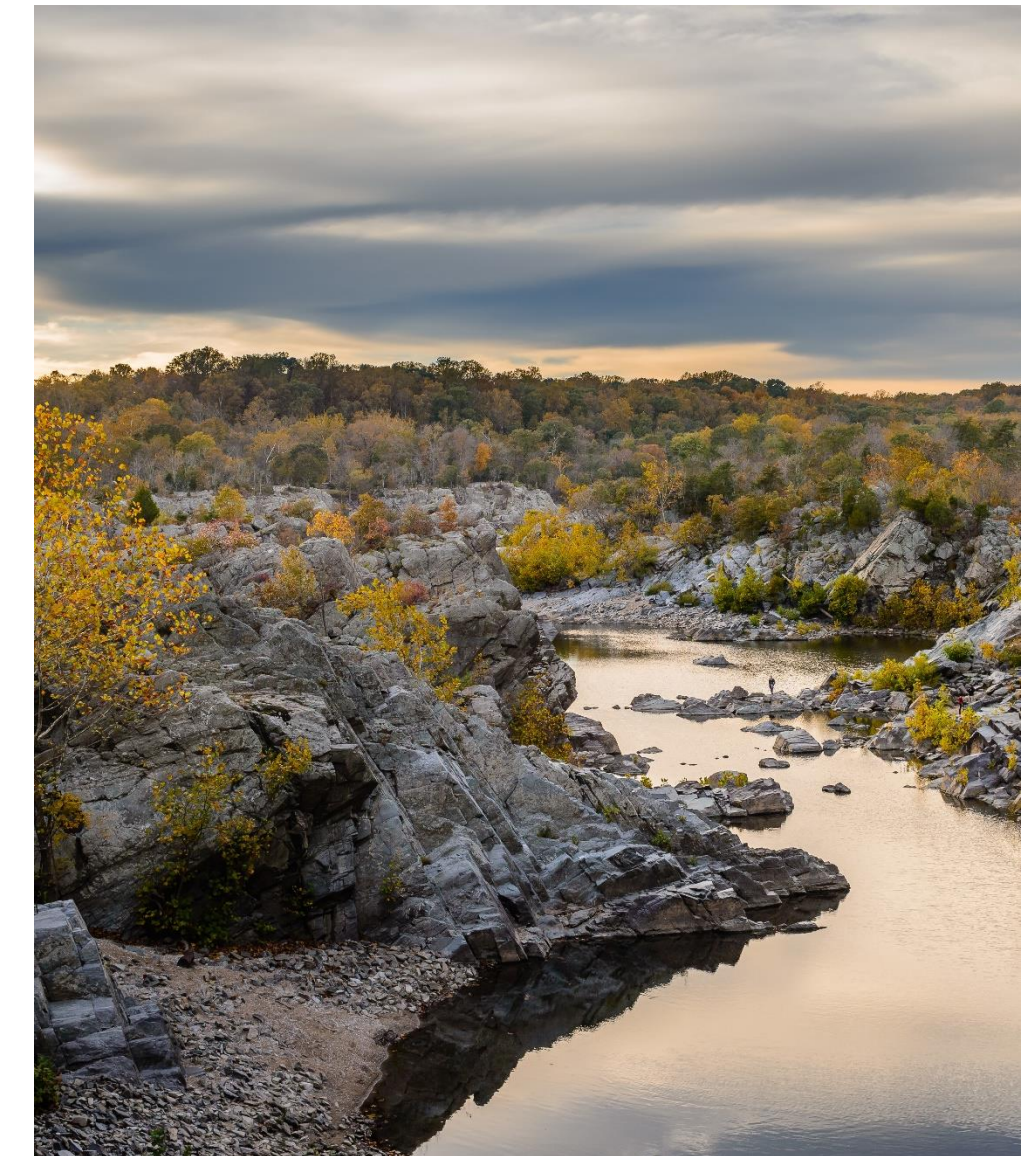
Chair, UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic
Accounting



United Nations

The Need

- Our economic well-being crucially depends on nature.
- But headline indicators like GDP or the unemployment rate do not capture these vital contributions.
- As a result, decision makers don't have access to key information necessary to effectively pursue and track sustainable development.
- 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



The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

The SEEA is the statistical framework to measure the environment and its interactions with economy.

- The **SEEA Central Framework** was adopted as an international statistical standard by the UN Statistical Commission in 2012.
- The **SEEA Ecosystem Accounting** was adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 2021 and complements the Central Framework to provide a coherent framework for ecosystem accounting.
- **SEEA Applications and Extensions** helps compilers and users of SEEA accounts understand how the accounts can be used in decision making, policy review and formulation, analysis and research.

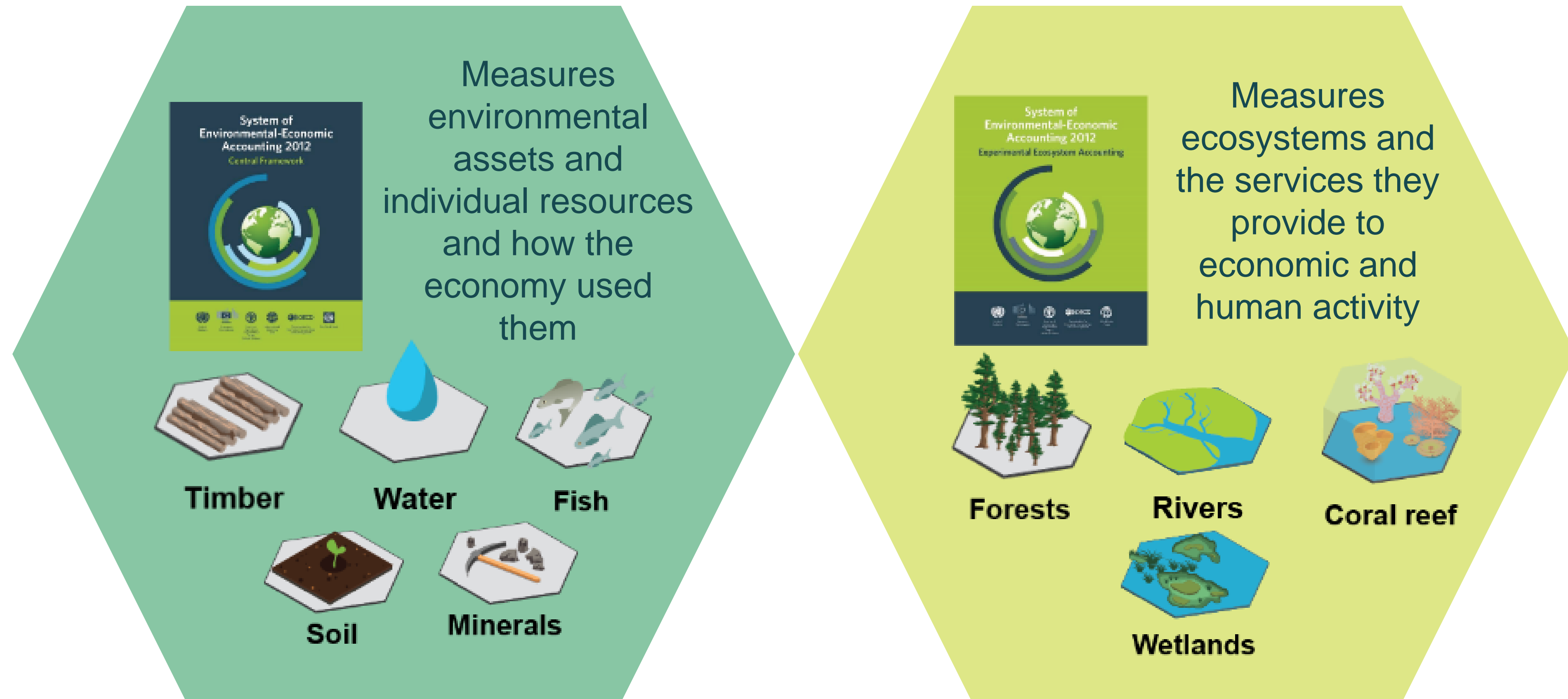


SEEA uses the accounting approach to integrates many data sets

- SEEA accounts can rely on numerous data sources, covering such areas as
 - energy
 - environment
 - agriculture
 - economy
 - ecosystems
- These data sources are combined to produce an integrated set of accounts and develop policy relevant indicators
- Compiling the accounts necessitates collaboration and cooperation across ministries



Two sides of the SEEA

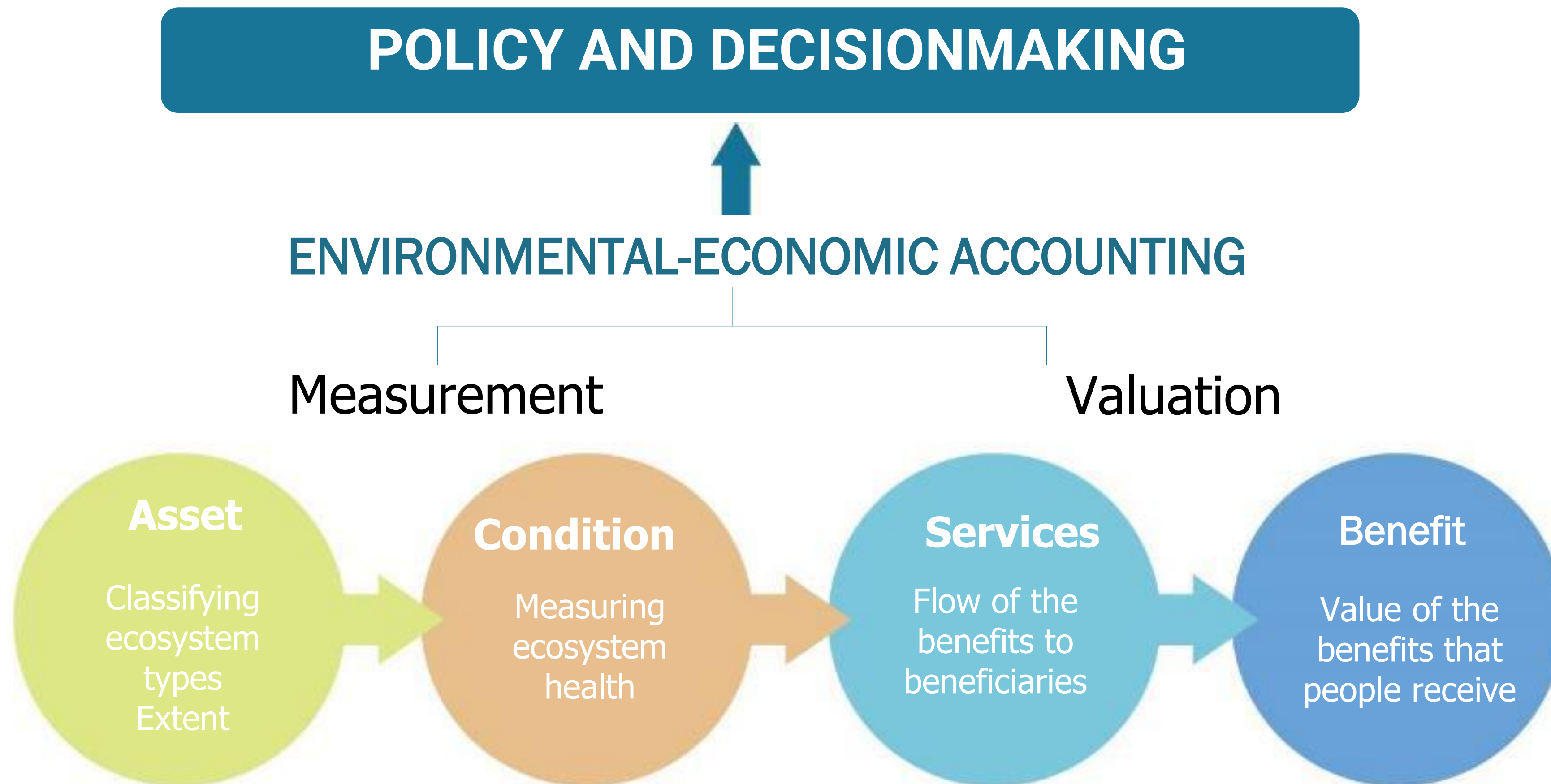


Asset & Resources + Ecosystems = SEEA

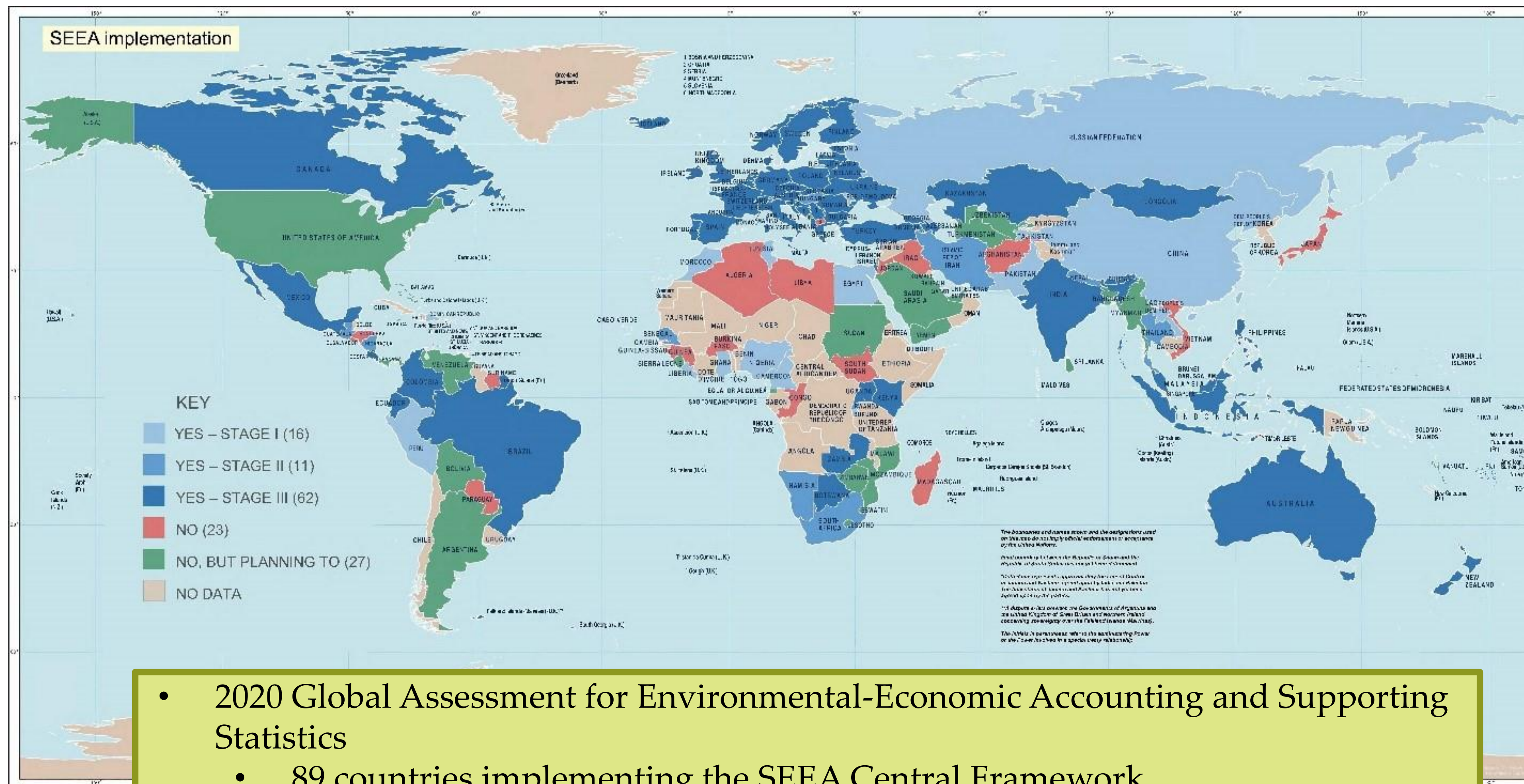
Development of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting

- Engagement with various stakeholders – wide engagement of various communities, including ecologists, environmental economists, earth observation, etc.
- Seek for broad involvement of partners and experts in the process – **over 100 experts contributed to drafting of the discussion papers and more than 600 reviewed the papers**
- **The SEEA EA was adopted at its 52nd session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2021**
 - > Chapters 1-7 describe the accounting framework and the physical accounts and were adopted as an international statistical standard
 - > Chapters 8-11 describe internationally recognized statistical principles and recommendations for the valuation of ecosystem services and assets
 - > Chapters 12-14 describe the applications and extensions to the SEEA EA

SEEA Ecosystem Accounting



SEEA around the world



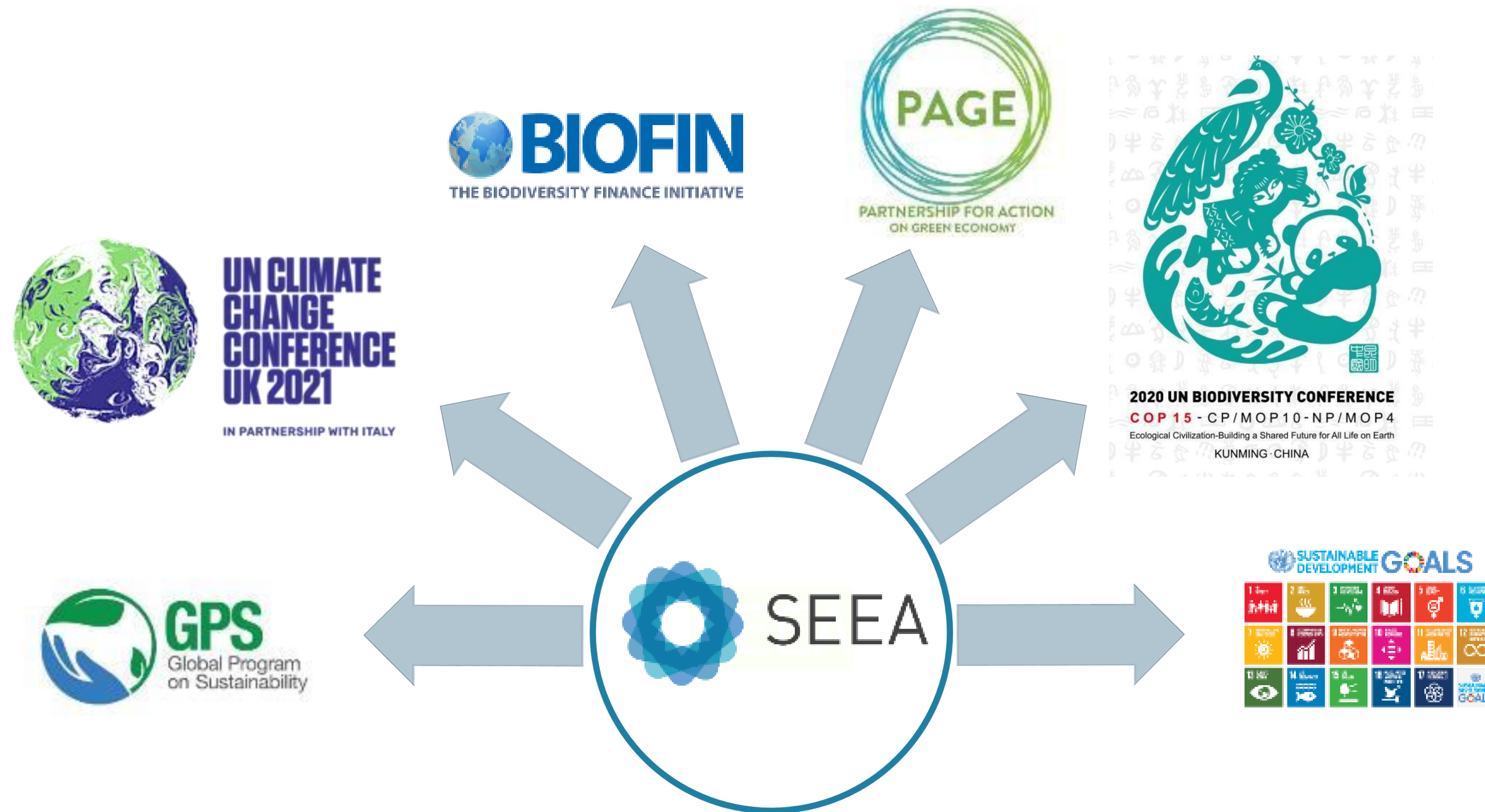
- 2020 Global Assessment for Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics
 - 89 countries implementing the SEEA Central Framework
 - 34 countries compiling SEEA Ecosystem Accounts
 - 27 countries planning to start implementation of the SEEA

Implementation of SEEA

- National Statistical Offices
 - > Credibility
 - > Reliability
 - > Replicability
 - > Mainstreamed in statistical production process
 - > Arms length from policy
- MoE, line ministries, think tanks
 - > Science
 - > Data production
- Ministry of planning and finance
- Promotes inter-institutional mechanisms

Inter-
institutional
collaboration

SEEA as a supporting framework



Link between the post-2020 GBF and SEEA

- SEEA (Ecosystem Accounting and Central Framework) will underpin many of the indicators
- Will create additional demand for ecosystem and biodiversity data/monitoring
 - Need to strengthen capacity for better measurement
- Involvement of national statistical offices and use of official statistics is key to operationalizing the GBF monitoring framework
 - Strong coordination and collaboration between national statistical offices, ministries of environment and others

Link between the post-2020 GBF and SEEA

- Indicators and metadata for post-2020 GBF monitoring framework will need to be developed
- An expert group will be established to oversee the process
- Need for gap filling, sharing of experiences, capacity building and better guidance for countries

IUCN Resolution 57

https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/resrecfiles/WCC_2020_RES_057_EN.pdf

- Important opportunity to scale up SEEA EA implementation
- Calls on IUCN, commissions, members, partners to engage and mobilize resources to:
 - Build on advances to develop and implement SEEA EA at ecosystem, species and genetic levels
 - Use SEEA EA to derive indicators of biodiversity change in support of post-2020 GBF, SDGs, etc.
 - Support national statistical offices and implementation partners to enhance capacity building and awareness in support of the implementation of the SEEA EA

Why SEEA?

- **Makes nature count** within economic planning and decision-making
- **Standardization is important** in order to obtain high-quality, and comparable statistics
- **SEEA catalyzes collaboration** due its multi-disciplinary nature between different stakeholders--statistical office and universities, line ministries, businesses, etc
- **Provides framework for deriving indicators** to support various monitoring and reporting frameworks such as post-2020 GBF, SDGs, climate change, green economy



THANK YOU

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