



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

# The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) - *An overview*

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United Nations

# The Need for Natural Capital Accounting

- 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
- COVID-19 recovery amidst climate and biodiversity crises: new sense of urgency in making nature count in policies

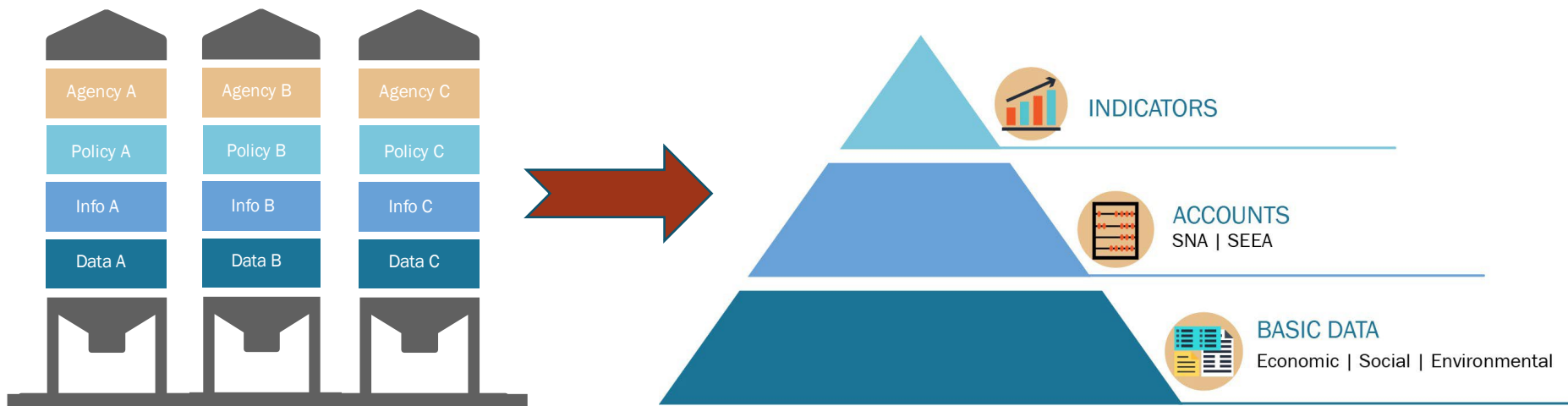


# SEEA uses the accounting approach to integrates many data sets

- SEEA accounts can rely up to 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



# From data silos to integrated information



# 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.





# Two sides of the SEEA



Measures environmental assets and individual resources and how the economy used them



**Timber**



**Water**



**Fish**



**Soil**



**Minerals**



Measures ecosystems and the services they provide to economic and human activity



**Forests**



**Rivers**



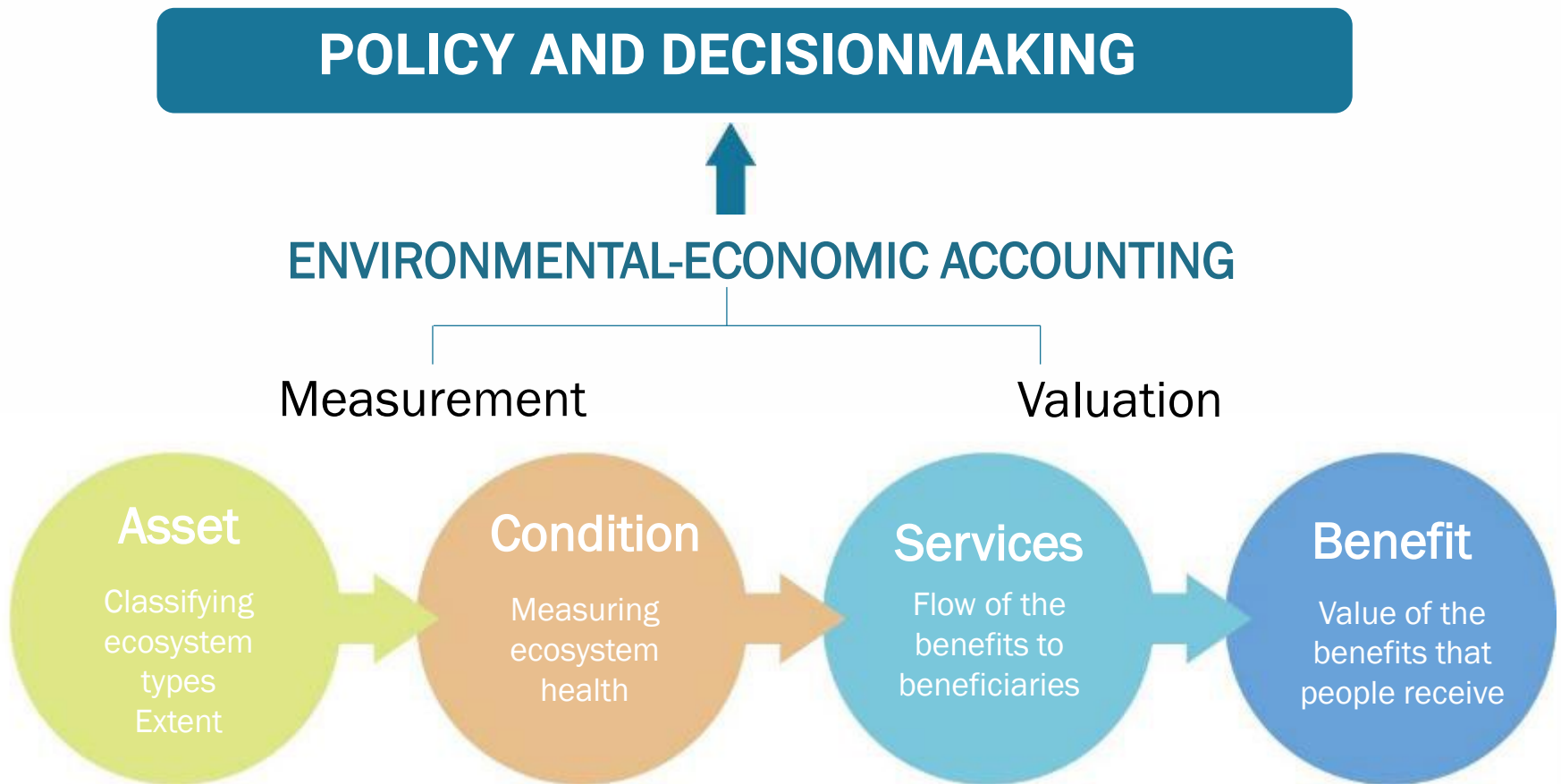
**Coral reef**



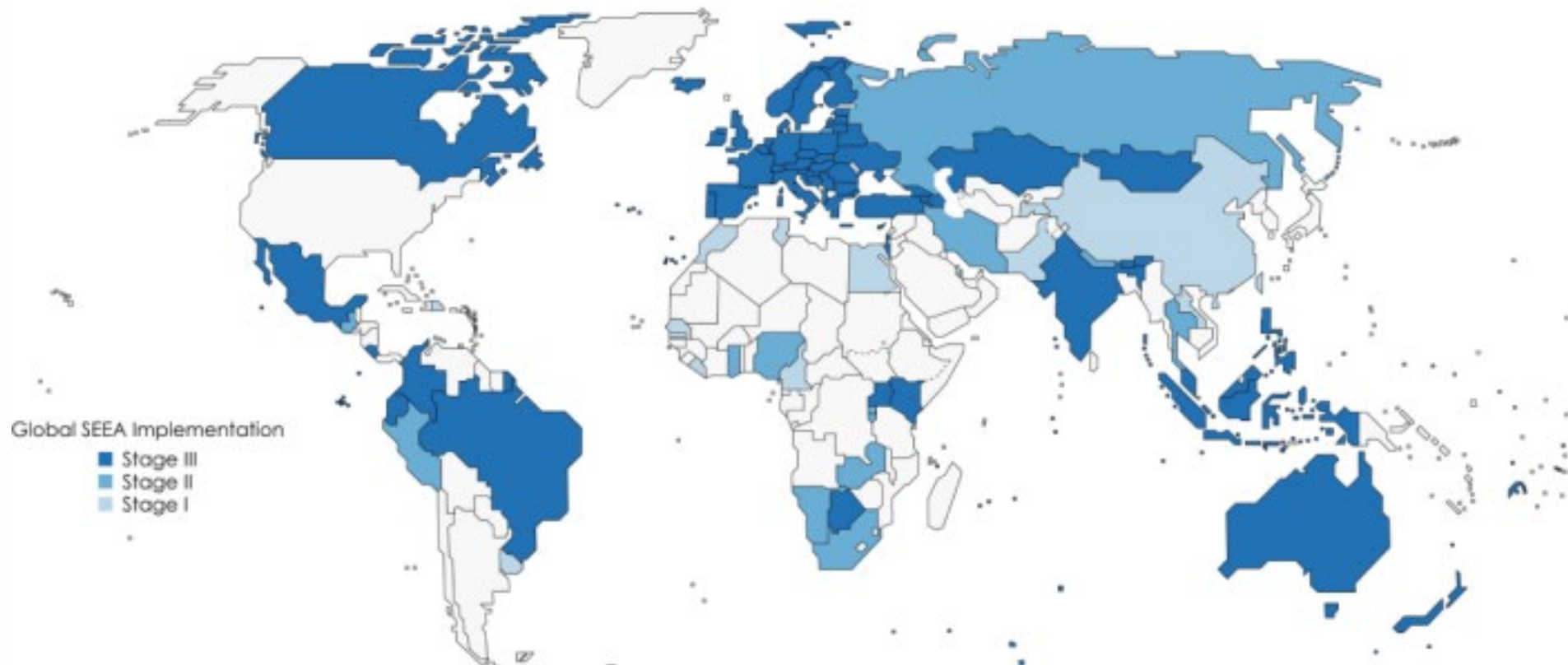
**Wetlands**

Asset & Resources + Ecosystems = SEEA

# SEEA Ecosystem Accounting



## SEEA around the world



- 2021 Global Assessment for Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics
  - 90 countries implementing the SEEA
  - 88 countries compile SEEA CF; 36 compile SEEA EA
  - Majority of countries (62%) publish accounts on a regular basis; 15% publish on an ad-hoc basis; 13% compile but do not yet publish their accounts



# The SEEA supports the SDGs

The SEEA provides data for 40 indicators for 9 SDGs...

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

GOAL 14: Life Below Water

GOAL 15: Life on Land

...and its implementation further facilitates achieving Goal 17 on partnerships.



# The SEEA supports multiple ongoing initiatives



# 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
- Academia
- Promotes inter-institutional mechanisms

Inter-  
institutional  
collaboration

# 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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