

System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

SEEA EA Implementation Strategy

Alessandra Alfieri

Chief, Environmental-Economic Accounts Section

United Nations Statistics Division

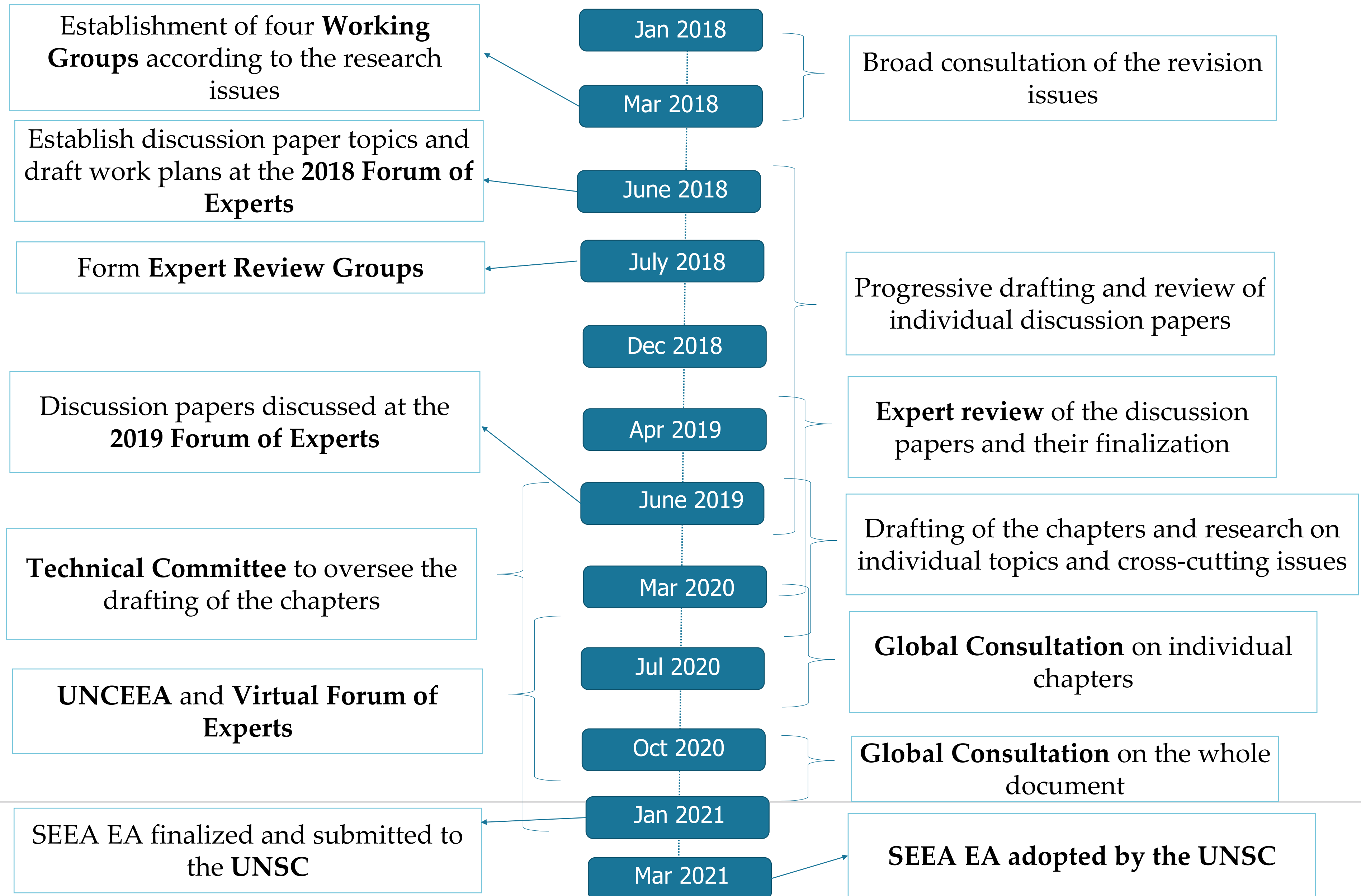


United Nations

SEEA EA revision and adoption

- Revision launched in March 2018 with the aim to finish by the end of 2020
- 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 were recognized to describe internationally recognized statistical principles and recommendations for the valuation of ecosystem services and assets
 - > Chapters 12-14 are describing the applications and extensions to the SEEA EA

The revision process: overall timeline





OUR COMMON AGENDA

Report of
the Secretary-General

- UN Common Agenda underscores that “now is the time to correct a glaring blind spot in how we measure economic prosperity and progress.”
- The UN SG calls for “new measures to complement GDP”
- Urges Member States and others to begin implementation of the **System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)** Ecosystem Accounting

The SEEA supports multiple ongoing initiatives



Objectives for the implementation

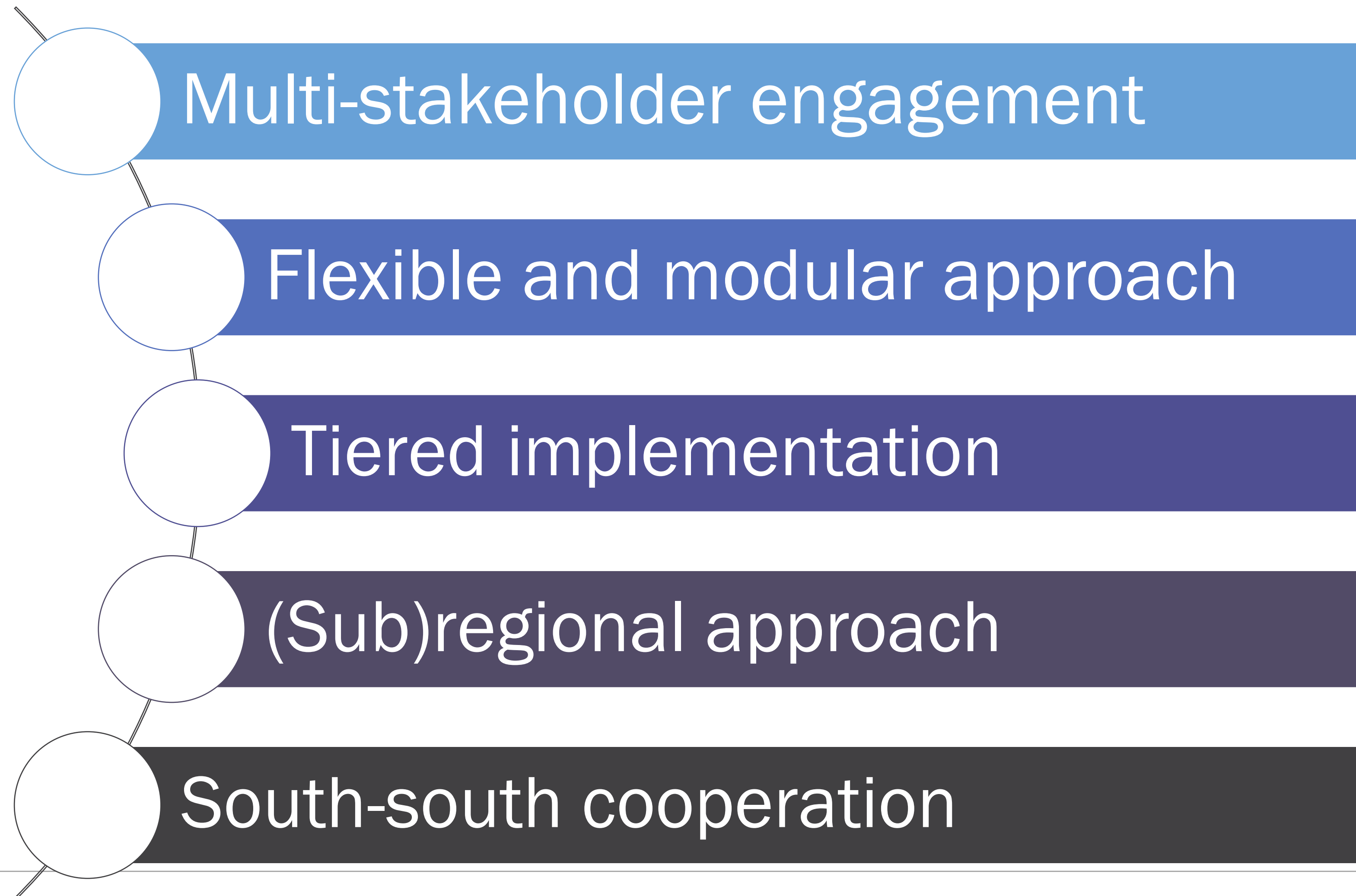
Overall objective: scale up the uptake of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting

Suggested target: at least 60 countries implement at least one account of the SEEA EA by 2025

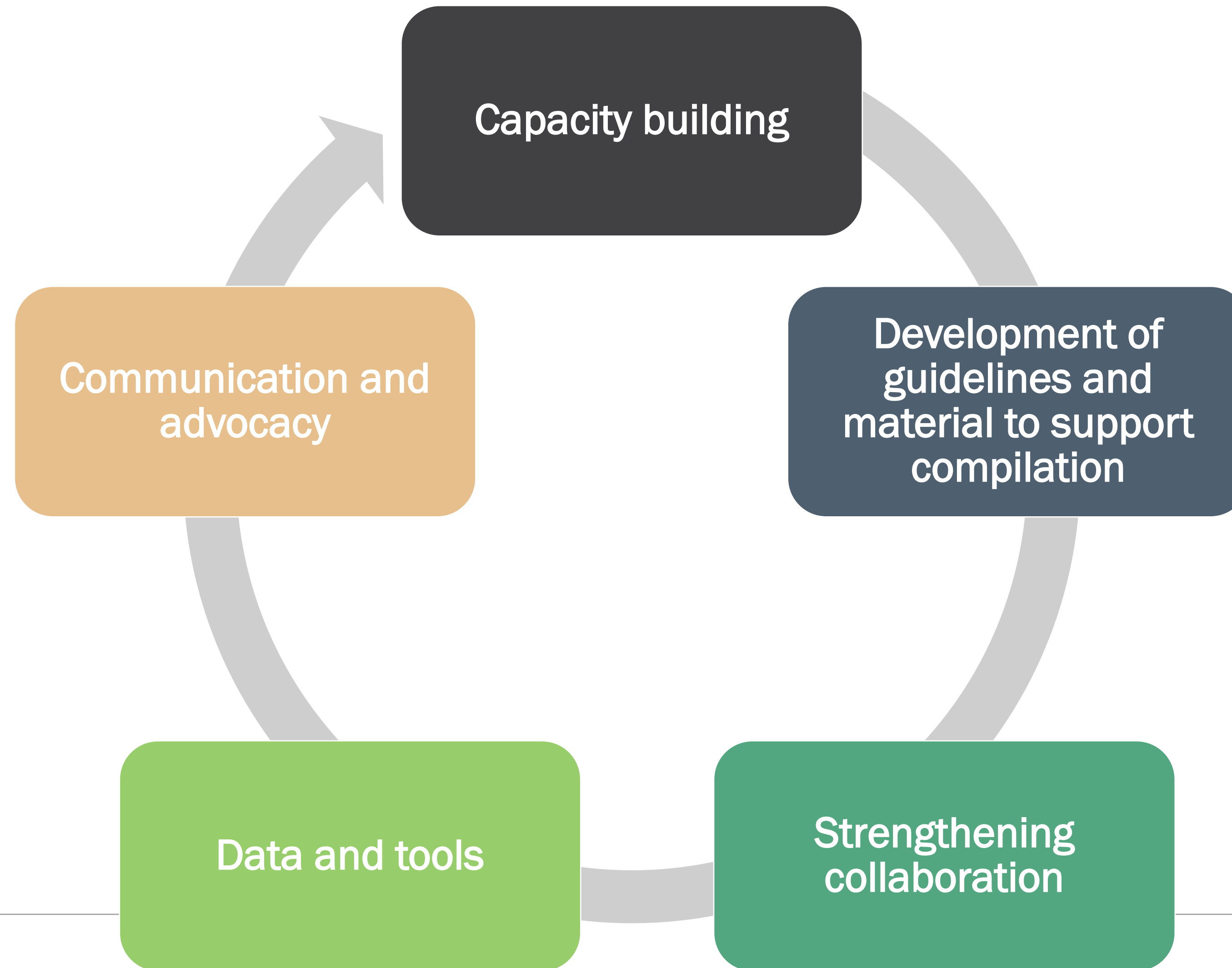
Proposed specific objectives:

- Regular production of selected ecosystem accounts, starting from ecosystem extent accounts to ecosystem condition and ecosystem services in physical and monetary terms;
- Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystems into (sub)national policies;
- Use of the SEEA EA for monitoring and reporting in particular in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the Voluntary National Reports that present country progress towards achieving the SDGs, and the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) that present country progress towards climate targets and highlight the government actions and policies to combat climate change;
- Dissemination of ecosystem accounts through global data sets.

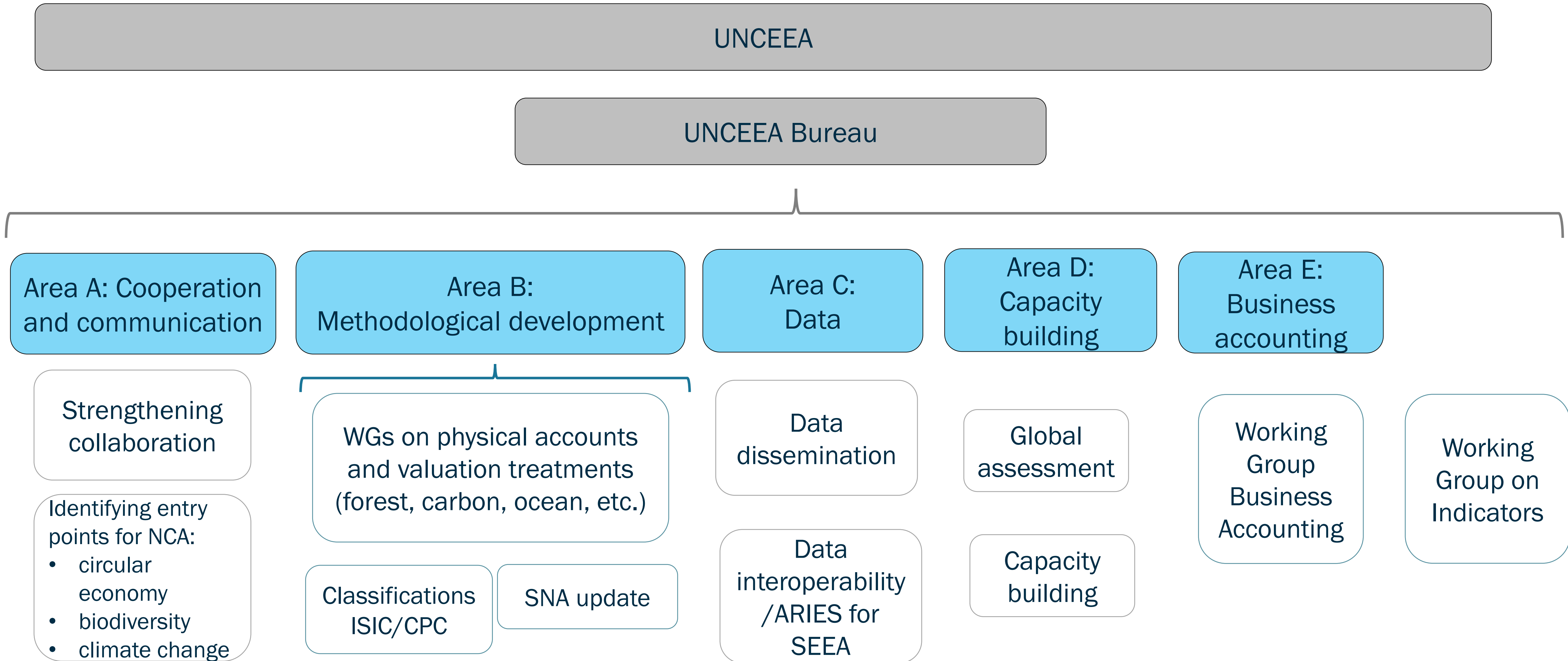
Approach and main principles



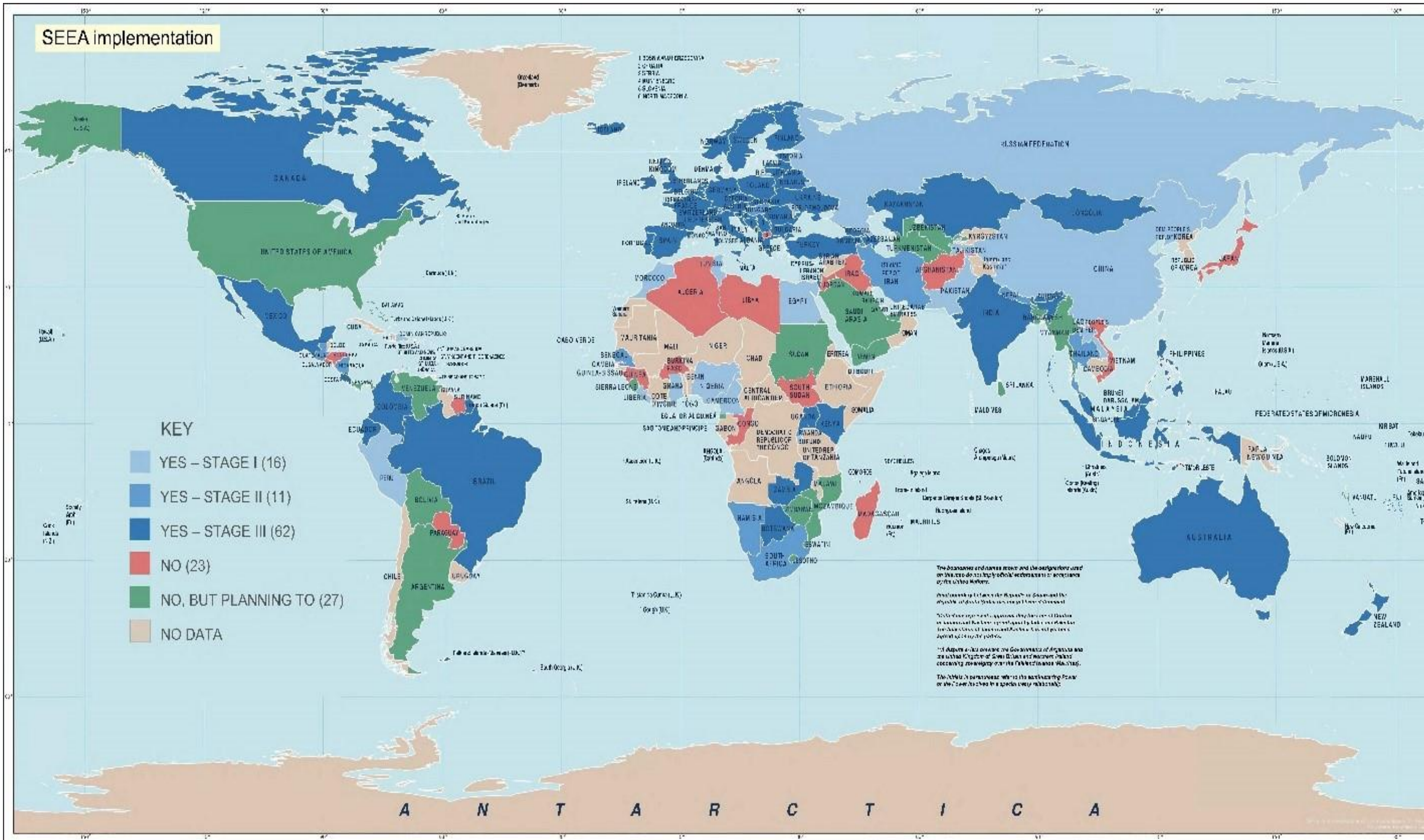
Activities in support of the implementation



Implementation strategy: Governance mechanism



Status of SEEA implementation



- > 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

THANK YOU

seea@un.org