



Global implementation of the System of Environmental- Economic Accounting (SEEA)

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- 1. Policy Setting**
- 2. An Integrated Information System for Sustainable Development**
- 3. Adoption and Mainstreaming of Statistical Standard**



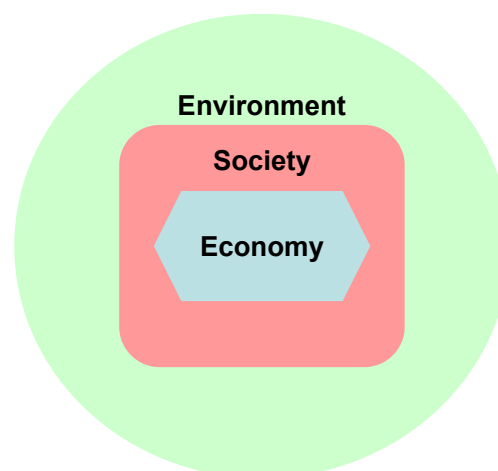
Policy Setting



Integrated and Sustainable Development

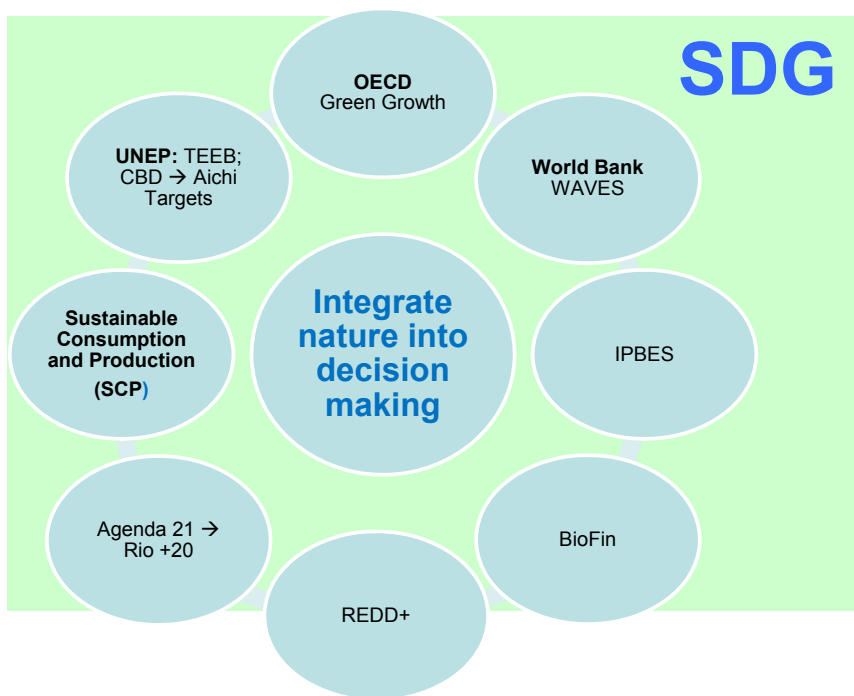
Common view that the **Economy** exists within **Society**, which in turn exists within a supporting **Environment**

Policy decisions related to these three 'pillars' of sustainable development should be **integrated** rather than taken independently





International Initiatives for Integration





National Policy Initiatives for Integration

- Decisions are becoming more **integrated**:
 - Sustainable development, green economy, climate change, biodiversity preservation, etc.
- Increasing demand to **mainstream linkages** between environment, society and economy:
 - National development plans include natural heritage, food security, water security, low-carbon...
 - National sustainable development strategies
 - National biodiversity strategies and action plans, etc.
- Strongly encouraged by international community



Integrated Information System for Sustainable Development



Paragraph 38 of Rio+20 Report



“We recognize the need for **broader measures of progress** to complement GDP in order to **better inform policy** decisions, and in this regard, we request the UN Statistical Commission in consultation with relevant UN System entities and other relevant organizations to launch a programme of work in this area building on existing initiatives.”



Statistics for Sustainable Development

Increasing recognition that Sustainable Development Policy should:

1. **Be based on Evidence:** Policy should, to the greatest extent possible, be informed by rigorously established evidence
2. **Take an Integrated Approach:** Policy should be based on a better understanding of interactions and tradeoffs between the different realms of sustainability

Implication: An **information system** is needed to support policy analysis and decisions, which provides information on;

- The multiple issues relevant to sustainable development
- The interconnections between these issues



Information is vital ...and it needs to be integrated

- The economy impacts on the environment and the environment impacts on the economy
- To understand these linkages we need to integrate environmental and economic information
- This is the explicit purpose of the SEEA





Integrating Environment Statistics

Policy Need: Environmental pillar is characterised by:

- Fragmented sectoral policies
- Externalities / unintended consequences affecting the environment

Integration of environmental decision making requires a better understanding of interlinkages and trade-offs.

Statistical Response: Develop an integrated information system for the environment. At the national level this requires:

1. A **conceptual framework** for integration (i.e. the SEEA)
2. **Institutional** mechanisms for integration
3. Integration of statistical **production process**

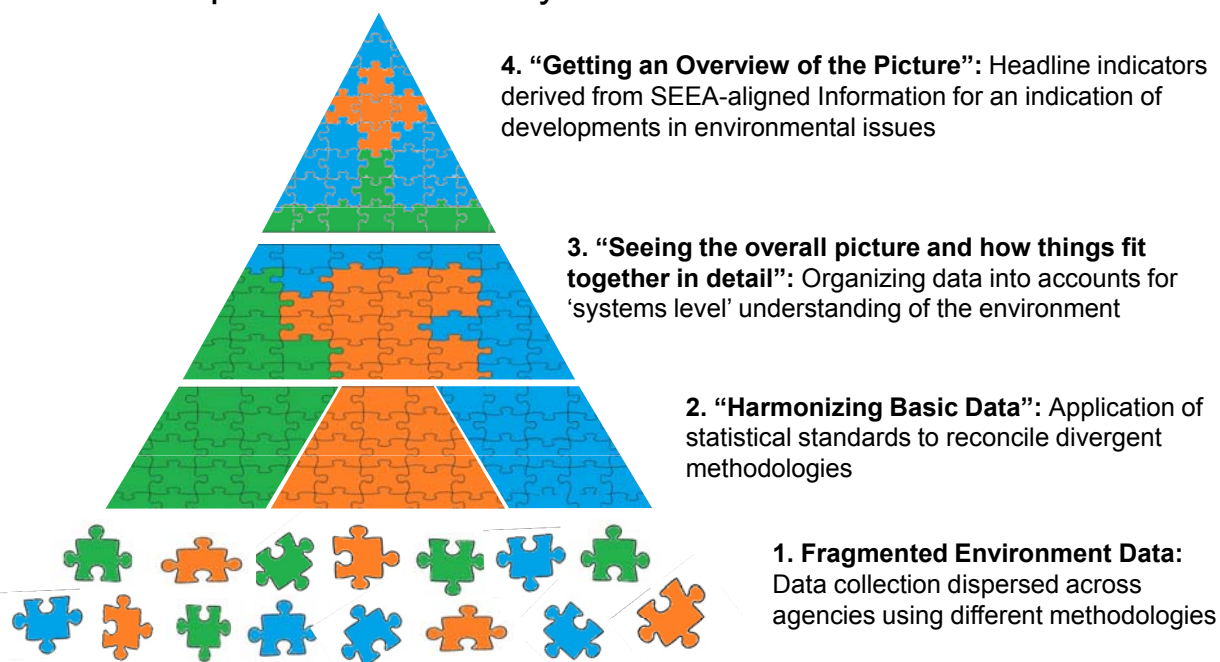


System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

United Nations Statistics Division

SEEA: Conceptual Framework

An international standard to measure the environment and its relationship with the economy:




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The System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)

- An internationally agreed 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 Experimental Ecosystem Accounts** complement the Central Framework and represent international efforts toward **coherent ecosystem accounting**

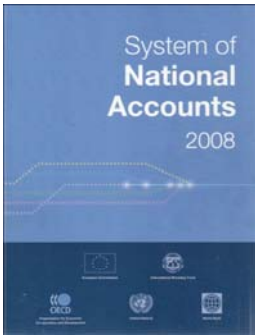


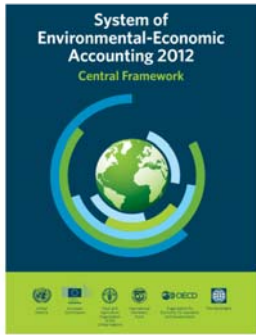



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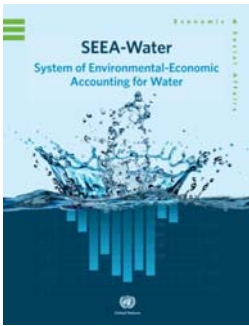
The SNA and SEEA: Systems of coherent information:











SEEA-
Energy

(forthcoming)

SEEA-
Agriculture,
Forestry and
Fisheries

(forthcoming)

Others

(forthcoming)

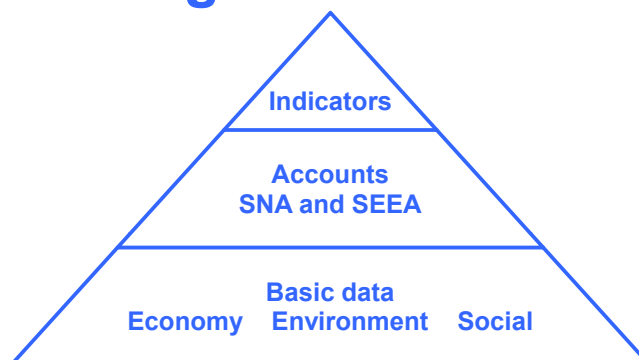
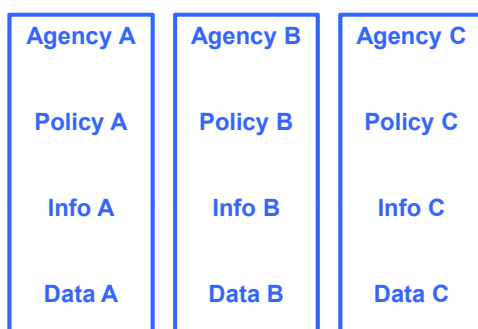
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System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

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Silo Approach → Integrated Statistics



Accounts to integrate statistics:

- Linking policy needs and statistics
- Understanding the institutional arrangements
- Integrated statistical production process/chain and services
- Consistency between basic data, accounts and tables and indicators

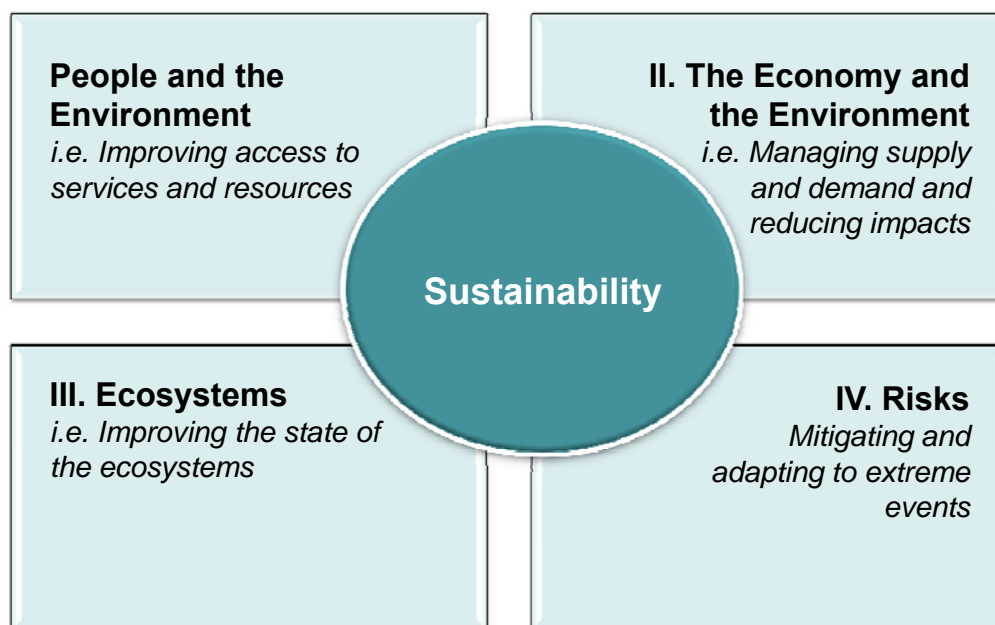


Linking Environmental and Socio-Economic Data

- Enable analysis of the impact of economic policies on the environment and vice versa
- Provide a quantitative basis for policy design
- Identify the socio-economic drivers, pressures, impacts and responses affecting the environment
- Support greater precision for environmental regulations and resource management strategies
- Provide indicators that express the relationships between the environment and the economy
- Support relevant perspectives on the dimensions of economic development, environmental sustainability and social equity



The SEEA Policy Quadrants





Adoption and Mainstreaming of Standard and statistical recommendations

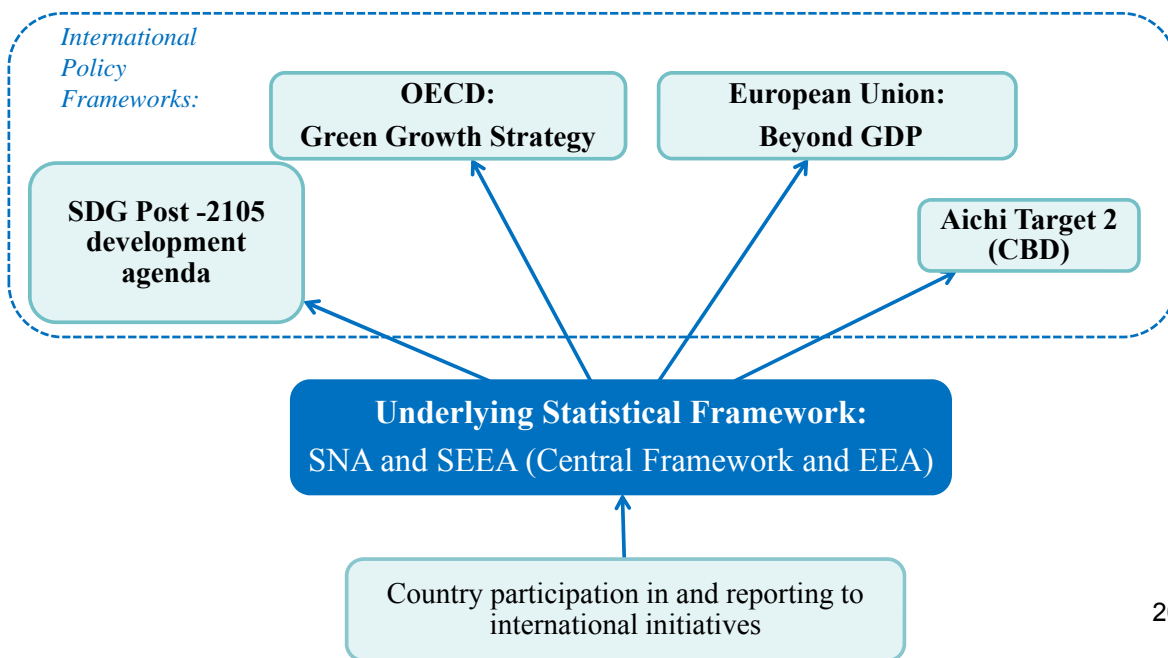


SEEA: International Statistical Standard

- Countries are “encouraged to implement the standard”
- International organizations have obligations to assist countries in implementation
- Implementation strategy adopted by Statistical Commission in March 2013
- Data reporting mechanism will be established



Mainstreaming the SEEA Framework in International Initiatives





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- Contact: seea@un.org



Convention on
Biological Diversity





System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

National generic institutional framework

United Nations Statistics Division

High Level Steering Committee

Members: Planning, Finance, Environment, NSO

Terms of Reference: Direct work of Technical Committee

- Link to policy priorities
- Integrate and advocate work plan with national and international work
- Coordinate proposals for funding; Allocate resources

Technical Committee

Members: Planning, Finance, Environment, NSO, Geospatial, Parks, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Research

Terms of Reference: Coordinate technical aspects of work

- Internalize activities into planning documents

Subject-matter working groups

Land, Water, Carbon, Biodiversity & Ecosystems, SEEA-CF

Terms of reference: Inventory, acquire and develop data

- Design specific accounts, tables and indicators
- Coordinate with functional working groups to design and manage information system

Functional working groups

Policy: prioritize indicators and link to policy

Spatial: integrate spatial data, maintain standards

Data standards and dissemination: Lead design of information system, maintain standards and classifications, lead development of dissemination outputs