

System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

# Session 1: Setting the scene – How can the SEEA support the policy on Climate Change and Biodiversity

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Regional Training Workshop on an Accounting Approaches to Climate Change Policy

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United Nations



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# Climate change policies



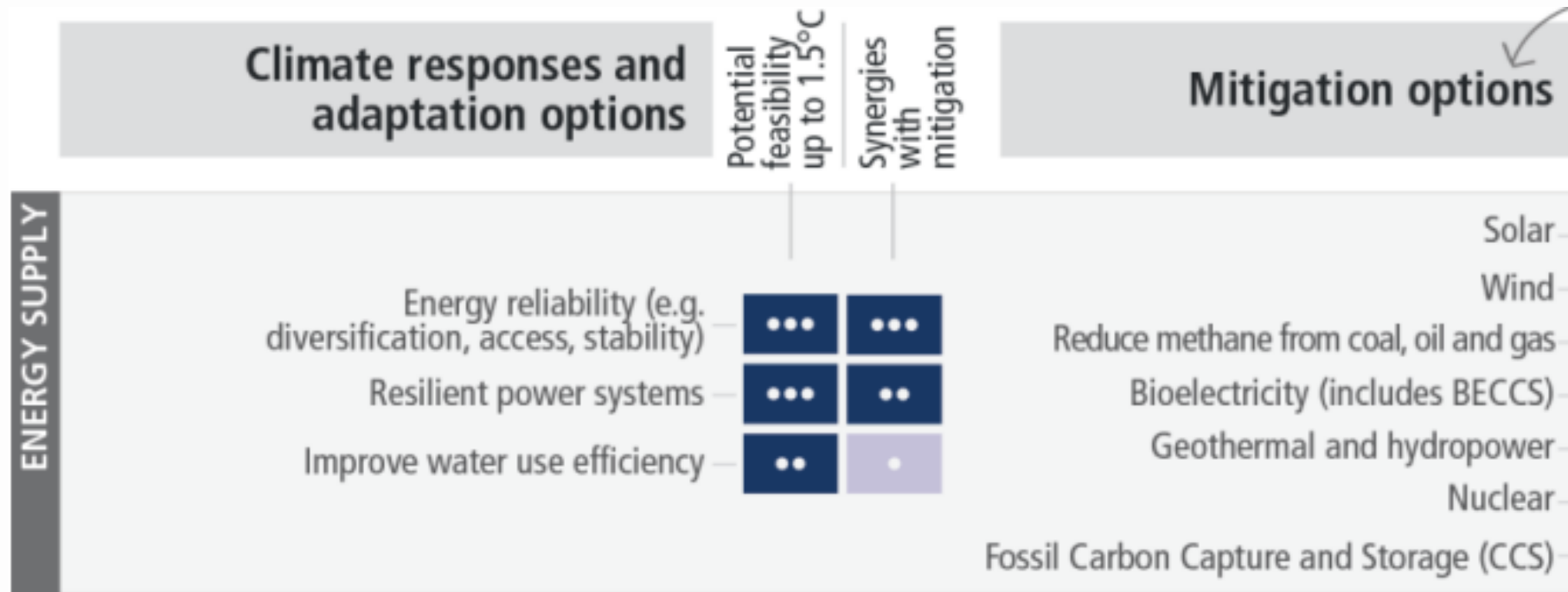
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# An update on where things stand

- “Human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming, with **global surface temperature reaching 1.1°C** above 1850–1900 in 2011–2020. Global **greenhouse gas emissions have continued to increase**, with unequal historical and ongoing contributions arising from unsustainable energy use, land use and land-use change, lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production across regions, between and within countries, and among individuals.”

*Synthesis Report (SYR) of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) (March 2023)*

# What can we do—Energy supply



Synthesis Report (SYR) of the IPCC  
Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) (March 2023)

# What can we do—Land, water, food

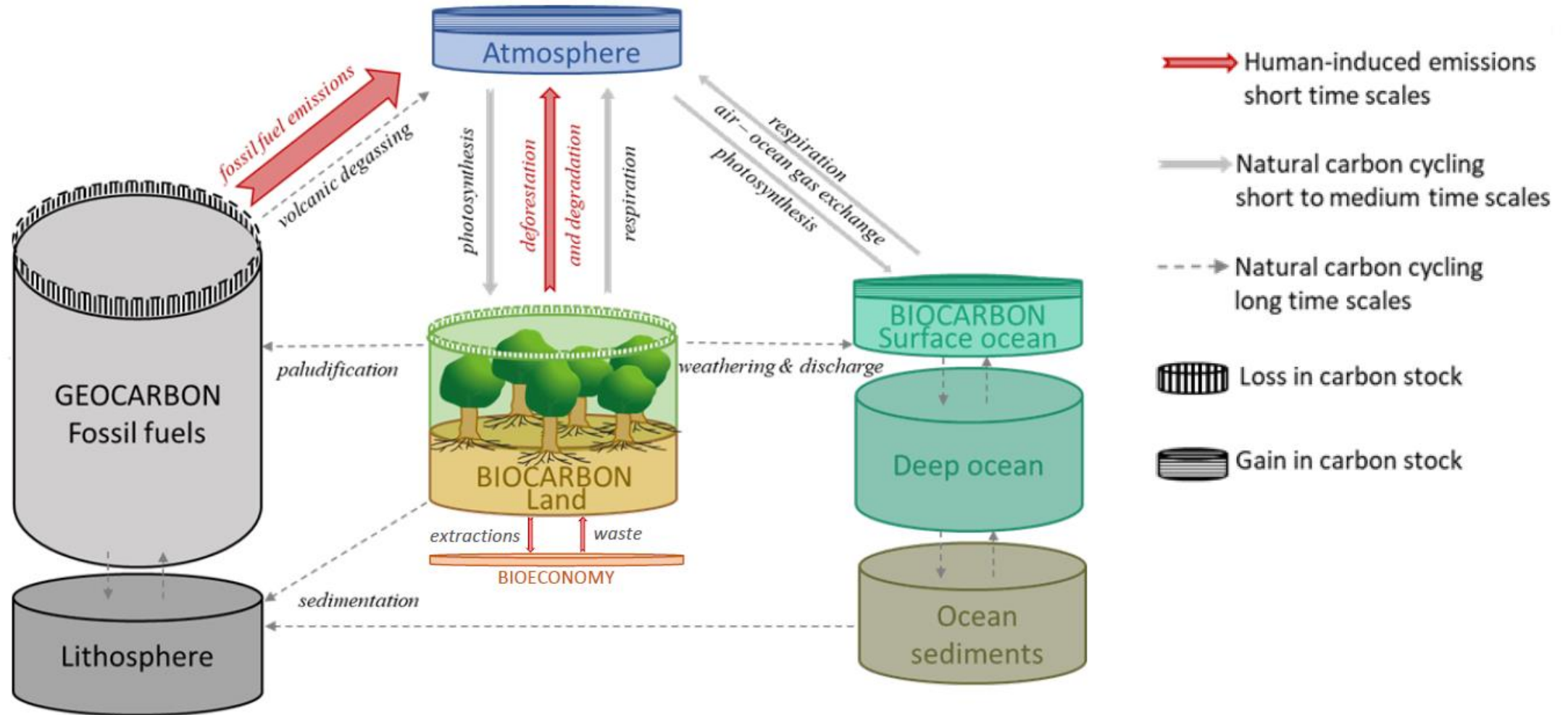
Climate responses and adaptation options		Potential feasibility up to 1.5°C	Synergies with mitigation	Mitigation options
LAND, WATER, FOOD	Efficient livestock systems	..	..	
	Improved cropland management	..	...	Reduce conversion of natural ecosystems
	Water use efficiency and water resource management	..	..	Carbon sequestration in agriculture
	Biodiversity management and ecosystem connectivity	..	...	Ecosystem restoration, afforestation, reforestation
	Agroforestry	..	...	Shift to sustainable healthy diets
	Sustainable aquaculture and fisheries	..	..	Improved sustainable forest management
	Forest-based adaptation	...	...	Reduce methane and N <sub>2</sub> O in agriculture
	Integrated coastal zone management	...	.	Reduce food loss and food waste
	Coastal defence and hardening	...	not assessed	

# What information do we need?

- > We need to understand the relationship between the economy and climate change-> need good data to inform our understanding and what we need to do to mitigate and adopt!
- > SEEA is the statistical framework that allows us to link economic activity and the many facets of climate change.
- > More broadly, an integrated data approach is needed.

# Global carbon cycle

## understanding natural and human drivers



[drawn to scale except for the large carbon stocks in the lithosphere and deep ocean]



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# SEEA to inform policies



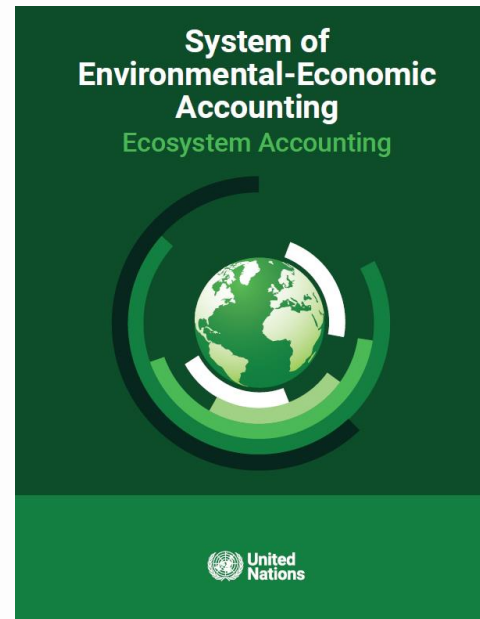
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# SEEA – statistical standard for the environment



Adopted in 2012



Adopted in 2021



Brings together environmental and economic data using the same accounting principles of the SNA



Credibility, reliability, replicability of data



Consistency over time and space

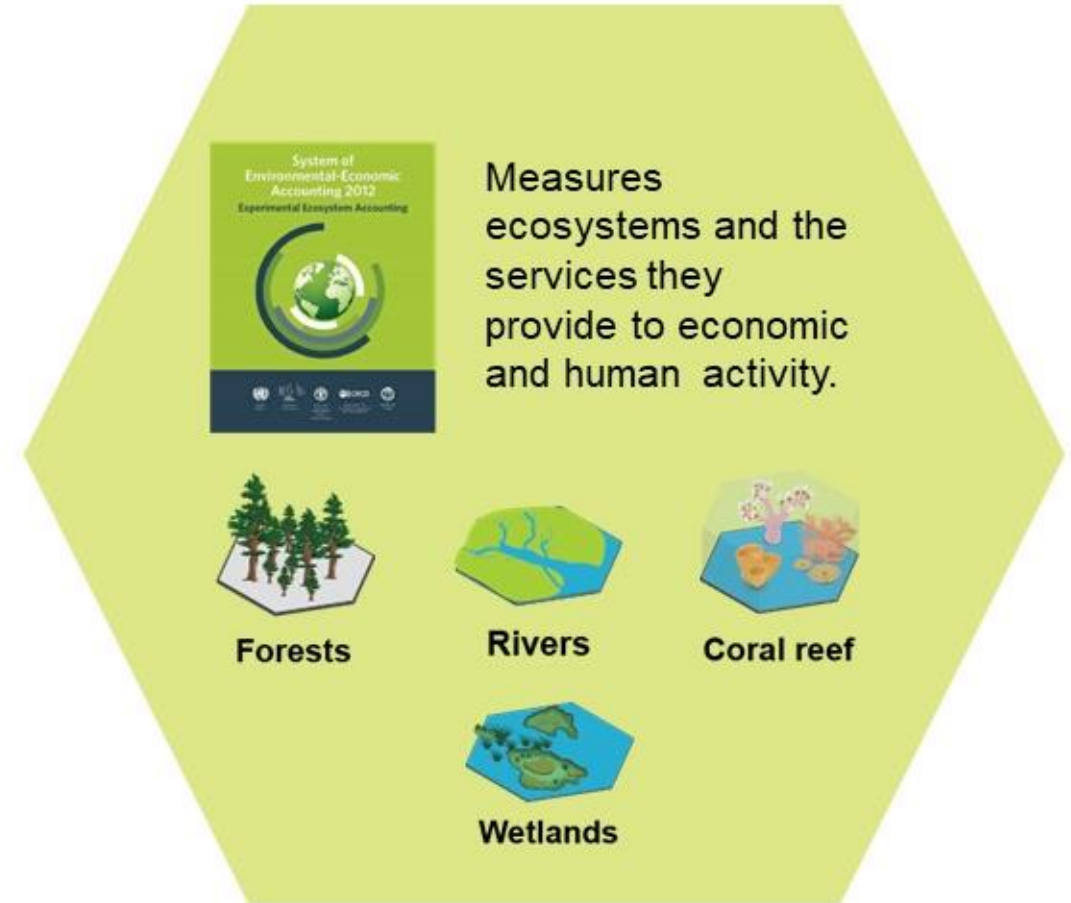


Common language between different communities

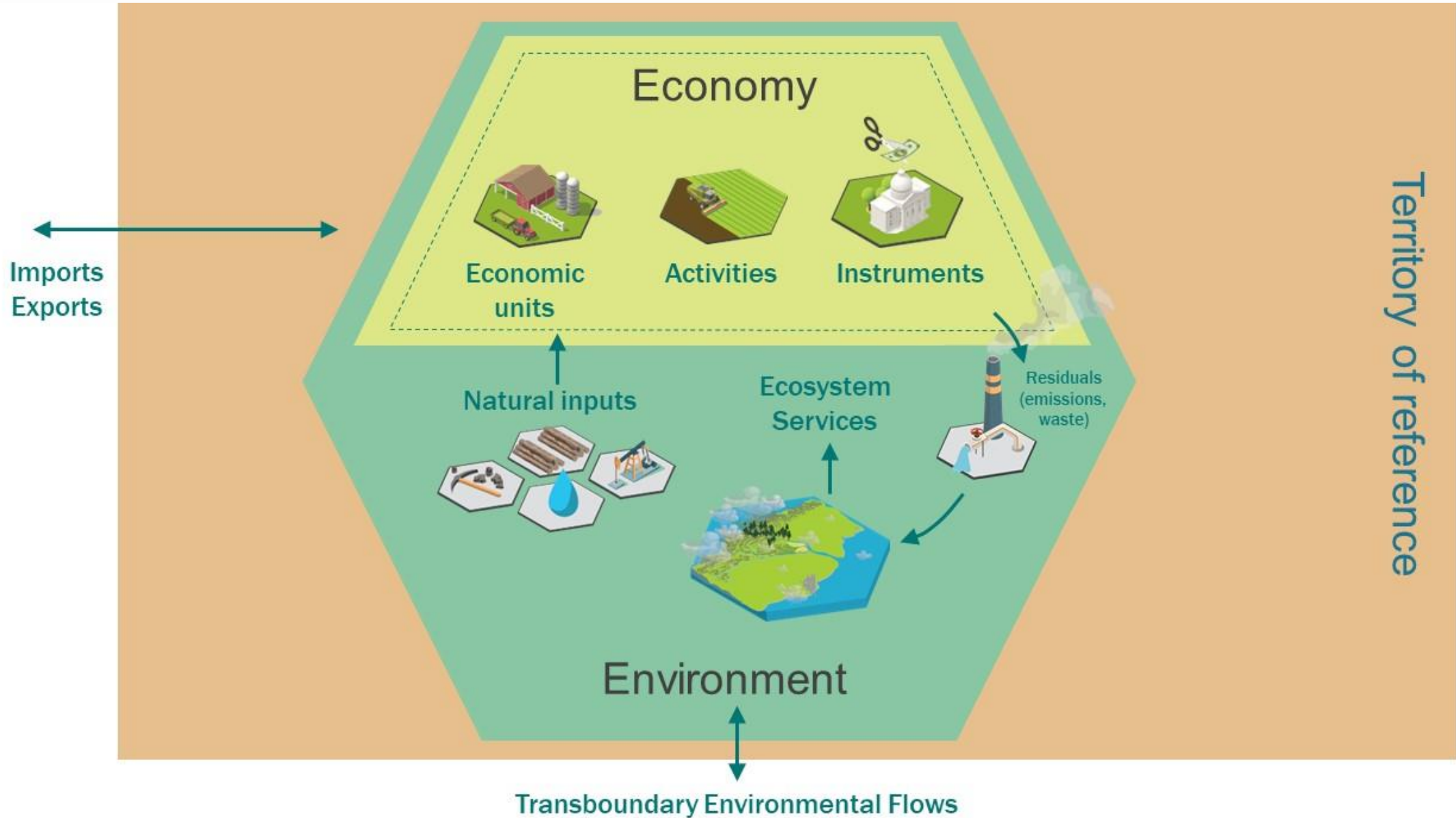


Breaks down silos and fosters collaboration

# SEEA Central Framework and SEEA Ecosystem Accounts – Two sides of the same coin



# SEEA: Interrelationship of Environment and Economy



# The SEEA supports multiple ongoing initiatives



# SEEA and Climate Change

Various climate related policies can be informed by various types of SEEA accounts:

- Informing **mitigation and adaptation strategies**
- Providing a comprehensive overview of how much **carbon is stored per ecosystem type** and how this develops over time
- Assessing how **climate change impacts** economic activities and households
- A proposed new **Data Gaps Initiative** (under the auspices of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors)
  - > 4 priorities endorsed: a.o. Climate Change;
  - > SEEA air emission accounts and energy accounts included





# SEEA and Biodiversity



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

- The Convention of Biodiversity (CBD) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its associated monitoring framework in December 2022
  - > Headline indicators; Binary indicators; Component indicators and Complementary indicators
- Parties are urged to use the headline indicators in their national reports
- Invites the Statistical Commission to support the operationalization of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
  - > A few indicators are directly related to environmental economic accounts
- The monitoring framework will be reviewed at COP 16 to finish its development
- An Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) established to provide advice on the further operationalization of the monitoring framework



# Other developments

- The UN Decade on Ecosystem restoration
- The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
- Alignment between private and public sector accounting:
  - > international sustainability standards board



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
**ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION**  
2021-2030



**2021  
2030** United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

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 **IFRS**<sup>®</sup>  
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