



Introduction to the SEEA A policy perspective

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Training for the worldwide implementation of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting 2012 - Central Framework for Africa
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Policy settings

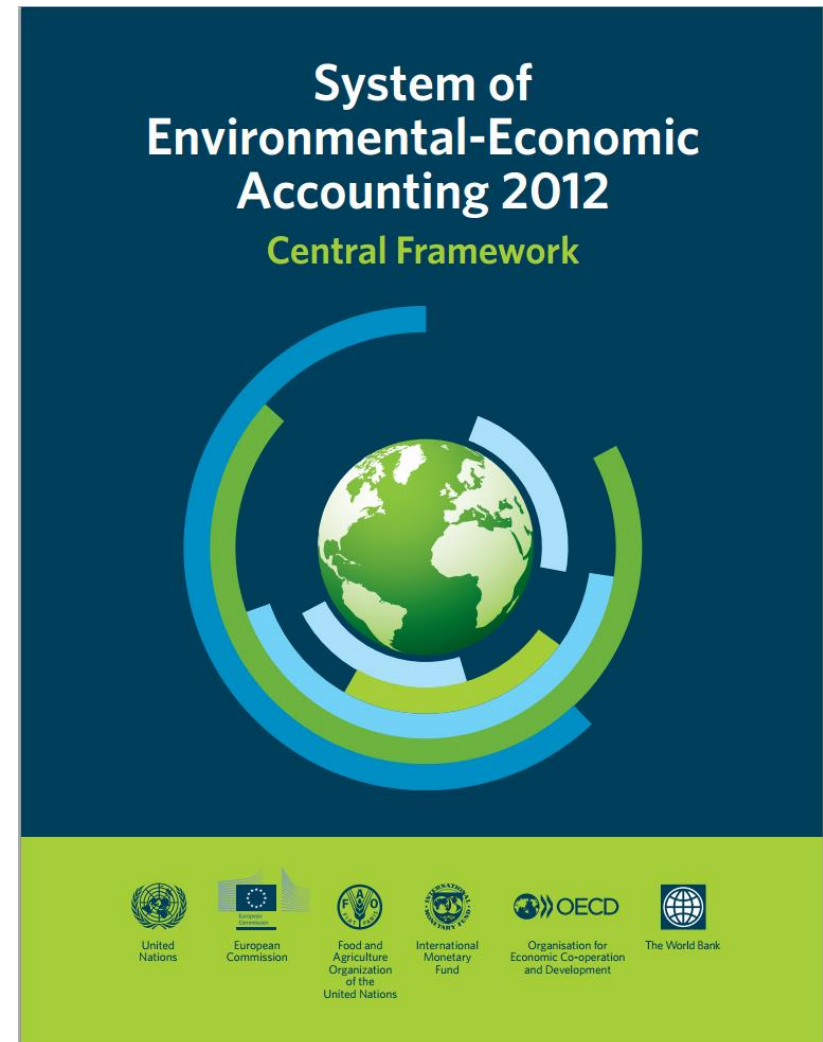
- Post-2015 UN development agenda/SDGs
- Green Growth/Green Economy
- Broader measures of progress/Beyond GDP
- Natural Capital Accounting/ WAVES
- Aichi targets (e.g. Target 2)
- Poverty and environment
- TEEB





SEEA

- Internationally agreed statistical framework to measure environment and its interactions with economy
- Adopted as international statistical standard by UN Statistical Commission in 2012
- Developed through inter-governmental process
- Published by UN, EU, FAO, IMF, OECD, WB





SEEA: A 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



The Suite of SEEAs

- 1993** Handbook – interim publication
- 2003** Updated SEEA handbook – manual of best practices
- 2006** UNSC decided to elevate SEEA to an international standard

- 2012** **SEEA – The Central Framework (international standard)**
- 2013** **SEEA – Experimental Ecosystem Accounting**
- 2013** **SEEA – Applications and Extensions**

Subsystems:

- SEEA – Water (adopted in 2007)
- SEEA – Energy
- SEEA – Agriculture



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

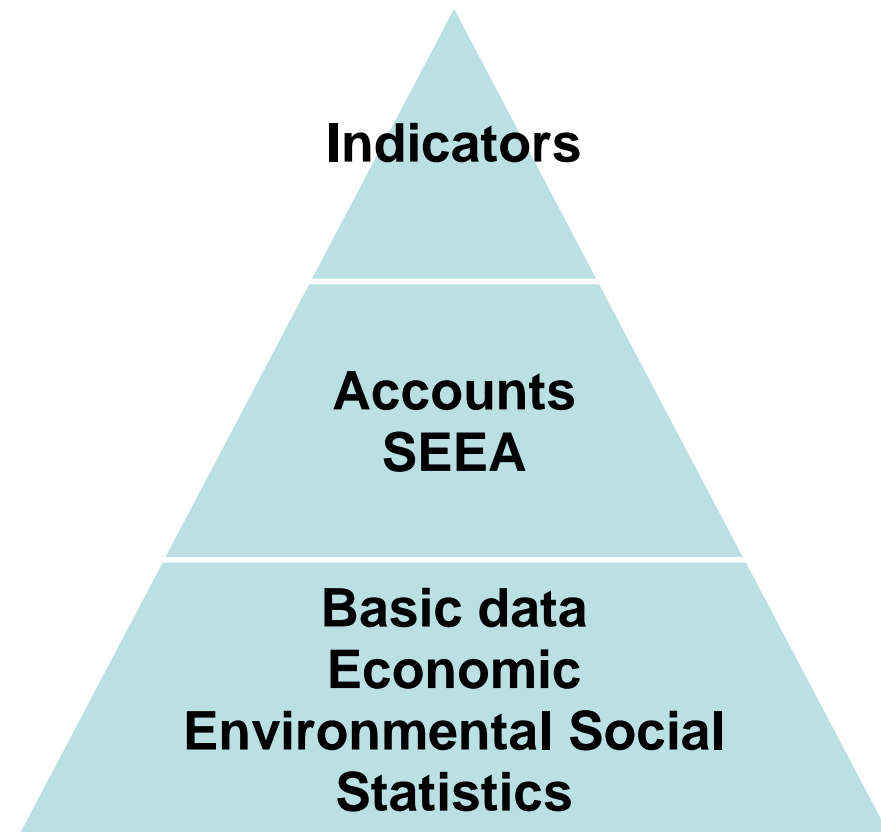
- The economy impacts on the environment and the environment impacts on the economy
- To understand these linkages we need to integrate environmental and economic information
- This is the explicit purpose of the SEEA





Integrated statistics

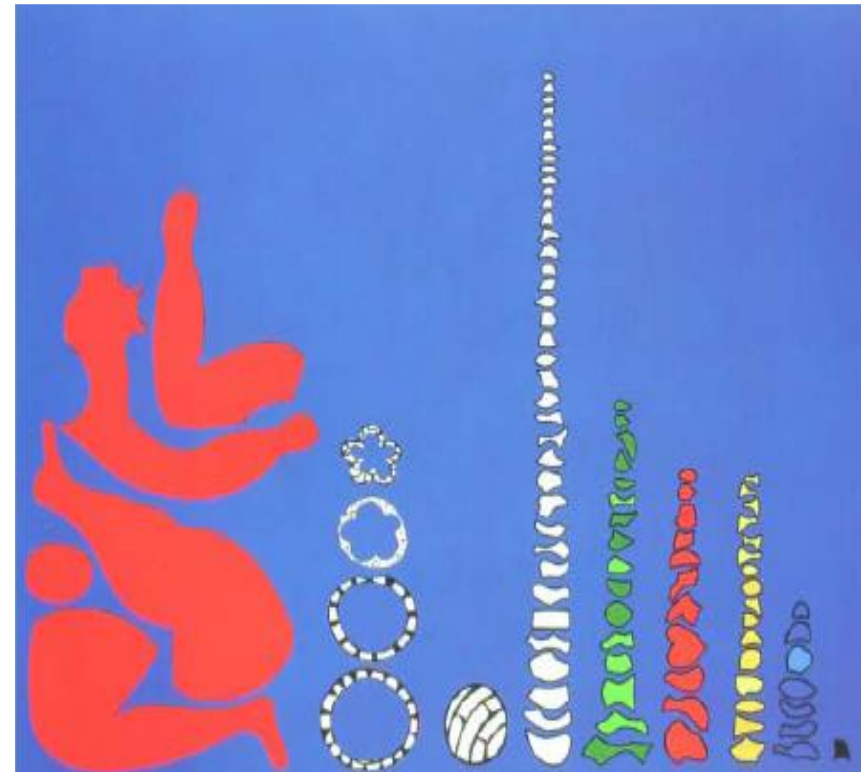
- Linking policy needs and statistics
- Understanding the institutional arrangements
- Integrated statistical production process/chain and services
- Consistency between basic data, accounts and tables and indicators





Problem: Information silos

- Data developed to answer one particular question or problem
- Difficult to figure out if all information is included
- Not always easy to see the whole picture, or how it relates to other things





Solution: Integrated information

- Holistic picture
- Consistency of information and identification of data gaps
- Interconnections between economy, environment and society



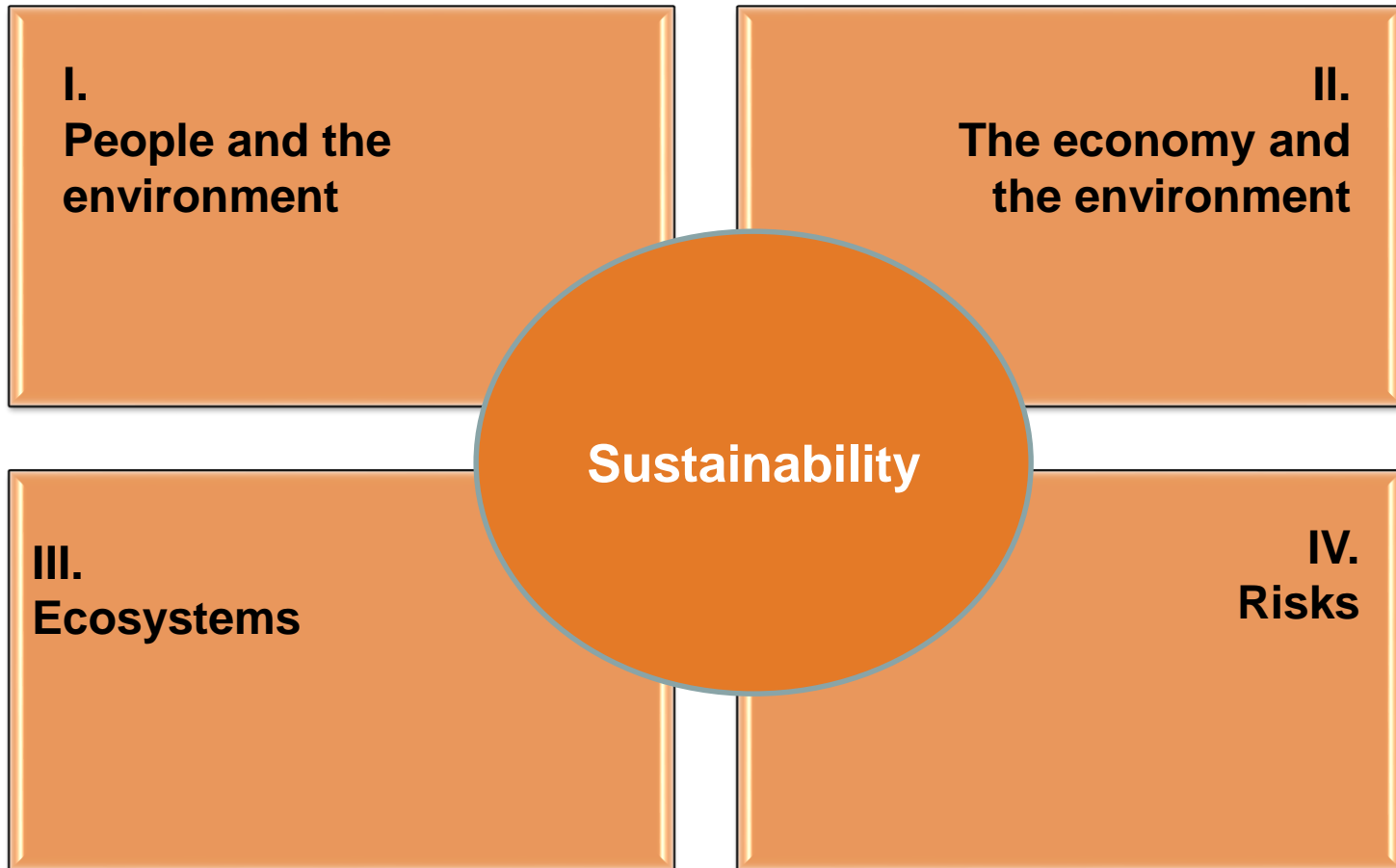


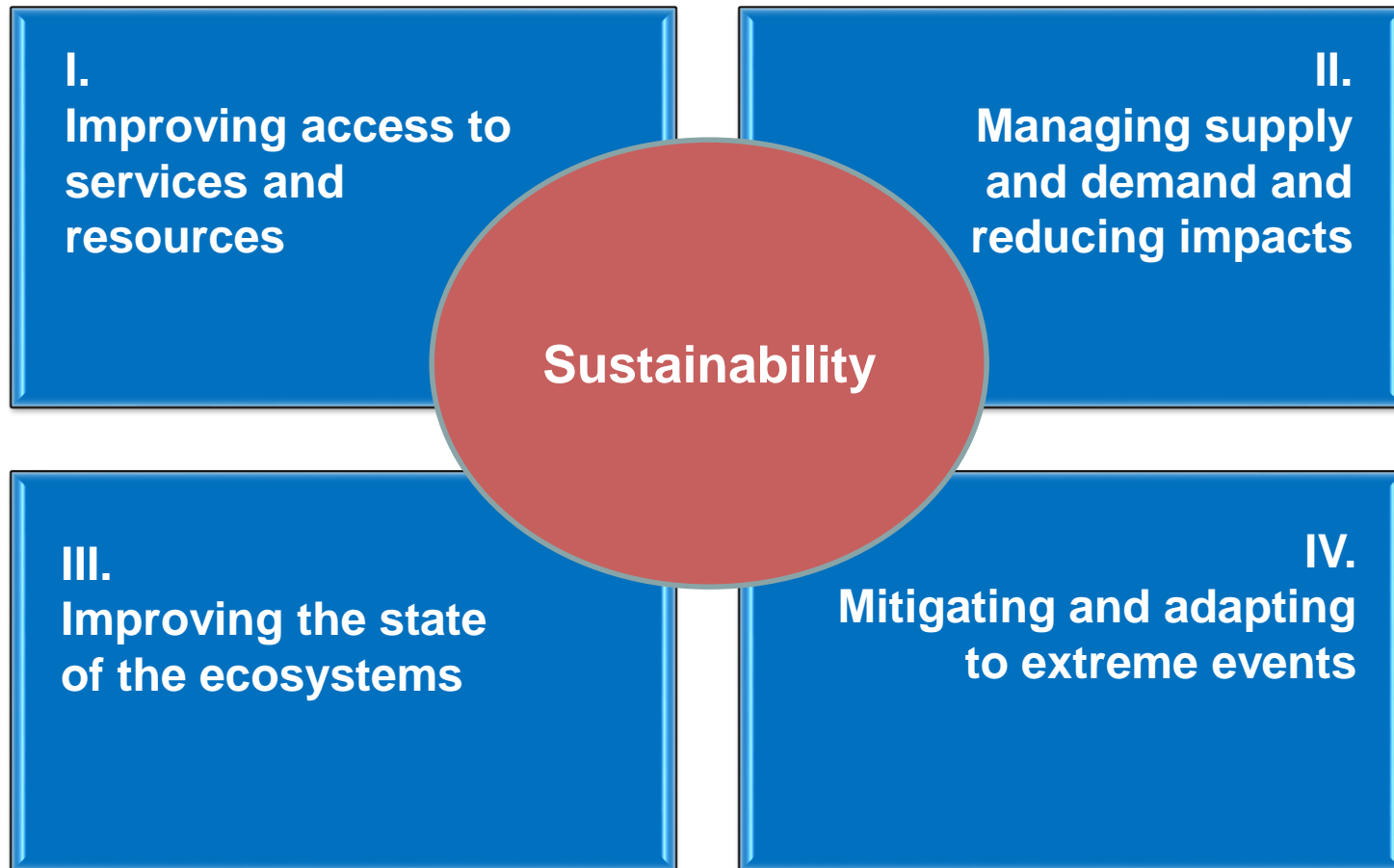
Linking environmental and socio-economic data is essential for policymakers

- Enables analysis of the impact of economic policies on the environment and vice versa
- Provides a quantitative basis for policy design
- Identifies the socio-economic drivers, pressures, impacts and responses affecting the environment
- Supports greater precision for environmental regulations and resource management strategies
- Provides 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





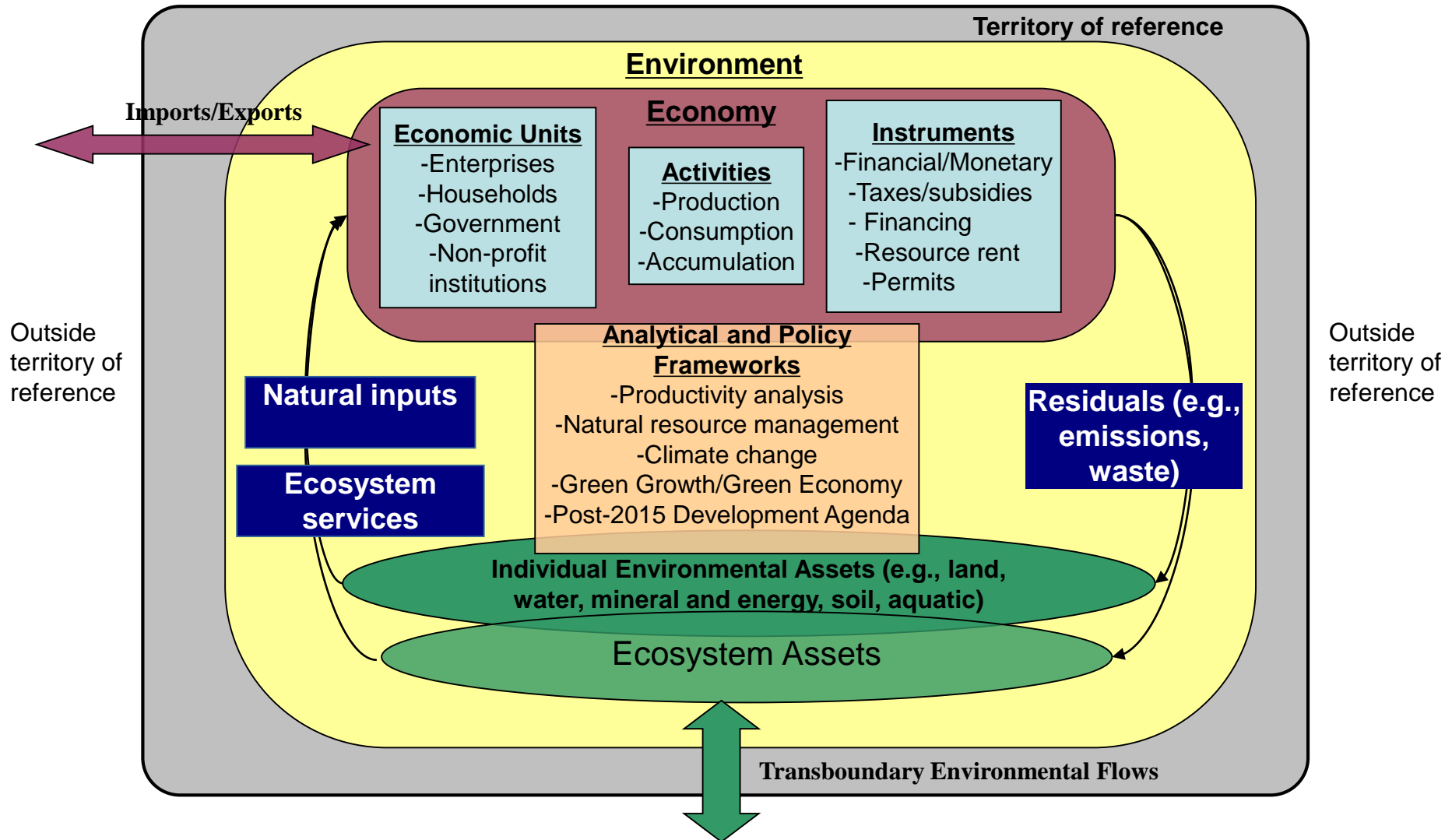


The SEEA Central Framework Accounts

- 1. Flow accounts:** supply and use tables for products, natural inputs and residuals (e.g. waste, wastewater) generated by economic activities.
 - physical (e.g. m² of water) and/or monetary values (e.g. permits to access water, cost of wastewater treatment, etc.)
- 2. Stock accounts** for environmental assets: natural resources and land
 - physical (e.g. fish stocks and changes in stocks) and/or monetary values (e.g. value of natural capital, depletion)
- 3. Activity / purpose accounts** that explicitly identify environmental transactions already existing in the SNA.
 - e.g. Environmental Protection Expenditure (EPE) accounts, environmental taxes and subsidies
- 4. Combined physical and monetary accounts** that bring together physical and monetary information for derivation indicators, including depletion adjusted aggregates



SEEA Conceptual Framework





SEEA Implementation Guide and Diagnostic Tool



Nature of the Implementation Guide

- Broad direction and support to national level implementation
- Introductory and overview document
- Works within the framework of the SEEA implementation strategy
- Recognize differences between countries and regions in actual situations and contexts
- Reflect lessons learned on implementation from past compilers
- Promote awareness of key implementation issues and risks



Background

- National environmental and economic policy priorities linked to national programming and budgeting cycles
- Need for integrated information for evidence based policy making for sustainable development
- Link of national policy and statistical priorities to regional and international agenda
 - Post-2015 agenda / SDGs / Broader measures of progress/WAVES/ UNEP TEEB



National policy setting and policy issues

- Main policy issues and instruments (regulations, fiscal, pricing, financial, trade, etc.)
- Environmental plans and strategies
 - Sustainable Development Strategy
 - National Policy for the Environment Management
 - National Statistical Strategy
 - National sector plans/strategy (energy, water, waste, etc.)
 - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
 - National Policy for Climate Change
 - Energy (renewable, energy efficiency)
 - Deforestation
 - Low carbon agriculture



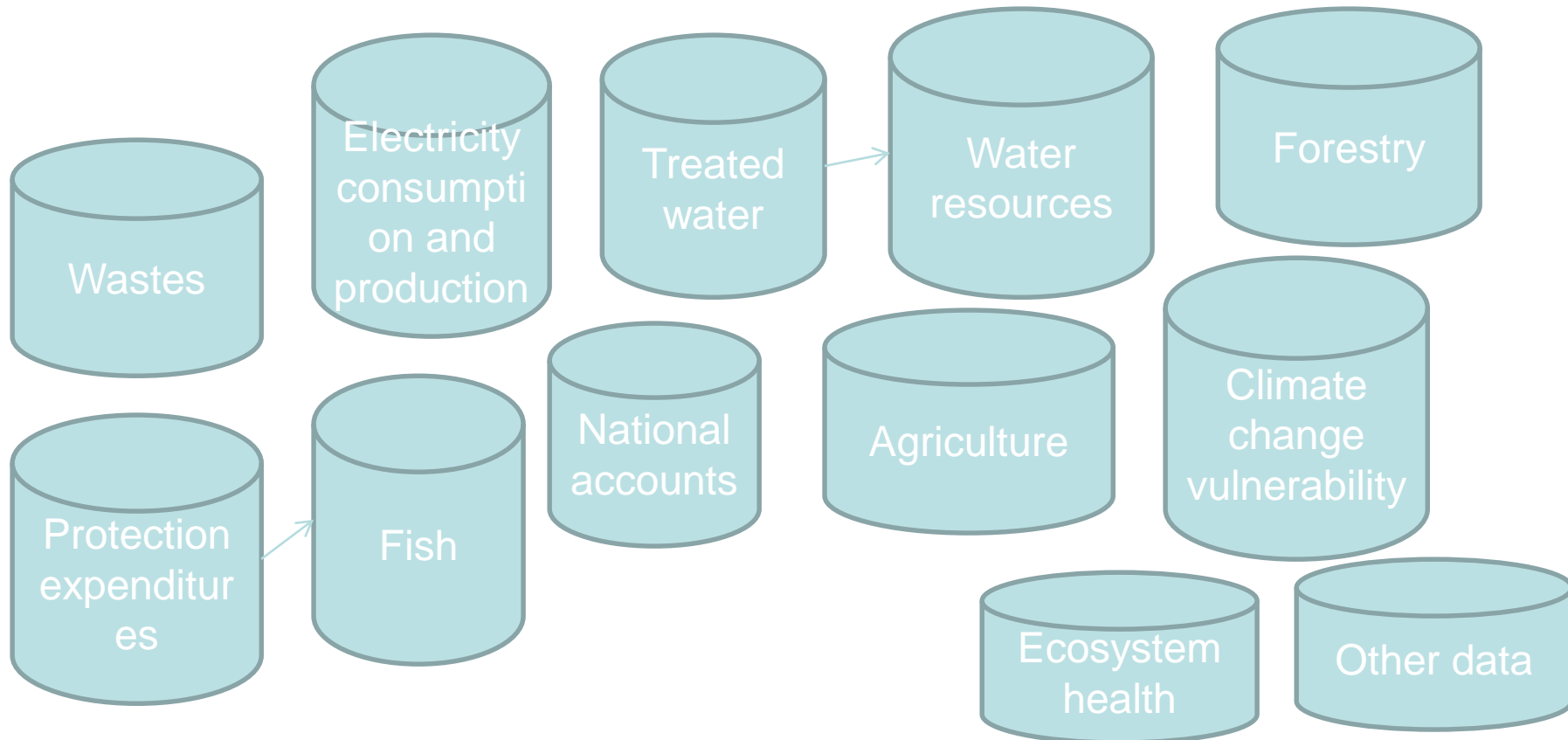
National stakeholders

- Establish national coordination board/committee
- Identify national stakeholders:
 - National Statistical Institutes
 - Central Banks
 - Ministry of Environment
 - Ministry of Finance
 - Water agencies/boards
 - Ministry of Energy
 - Ministry of Forestry
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Broad assessment of data availability

- Lots of data available
... But the data is not coordinated





Actions

- Establish the national coordination board/committee with users and producers
- Prepare national statement of strategy
- Decide on priority accounts and related time series, indicators and policy applications
- Institutional arrangements (strategies and plans)
- Data quality assessment (following demands from strategies and plans)



Actions

- Pilot SEEA compilation (suggested as priorities like water, energy, forest, environmental protection expenditures, land cover/use)
- Plans by accounts:
 - objectives, institutional arrangements, outputs, activities, sources, timelines, requirements for external assistance
- Dissemination and communication strategy on nationally agreed accounts and time series of statistics and indicators