

System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Introduction to SEEA Ecosystem Accounting

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The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Ecosystem Accounts as Enabler of Data and Model Integration to Improve Decision-Making

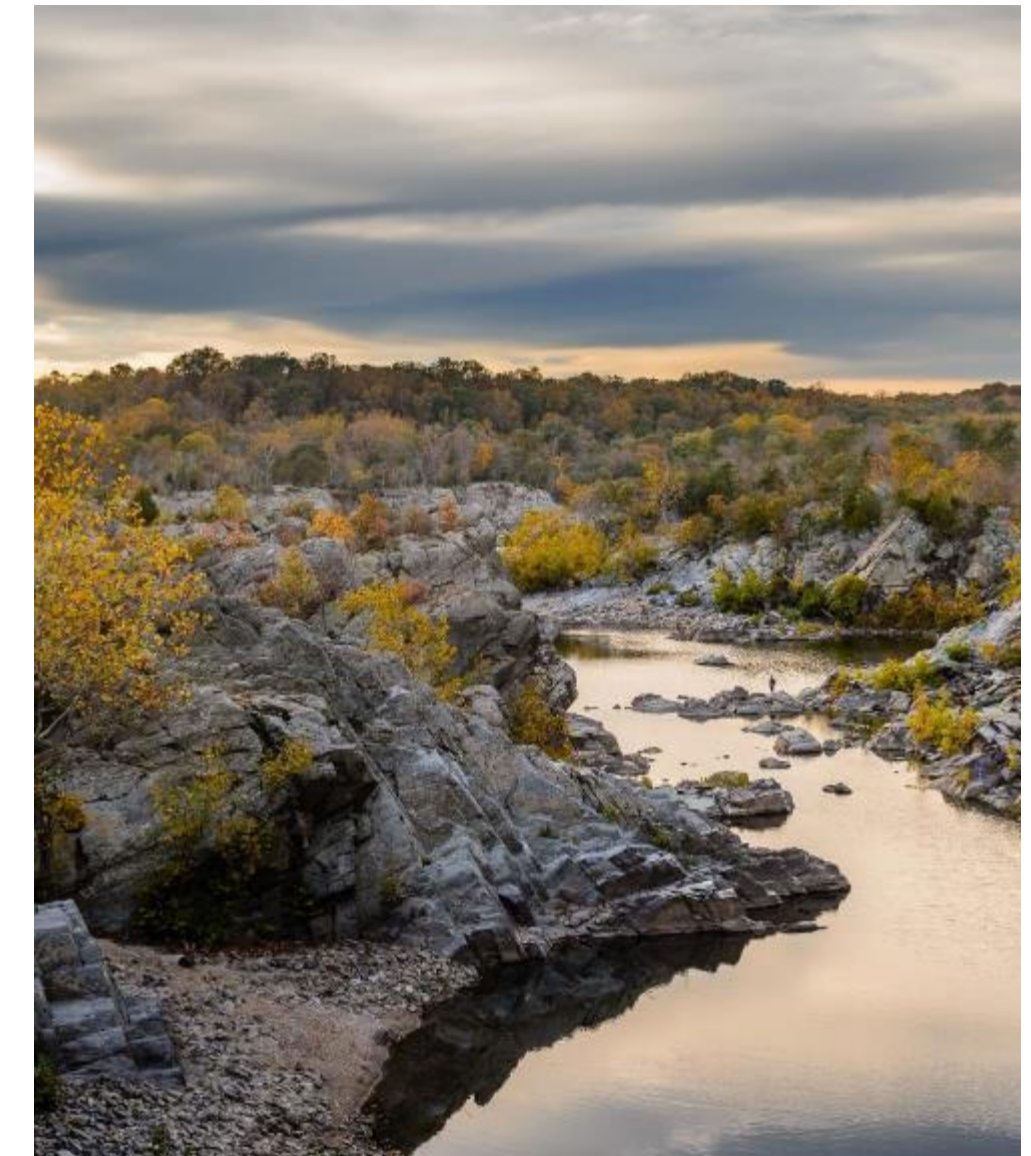
Wednesday, 26 April 2023



United Nations

The Need

- Our economic well-being crucially depends on nature
- Biodiversity loss and climate change are the biggest challenges we are facing
- But headline indicators like GDP, the unemployment rate and inflation do not capture these important aspects and contributions
- As a result, decision-makers don't have access to key information necessary to effectively pursue and track sustainable development
- The System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA) fills that gap



The SEEA supports multiple ongoing initiatives



Growing interest in Natural Capital Accounting

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A historic step towards transforming the way how we view and value nature.

António Guterres
UN Secretary General



“

this new statistical framework moves beyond GDP and takes better account of biodiversity and ecosystems in national economic planning.

Frans Timmermans
VP European Commission



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*Committed to further mainstreaming biodiversity in decision-making, we will **ensure implementation of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)**, a regular and institutionalized compilation of accounts, will use related indicators for policy and decision-making, and provide international support for further development and implementation of SEEA-EA*

G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers
Communique 27 May 2022



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MoFs can manage nature-related risk developing and applying valuation, metrics, and decision support tools (e.g., through implementing or supporting natural capital accounting (NCA), developing alternatives to gross domestic product (GDP), and developing nature loss scenarios

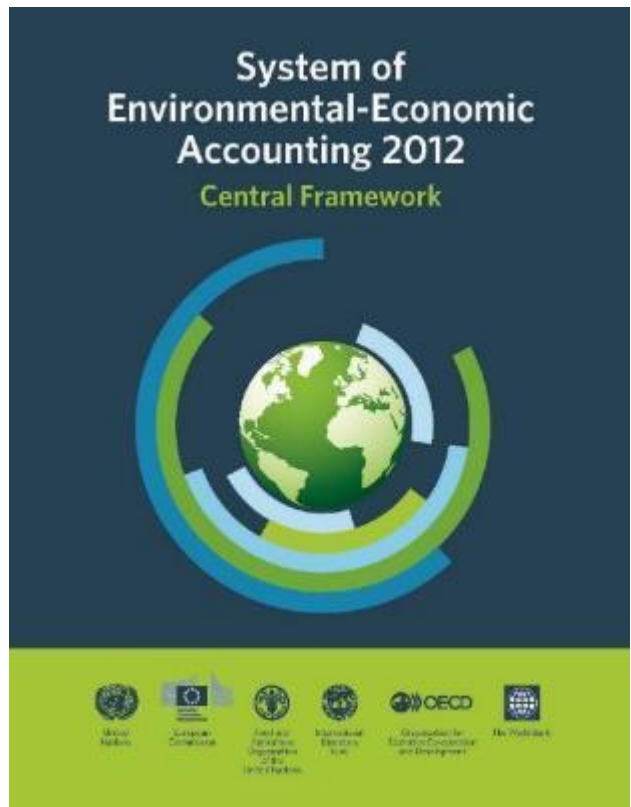


SEEA uses the accounting approach to integrate many data sets

- 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



One Environment: Two Perspectives



CENTRAL FRAMEWORK *Assets*



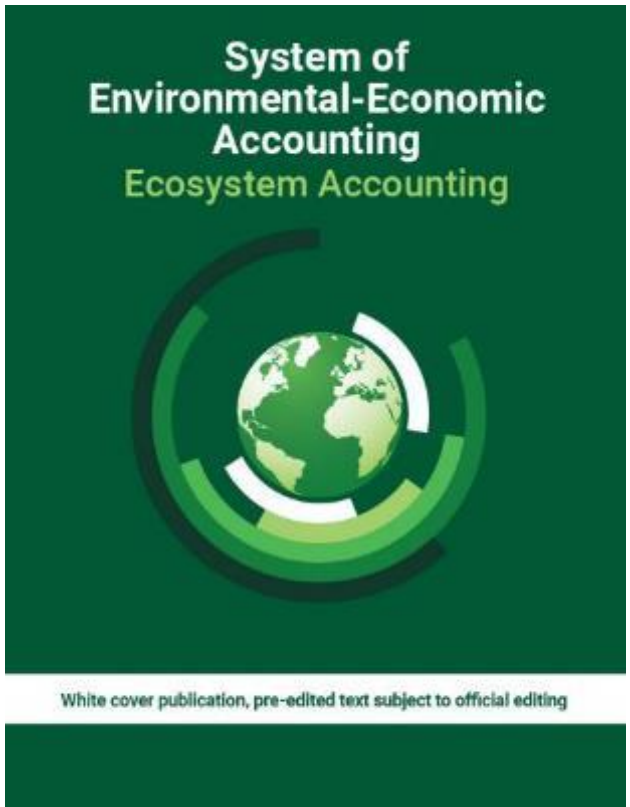
Timber



Water



Fish



ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING *Services*



Forests
e.g. flood control

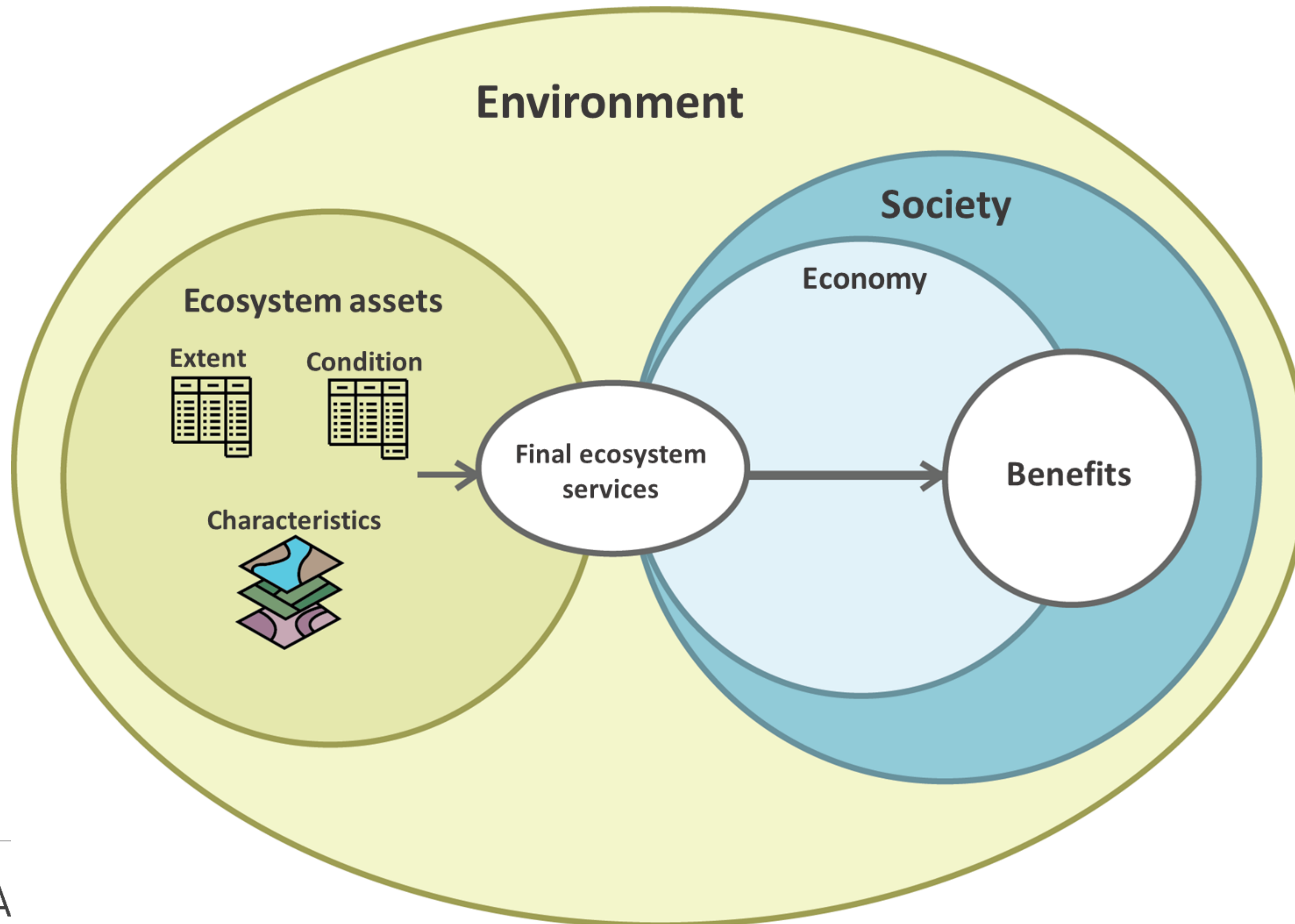


Rivers
e.g. water purification

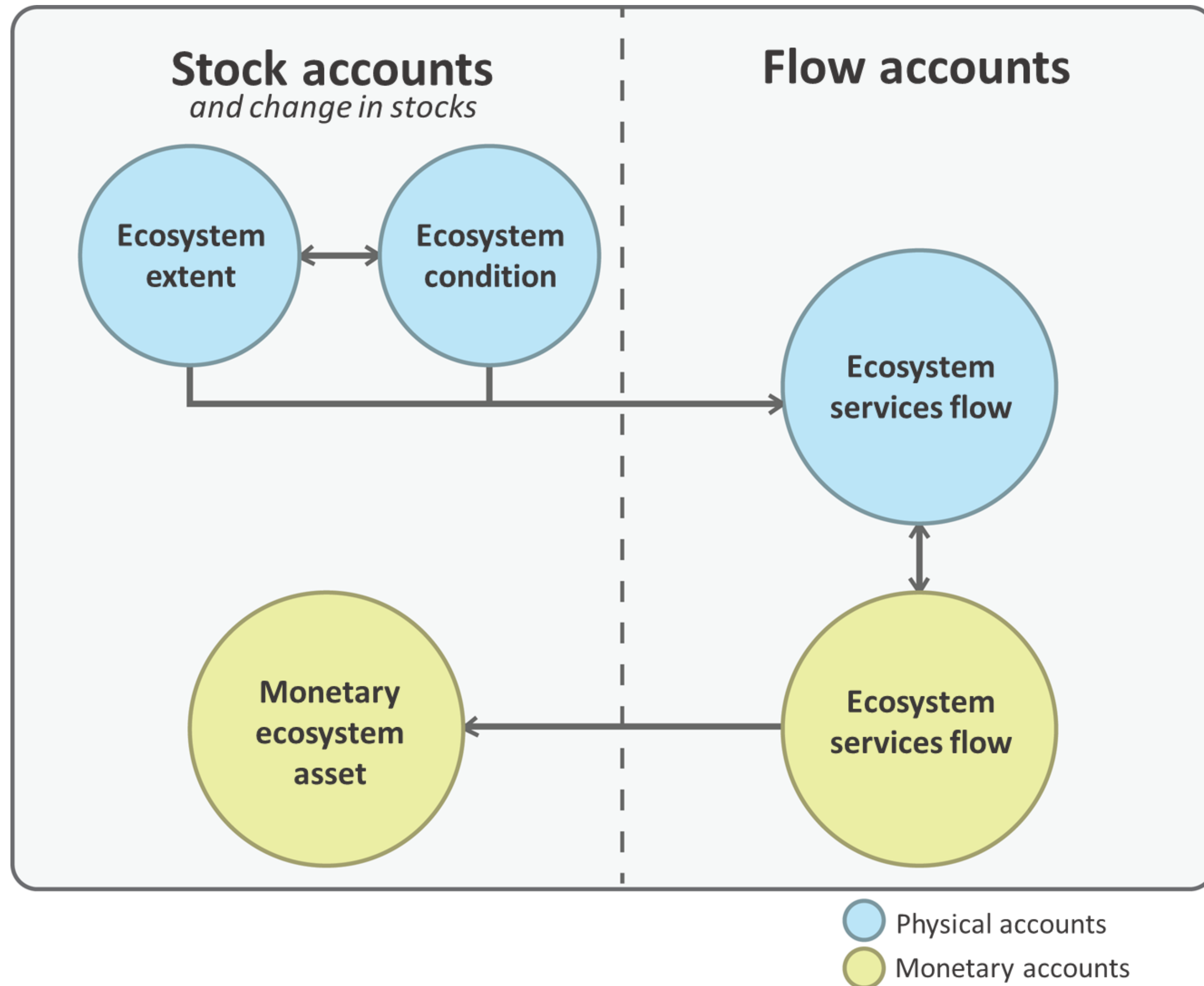


Coasts
e.g. recreation

SEEA Ecosystem Accounting Framework



SEEA Ecosystem Accounting – core accounts



Materials in support of implementation of the SEEA

Guidelines and reports

- Biophysical guidelines
- Monetary valuation
- Policy scenario analysis



E-Learning (in various language options)

- SEEA CF, including SEEA-Energy and SEEA-Water
- SEEA EA
- NCA Policy uptake

Data

- ARIES for SEEA

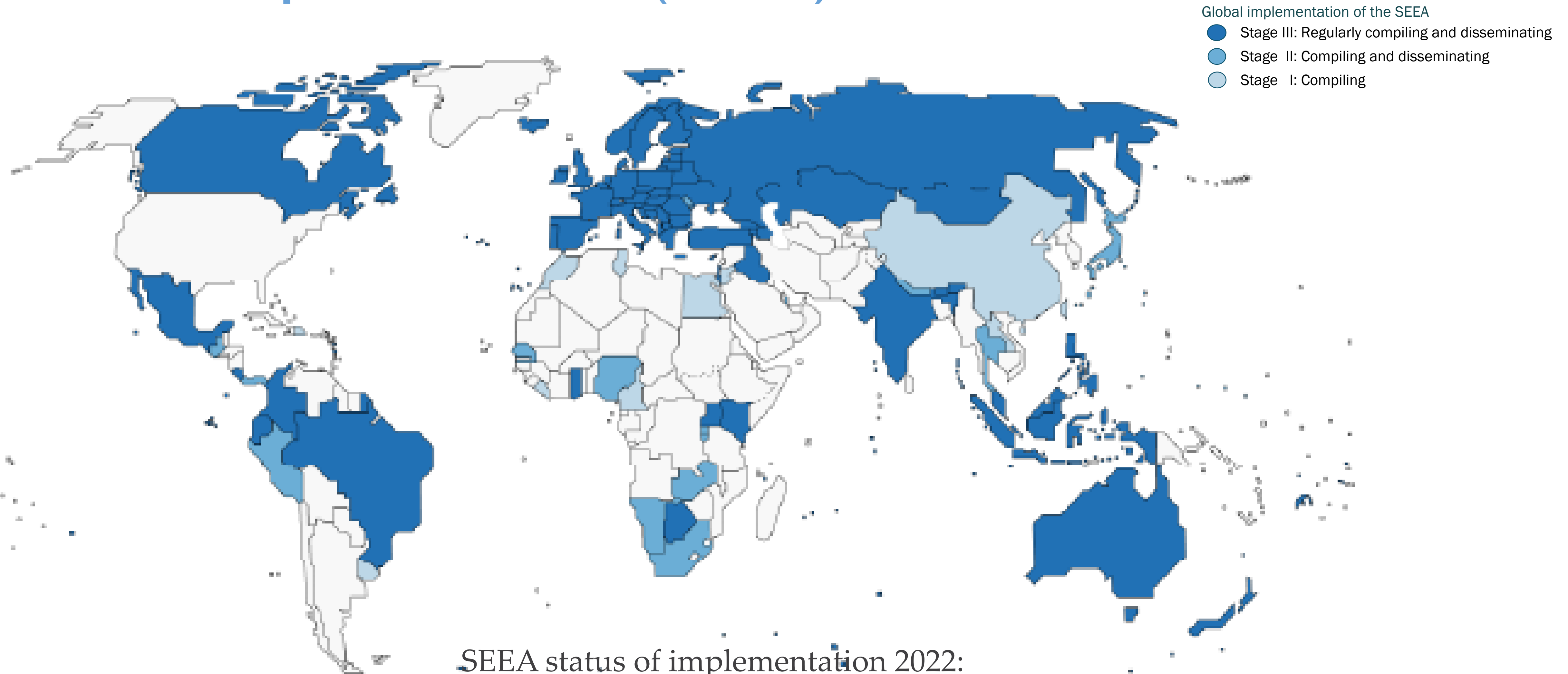


Policy applications

- Linkages of global indicators with SEEA
- How NCA contributes to sustainability policies



SEEA Implementation (2022)



- 91 countries implementing the SEEA Central Framework
- 41 countries compiling SEEA Ecosystem Accounts



THANK YOU

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