

# System of Environmental Economic Accounting



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

# System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

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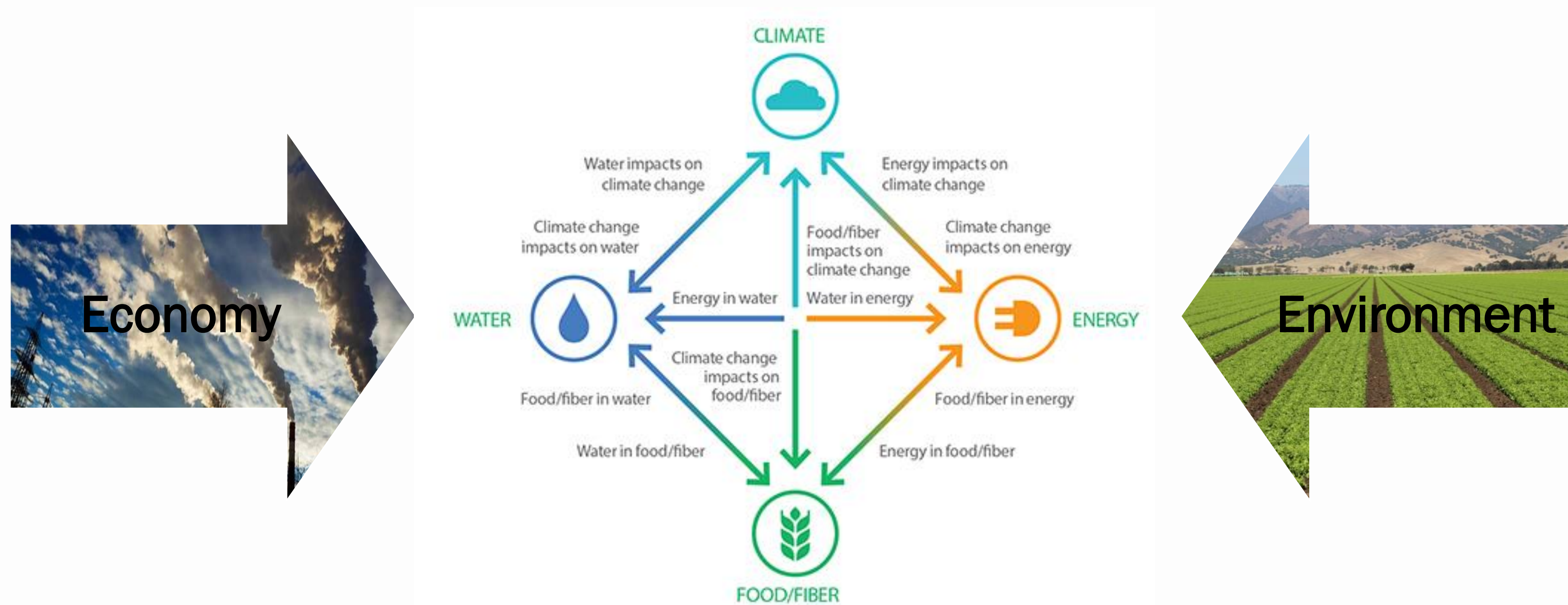


United Nations

# Overview

1. Introduction to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA)
2. Current priorities

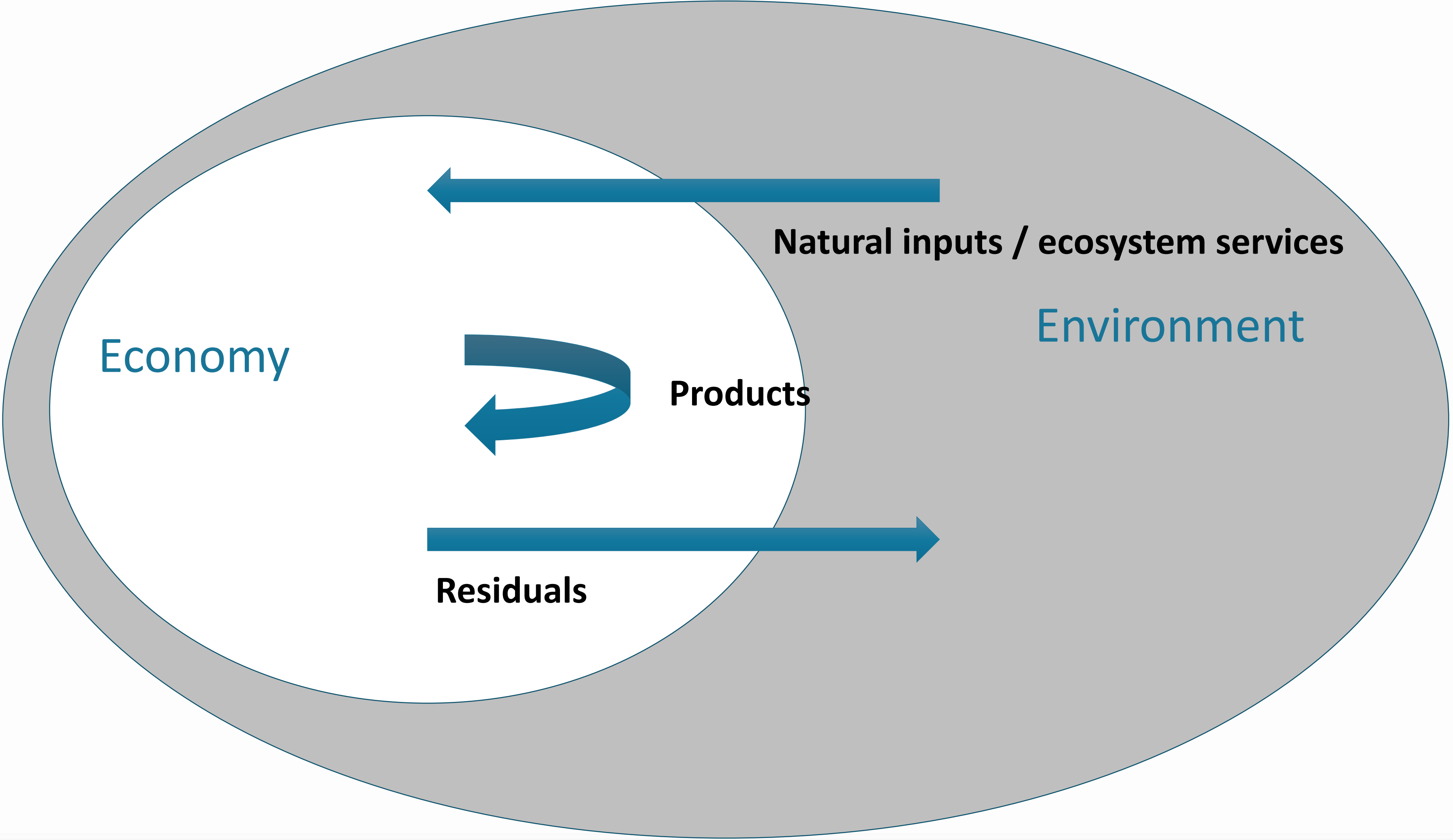
# Integration for Sustainable Development



- Environmental policy must consider **interconnected natural systems**
  - E.g. Food, energy, water and climate change **nexus**
- Policies should recognize the links;
  - Between different natural systems → **Integrated** environmental information
  - Between the economy and environment → **Integrated** environmental-economic information



# The Environment-Economy Nexus



# The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

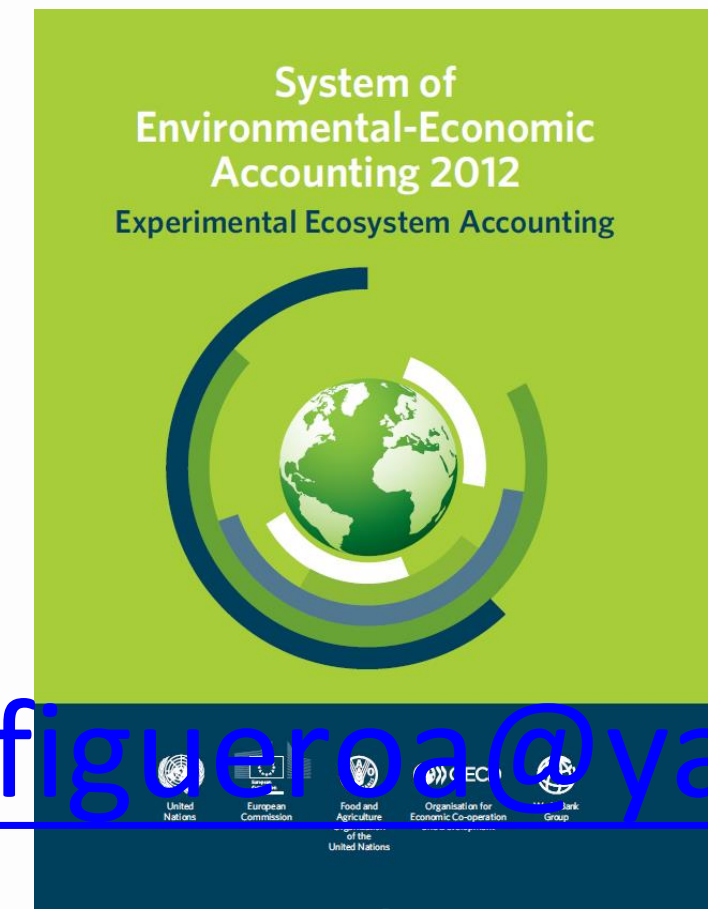
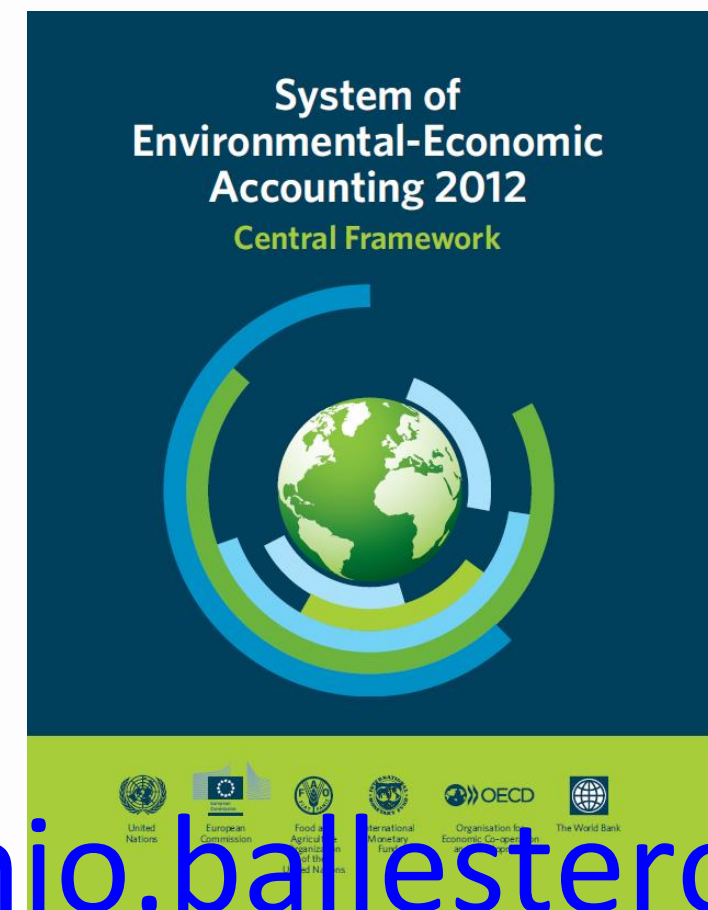
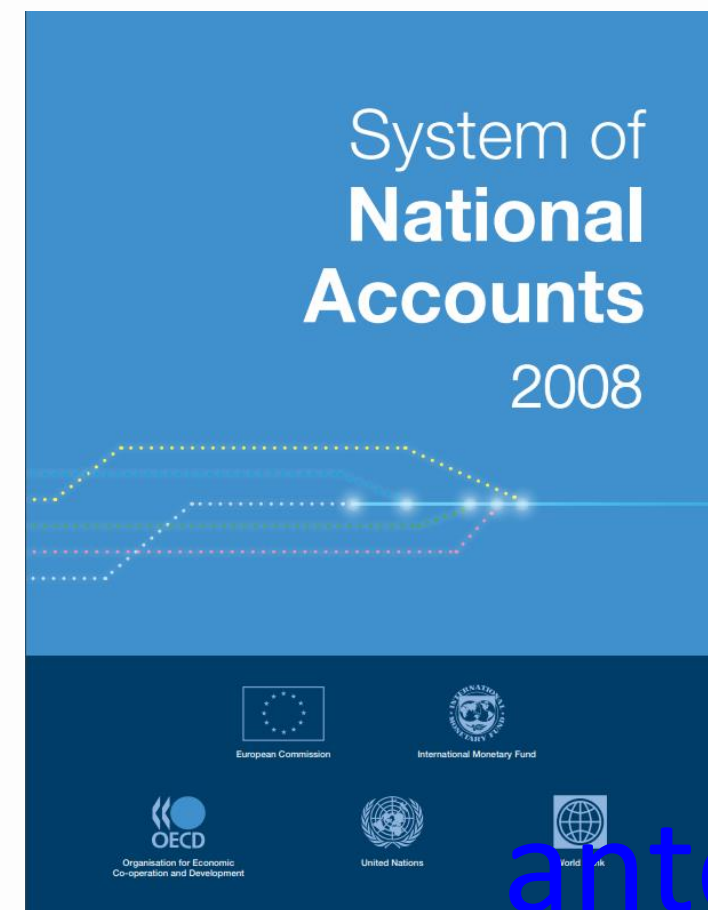
An internationally agreed statistical framework to measure the environment and its interactions with economy.

- The **SEEA Central Framework** was adopted as an international statistical standard by the UN Statistical Commission in 2012
- The **SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting** complement the Central Framework and represent international efforts toward coherent ecosystem accounting
  - **Technical Recommendations (2017)** present updates and extensions of ecosystem accounting concepts, methods and structure, and providing practical guidance on its implementation
- **SEEA EEA Revision** by 2020

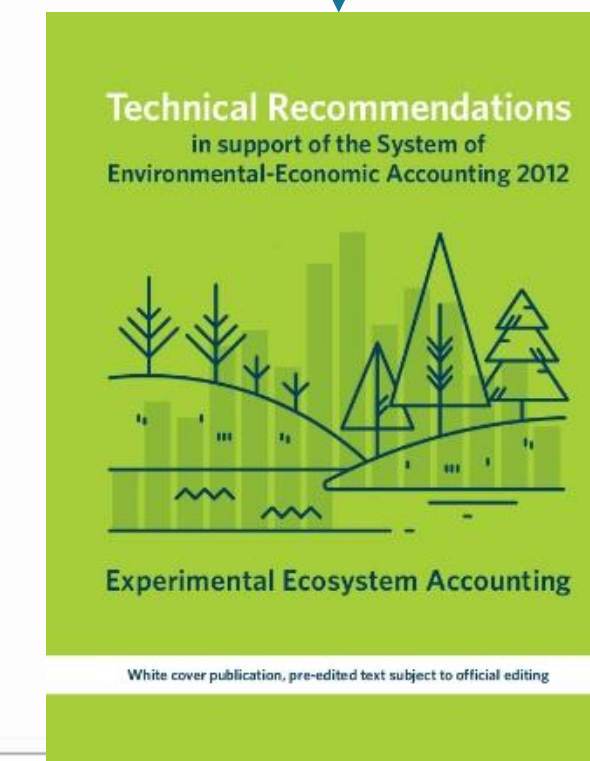
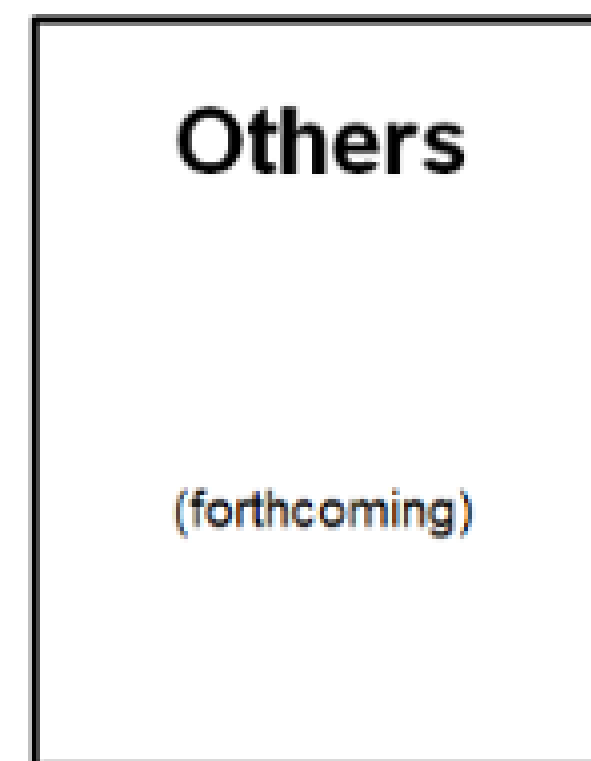
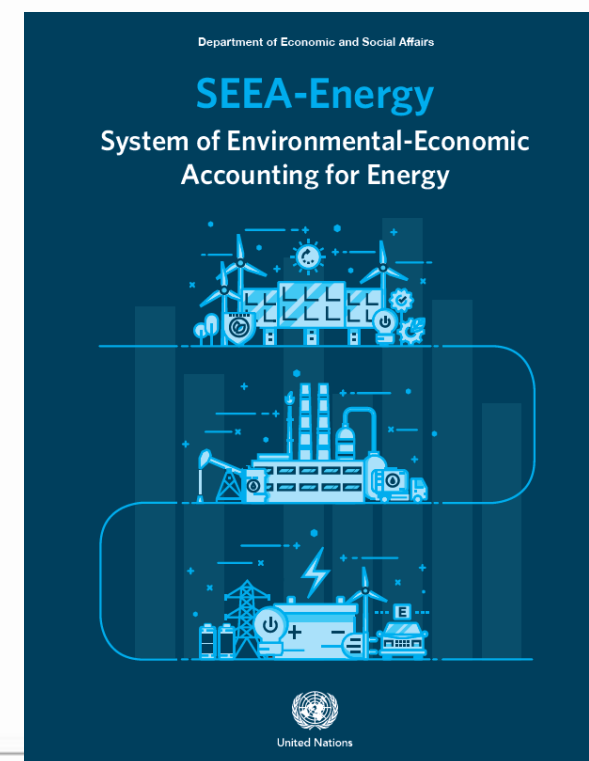
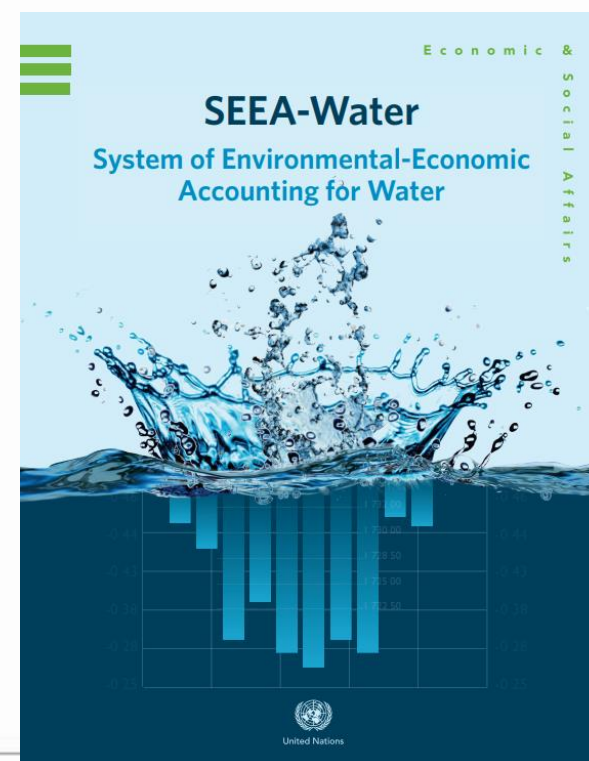




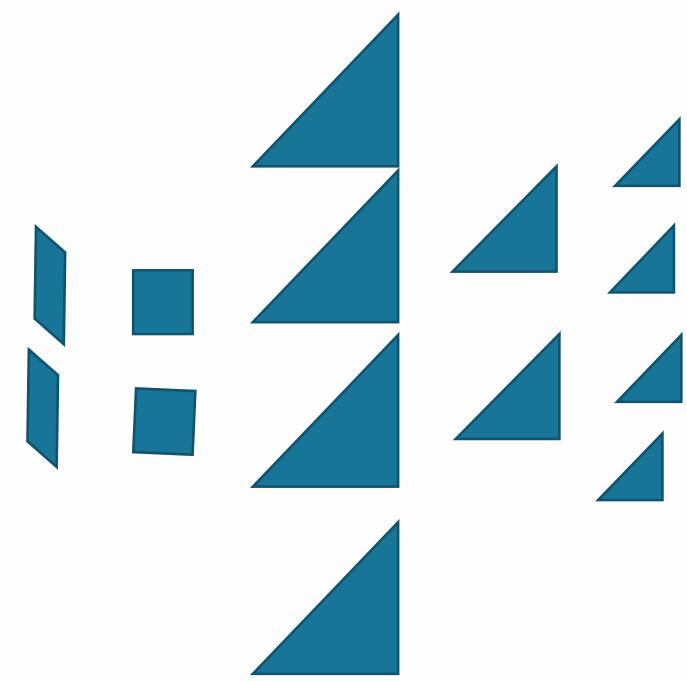
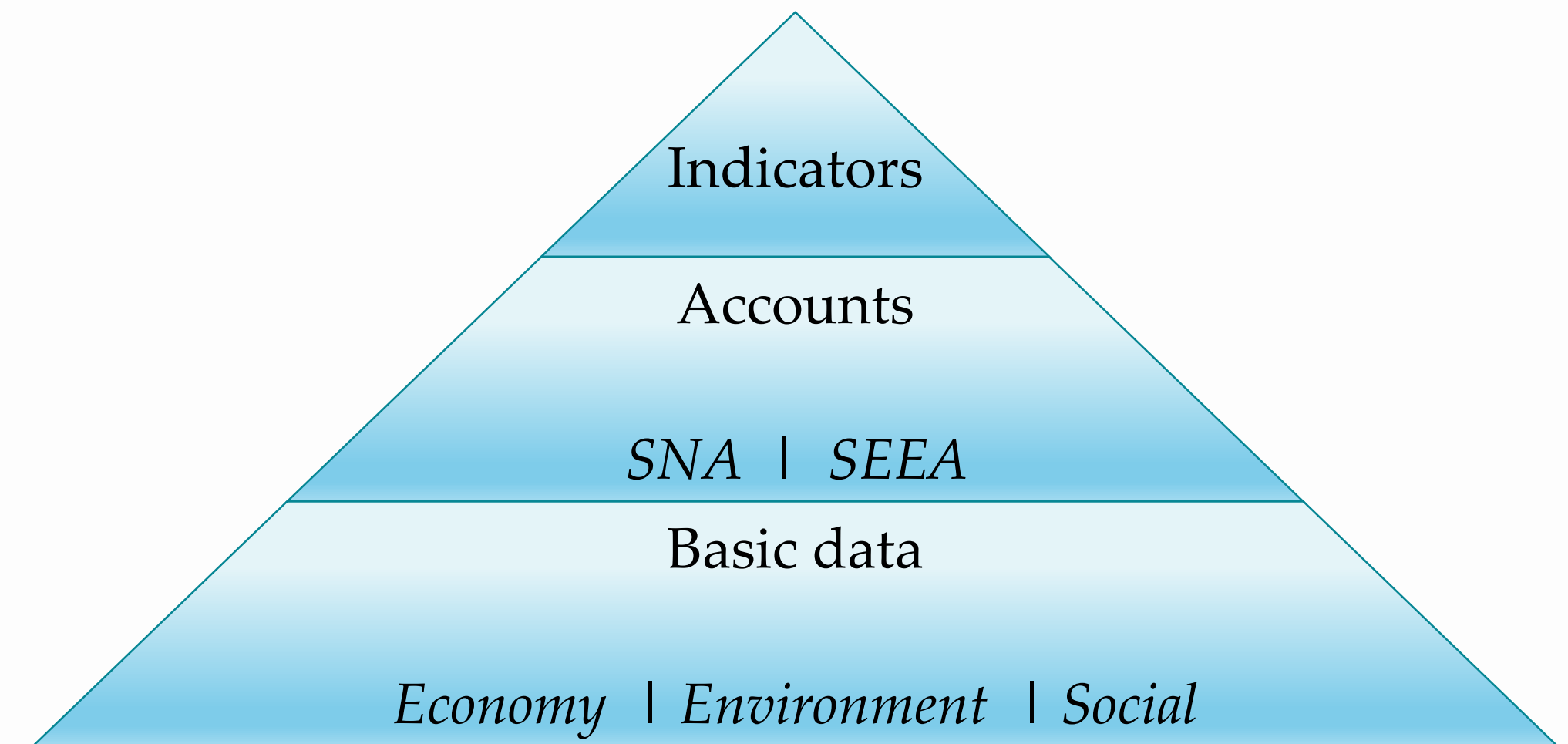
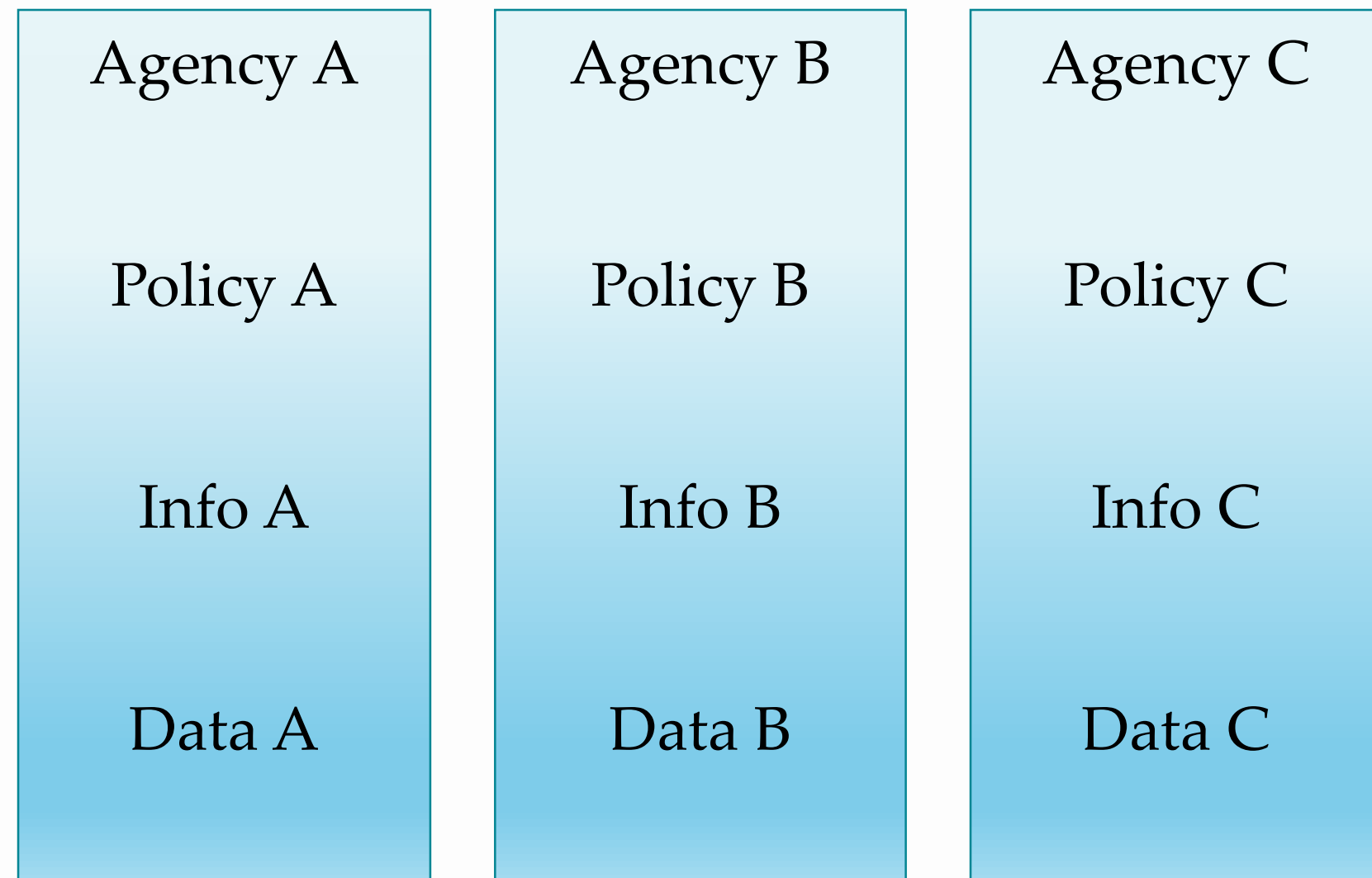
# The SNA and SEEA: Systems of integrated information



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# SEEA: From Silo approach to Integration

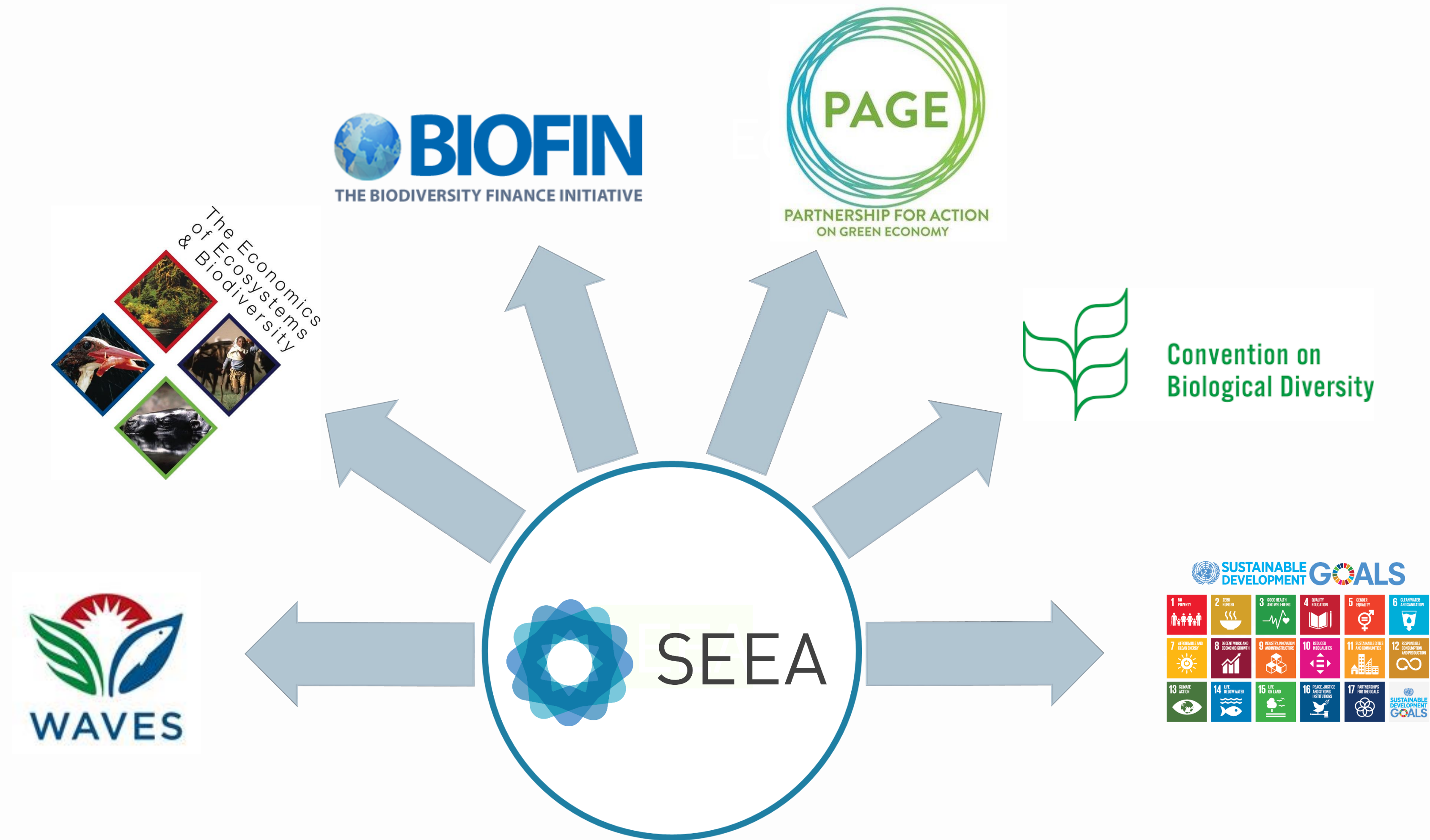




# From silos to ... integration



# SEEA as supporting framework



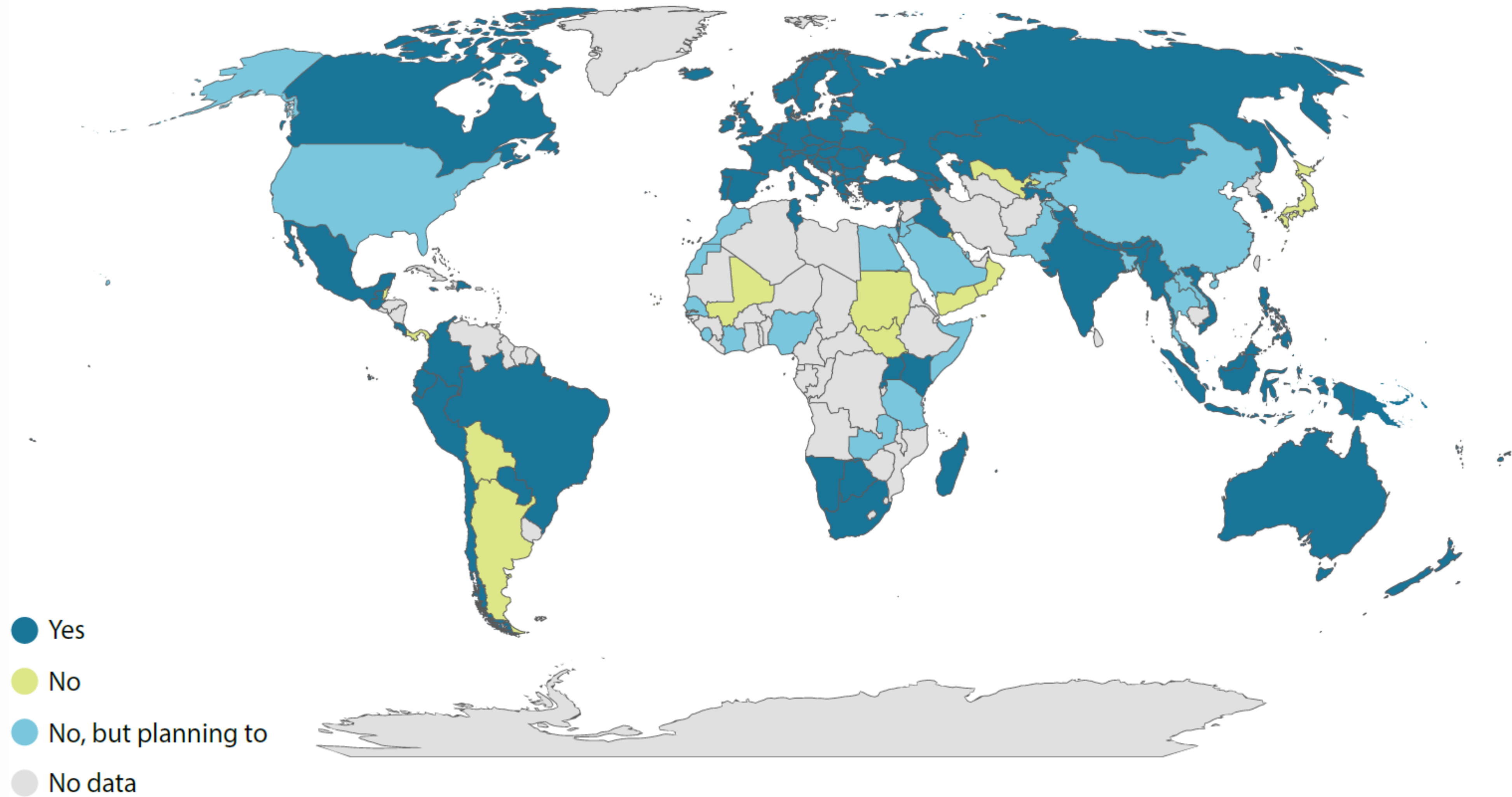
# Implementation of SEEA

- National Statistical Offices
  - > Mainstreamed in statistical production process
  - > Arms length from policy
- MoE, line ministries, think tanks
  - > Science
  - > Data production
- Ministry of planning and finance
- Promotes inter-institutional mechanisms

Inter-  
institutional  
collaboration



# SEEA Around the World



# Current priorities

1. SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting revision
2. Global Databases
3. Alignment with business accounting

# Revision of the SEEA EEA

- Scope of the revision
  - > Agreed concepts, definitions and methodologies
  - > Wide engagement of various communities
- Research agenda for the revision
  - > Spatial units
  - > Ecosystem condition
  - > Ecosystem services
  - > Valuation and integration into the accounts
  - > Cross cutting issues: ocean, urban, freshwater accounts
- Timeline of the revision
  - > Started in 2018, to be finalized by the end of 2020 and submission to UNSC in March 2021



# Global databases

- SEEA accounts legislated in European Union (air emissions, material flow, physical energy flow, environmental taxes, environmental protection expenditure, environmental goods and services sector accounts)
- Expanding towards global databases
  - > Central Framework priority accounts
  - > Energy, air emissions, land, material flow and water
- Development of global databases for ecosystem accounts
  - > Use of big data and Earth observation
  - > UN GWG Big Data Task Team on Land Use, Land Cover and Ecosystem Extent

# Aligning corporate and national efforts

- Corporate sustainability accounting is an important information source for statistics to support compilation of SEEA accounts, just as business statistics already support compilation of the System of National Accounts
- Alignment of national and corporate sustainability will:
  - > Reduce the reporting burden for businesses by aligning business surveys with corporate reporting
  - > Streamline the process of using business statistics in the production of national statistics
  - > Provide a set of common definitions and concepts so businesses can use statistical products efficiently

# Aligning corporate and national efforts

- Roadmap for alignment of national and corporate sustainability accounting and reporting
  - > Map existing initiatives and identify differences and similarities with SEEA standard
  - > Work to align definitions and concepts to build bridges
  - > Develop common valuation methodology and data validation techniques
  - > Work towards standardized collection process



# Aligning corporate and national efforts

- Workstream on business accounting of the E.U.-funded National Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project
- Assessment of current state of play of corporate sustainability accounting and reporting
- Workshop planned for 2019 Q3, with focus on SEEA EEA
  - > How can spatially explicit ecosystem accounts support business decision making and reporting?
  - > How can national statistical offices and businesses harmonize/align for reporting purposes?

**THANK YOU**

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