



Overview of the SEEA; SEEA implementation strategy

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National Seminar on Developing an Implementation Strategy for the
SEEA Central Framework in the Pacific Region

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Apia, Samoa



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





Para.38 of the 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.”



Challenges ahead for our operations

- Fundamental rethink and transformational change in mainstreaming sustainable development
 - How we **set the statistical agenda**, how we **keep the agenda under review** and how we **promote the statistical agenda and the authority of official statistics**
 - How we engage within and between the national, regional and international statistical system with a **bottom-up approach based on national priorities**
 - How we **integrate policy and statistics** in our operations
 - How we **integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions** in our operations





Implications for statistical community

- A need to bring statistical decisions into the political process of defining development goals, targets and indicators
- An early and adequate engagement of the statistical community is vital
- A leadership role for the national statistical offices in the national statistical system and engage with the national stakeholders
- A need to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems to compile and report development indicators through balanced and resourced national statistical systems based on national priorities



System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

United Nations Statistics Division

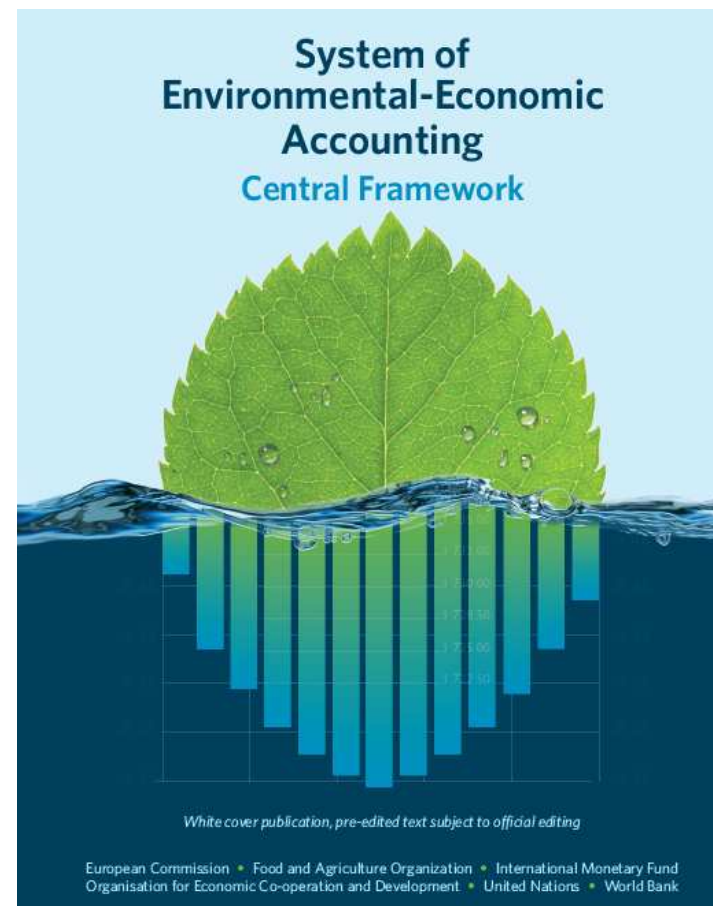
Statisticians, politicians and policymakers, business sector, scientific/academic community and general public must join hands!





Recent advances - 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





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



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



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

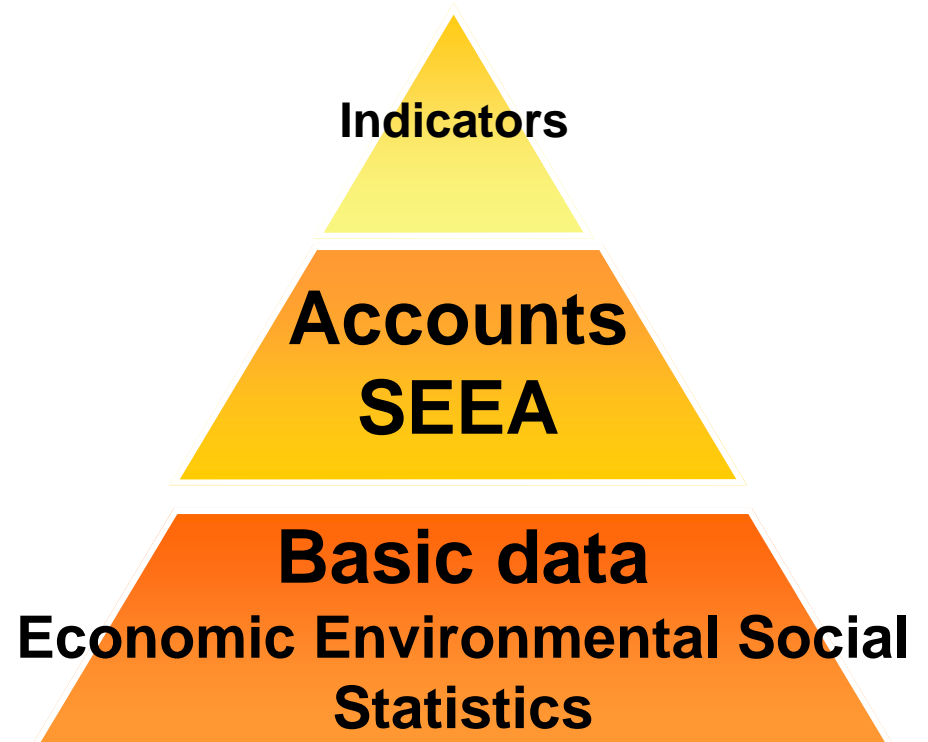
- The economy impacts on the environment and the environment impacts on the economy
- To understand these linkages we need to integrate environmental and economic information
- This is the explicit purpose of the SEEA





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



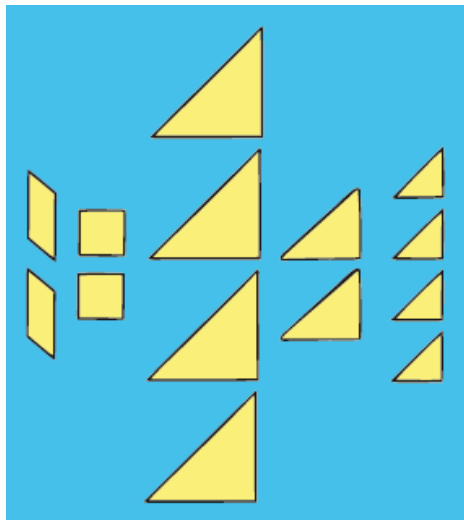


Linking environmental and socio-economic data is essential for policymakers

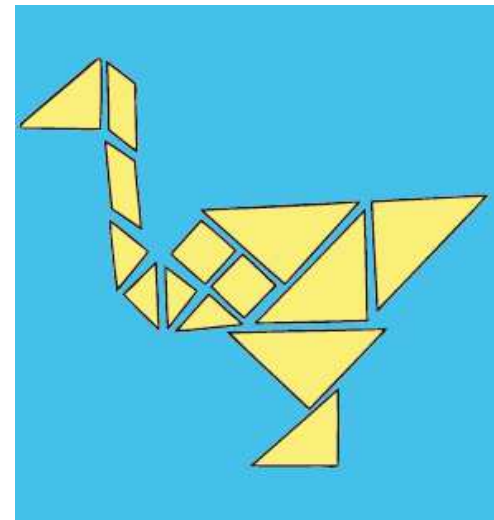
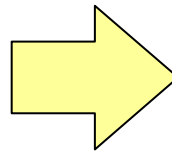
- Enables analysis of the impact of economic policies on the environment and vice versa
- Provides a quantitative basis for policy design
- Identifies the socio-economic drivers, pressures, impacts and responses affecting the environment
- Supports greater precision for environmental regulations and 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 System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) provides the framework for transforming sectoral data into integrated policy-relevant information.



Sectoral Data

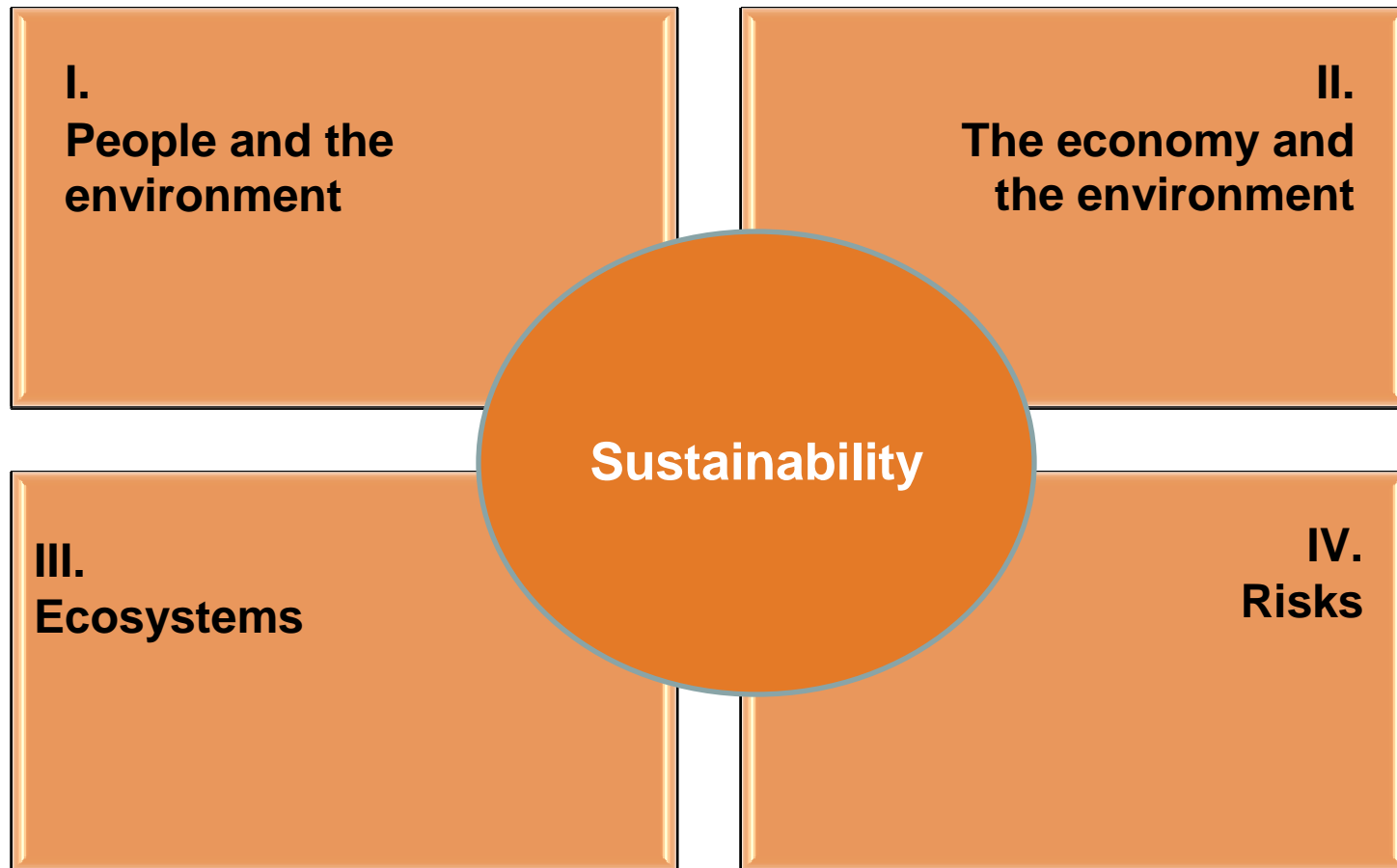


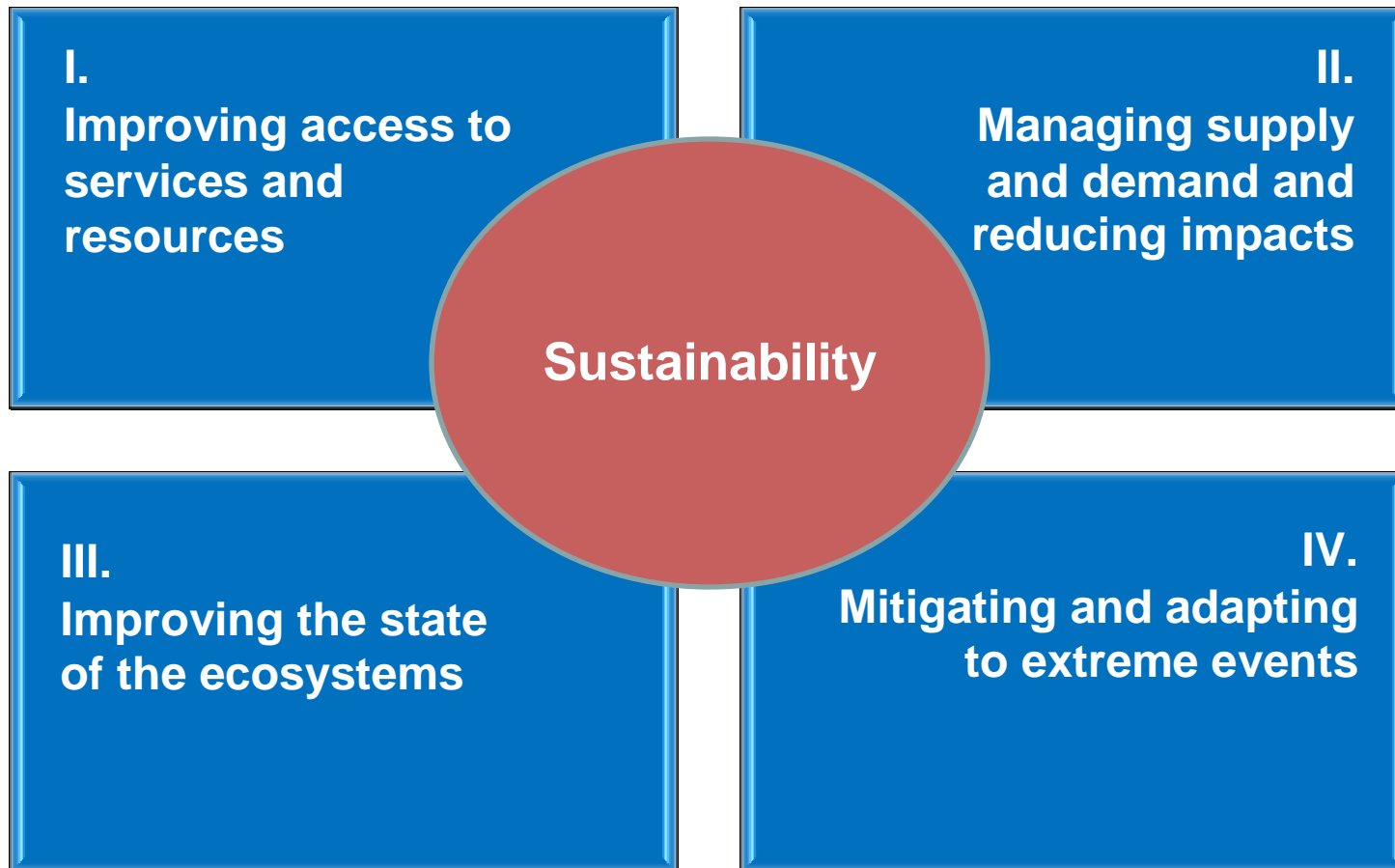
Integrated information

Integrated information provides a comprehensive picture to support policy making.



The SEEA Policy Quadrants







Quadrant I: Improving access

I. Improving access to services and resources

Key information in this quadrant (household sector related):

- Costs associated with the provision of services to households (e.g. access to water, sanitation, waste collection, electricity, etc.)
- Investments in network infrastructure
- Employment and compensation in household production units (e.g. subsistence fisheries)
- Household consumption and disposable income
- Poverty and inequality



Quadrant II: The economy and the environment

II. Managing supply and demand

Key information in this quadrant:

- Efficiency of production
 - Decoupling
- Efficiency of consumption
 - Footprint indicators
- Costs of production and payments by users (e.g. fees, taxes, rents, permits, etc.)
- Employment and compensation
- Financing (who pays for investments and current costs)
- Depletion
- Solid waste and emissions
- Environmental protection and resource management expenditures
- Natural resource assets (e.g. fish stocks, etc.)



Quadrant III: Ecosystems

III. Improving the state of the ecosystems

Key information in this quadrant:

- Ecosystem extent
- Ecosystem conditions
 - Water cycle
 - Carbon cycle
 - Nutrient cycle
 - Primary productivity
- Degradation
- Biodiversity
- Regulatory services provided by ecosystems



Quadrant IV: Extreme Events

**IV. Mitigating and
adapting to
extreme events**

Key information in this quadrant:

- Natural disasters
- Investments for mitigation
- Investments for adaptation

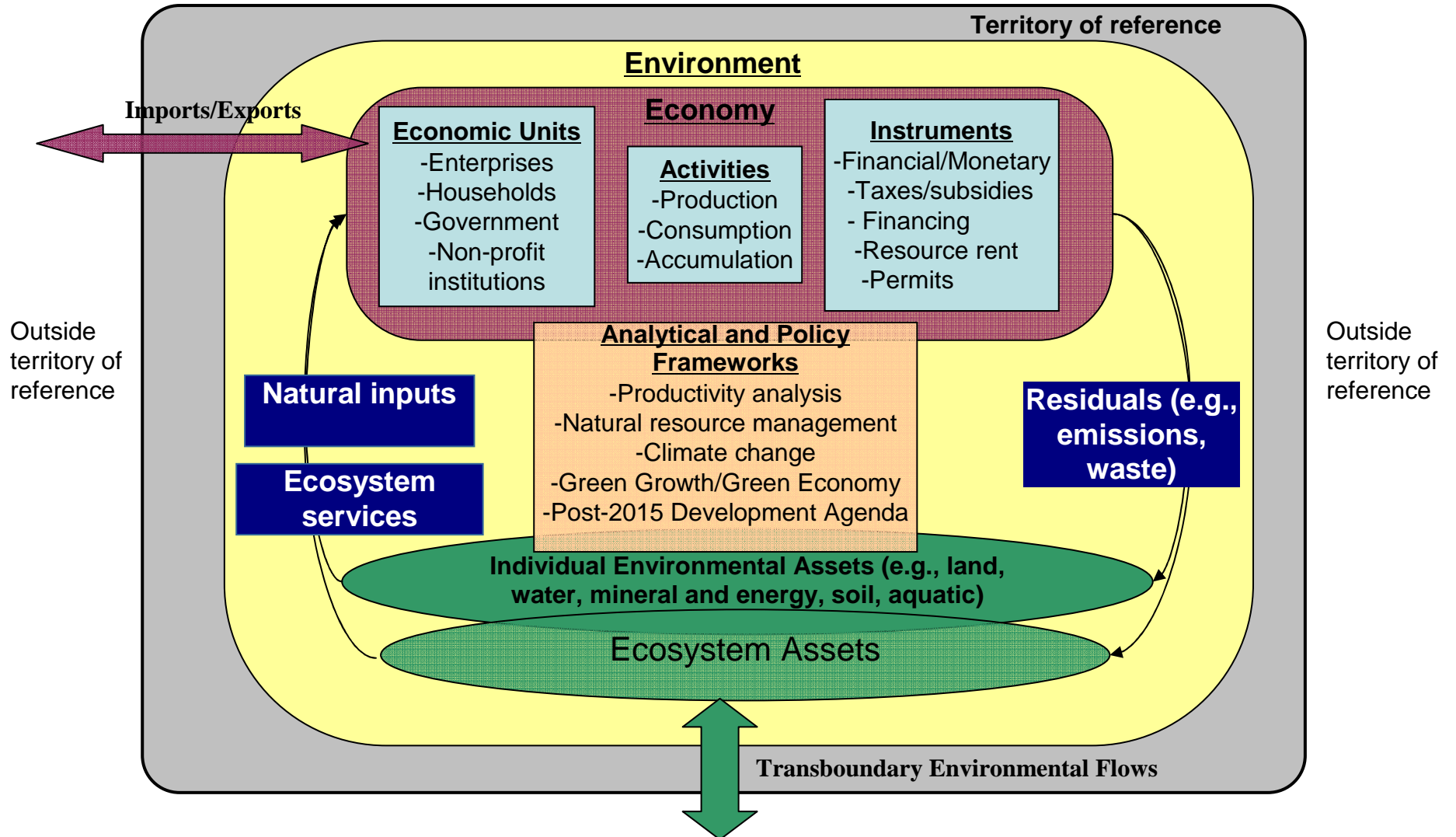


The SEEA Central Framework Accounts

- 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



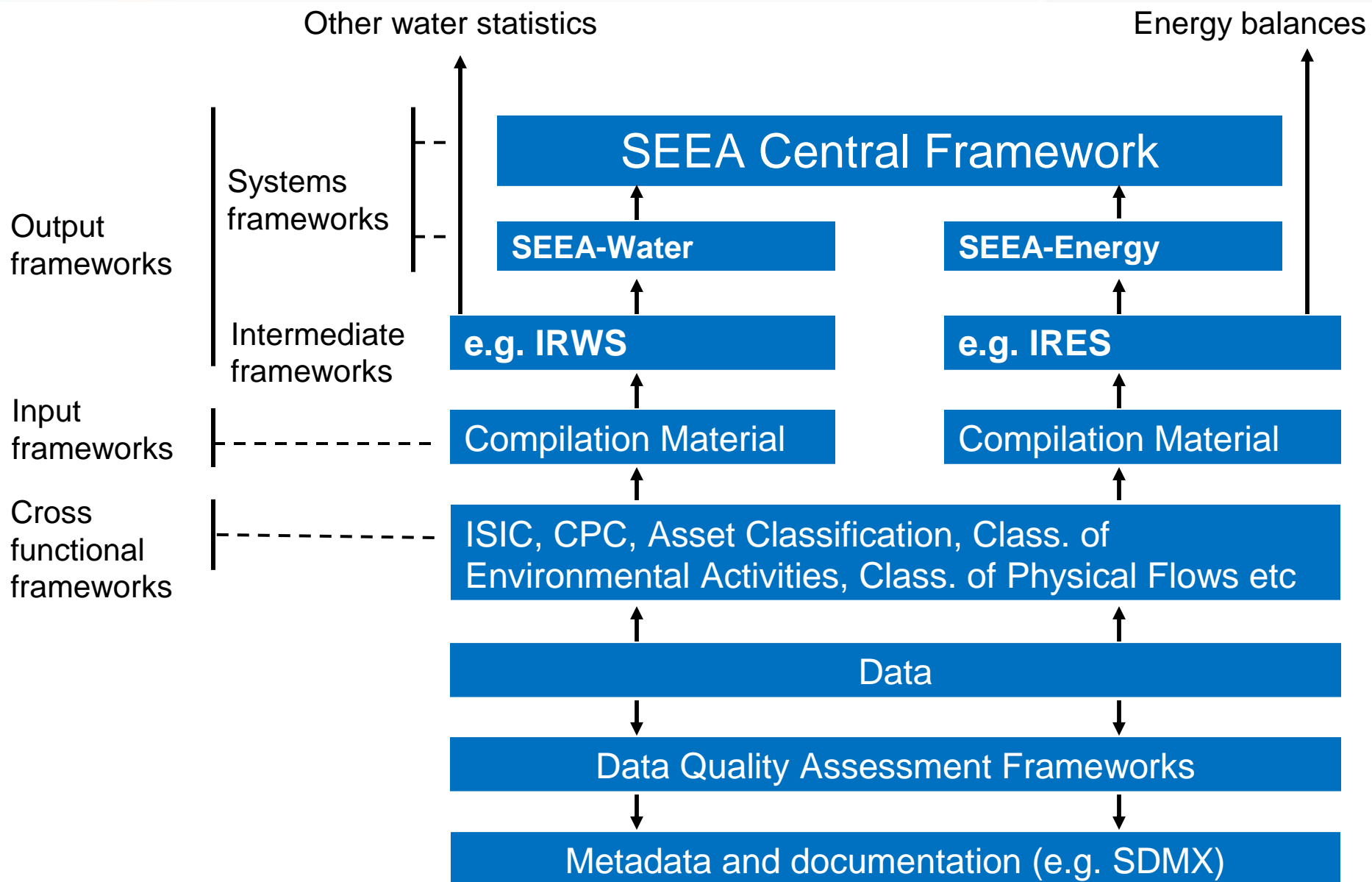
SEEA Conceptual Framework





System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

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SEEA Implementation Strategy

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Apia, Samoa



Background

- SEEA CF adopted by UNSC in 2012
 - SEEA implementation should be a **long-term program**, to be implemented **flexibly and incrementally**, giving full consideration to **national circumstances and requirements**
 - Requested UNCEEA to develop an implementation strategy
- Implementation strategy endorsed by 2013 UNSC
 - Practical actions that can be taken by international organizations and national statistical systems to maximise the extent to which SEEA is implemented in the short to medium-term
- Discussion of implications at International conference on SEEA implementation in New York 17-19 June 2013



Current state of play

- At the national level, many countries already have extensive environmental-economic accounting programs
 - Eg Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, Sweden
- There are also a range of international initiatives relevant to environmental-economic accounting
 - WAVES (Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services) – World Bank
 - Green Growth Strategy – OECD
 - Green Economy Initiative – DESA, UNEP, UNDP
 - Poverty and Environment Initiative - UNDP
 - EU strategy for Environmental Accounting – European Commission



Objective

- To assist countries in the adoption of the SEEA Central Framework as the measurement framework for environmental-economic accounts and supporting statistics, and
- To establish incrementally the technical capacity for regular reporting on a core set of environmental-economic accounts with the appropriate scope, detail and quality



Flexible and modular approach

- Countries differ in terms of their specific environmental-economic policy issues and their level of statistical development. Accordingly, countries may prioritize the accounts they want to implement over the short to medium-term based on the most pressing policy demands

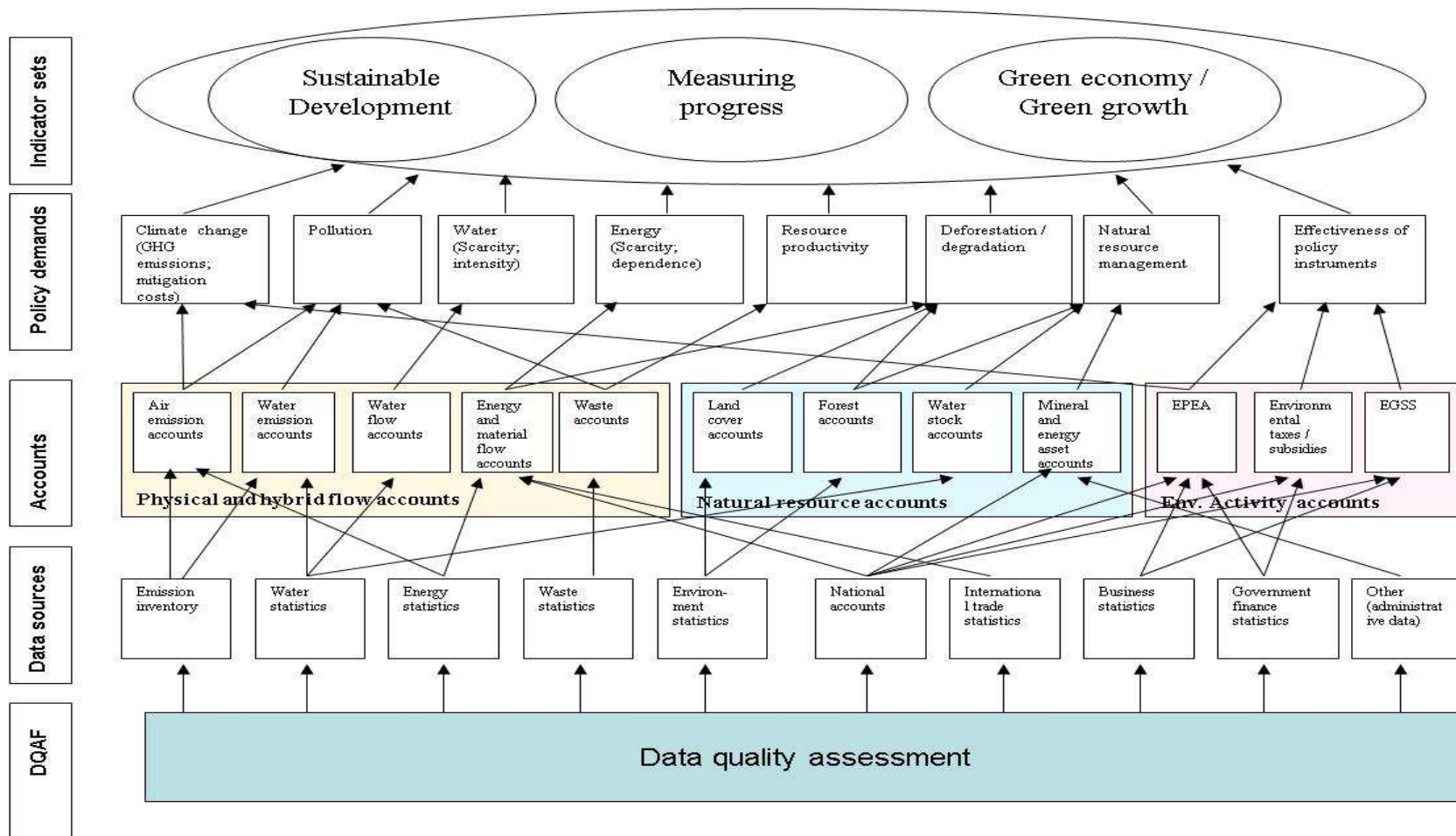


Four phases

- First phase – establish national institutional arrangements
 - Second phase – self assessment using diagnostic tool
 - Third phase -- data quality assessment
 - Fourth phase – preparation of strategic development plan
-
- These phases would be supported by international activities



Diagnostic tool





Implementation activities

- Technical assistance and training
- SEEA implementation guide, compilation manuals, diagnostic tools, technical notes, data quality assessment framework and training materials
- Core sets of SEEA tables for data collection and reporting
- Creation of partnerships at global, regional and national level, including cooperation with the policy and scientific communities
- Advocacy and communication



Considerations for SEEA implementation

- Strategic approach to the implementation
 - National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) should be linked to strategic planning frameworks such as the National Development Strategies, National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP)
- Linking the implementation to policy demands
 - The SEEA can serve as the statistical infrastructure in response to existing policy frameworks such as Post 2015 Development Agenda, Natural Capital Accounting and Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), green economy/green growth, sustainable production and consumption (SPC), etc



Considerations for SEEA implementation

- Bottom-up approach
 - countries owning the implementation process and agreeing on national implementation strategies and implementation plans
- Sub-regional and regional approach
 - Build on sub-regional cooperation among countries with a lead country chosen as showcase for the other
 - South-south cooperation/triangular cooperation
- Linked to the 2008 SNA implementation programme and the global strategy for agriculture statistics
- Stages of implementation by 2020 based on national priorities



Thank you