

System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

The Global Biodiversity Framework and supporting NCA data

Ilaria Di Matteo
Environmental-Economic Accounts Section
United Nations Statistics Division

7th Global Policy Forum on Natural Capital

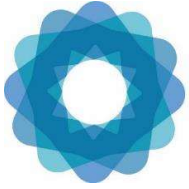
5-6 March 2024



United Nations

Outline

- Overview of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- Overview of the SEEA
- Development of the metadata and the links between GBF and natural capital accounting



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Overview of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)



United Nations

COP15 Major Outcomes



Kunming-
Montreal
GBF
(decision
15/4)

GBF
Monitoring
framework
(decision
15/5)

Mechanisms for
planning,
monitoring,
reporting and
review
(decision 15/6)

Resource
mobilization
(decision
15/7)

Capacity-
building and
development
& technical
and scientific
cooperation
(decision 15/8)

Digital
sequence
information on
genetic
resources
(decision
15/9)



The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework



Goal A

Ecosystems maintained, enhanced, or restored, extinctions are halted, extinction rate reduced tenfold and genetic diversity is maintained

Goal B

Biodiversity is sustainably used and its contributions to people are maintained, enhanced or restored

Goal C

Benefits from the use of genetic resources are shared and sustainably increased

Goal D

The biodiversity funding gap of 700 billion USD is closed by ensuring adequate means of implementation are available.

Global Goals for 2050



Global Targets for 2030

23 targets:

- Targets 1-8: Reducing threats to biodiversity
- Targets 9-13: Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing
- Targets 14-23: Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming



Monitoring Framework

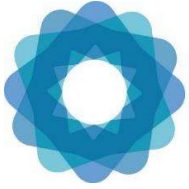
- A. Adopted in decision 15/5: Headline indicators; Binary indicators; Component indicators and Complementary indicators
- B. Parties are urged to use the headline indicators in their national reports
- C. AHTEG established to guide work on the following:
 - 1) technical advice on remaining and unresolved issues relating to the monitoring framework for the GBF
 - 2) guidance on the use of indicators in national planning and reporting,
 - 3) guidance on ways to fill temporal and spatial data gaps, including through the use of big data, citizen science, community-based monitoring and information systems, remote sensing, modelling and statistical analysis, and other forms of data and other knowledge systems,
 - 4) on the existing capacity, gaps and needs



Headline indicators were adopted to monitor each Goal and Target. A few indicators related to NCA:

- Extent of natural ecosystems (Goal A)
- Services provided by ecosystems (Goal B and Target 11)
- Sustainable Management of Wild Species (Target 9)
- Integrating Biodiversity in Decision-Making (Target 14)
- International public funding (including ODA), domestic public funding, and private funding on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems (Target 19)





System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

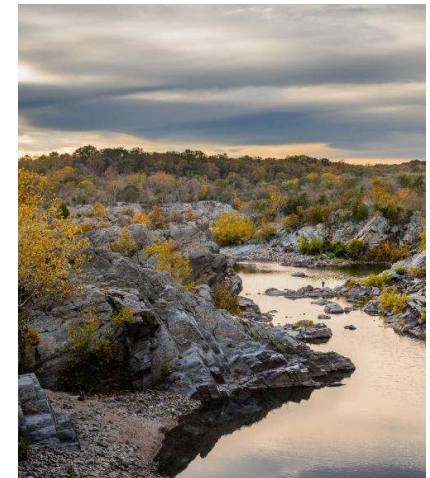
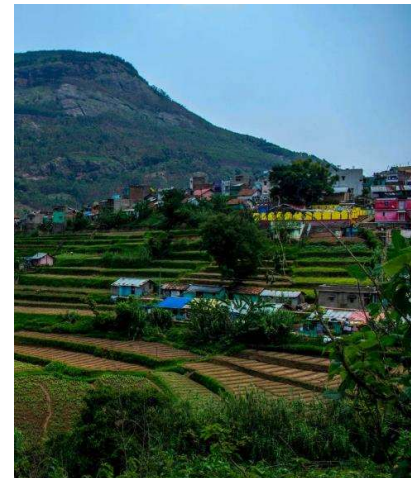
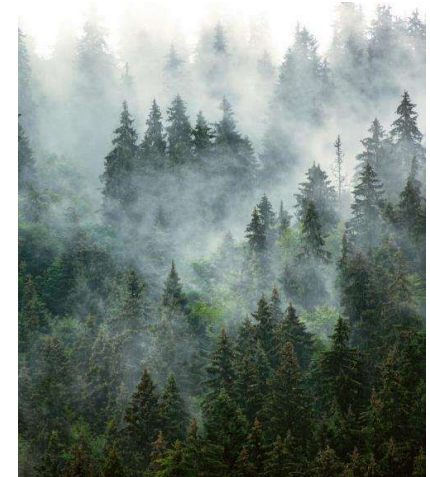
Overview of the System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA)



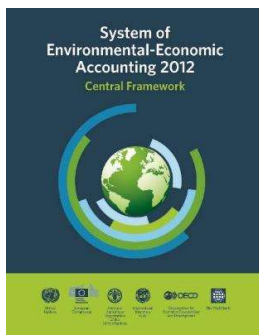
United Nations

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



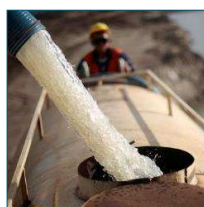
One Environment: Two Perspectives



CENTRAL FRAMEWORK *Assets*



Timber



Water



Fish



ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING *Services*



Forests

e.g. flood control



Rivers

e.g. water purification



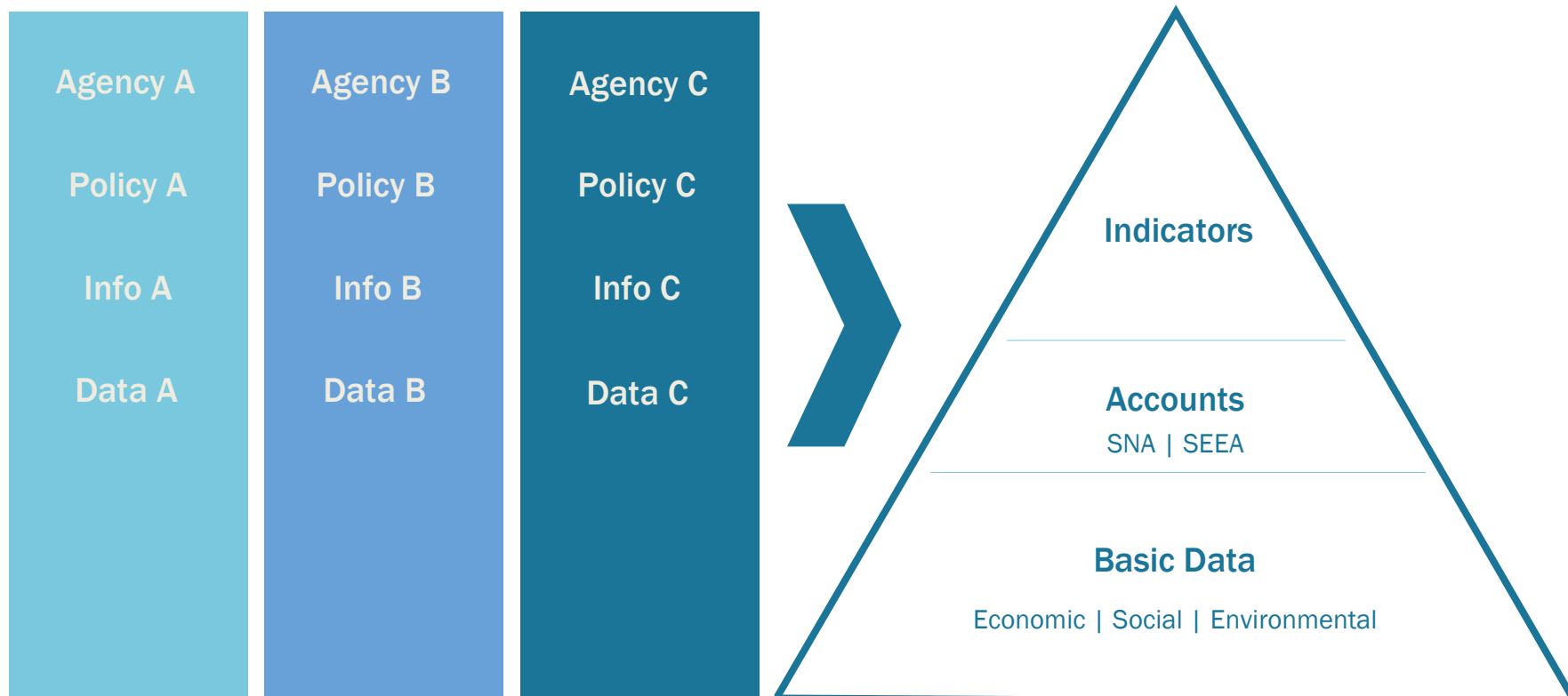
Coasts

e.g. recreation

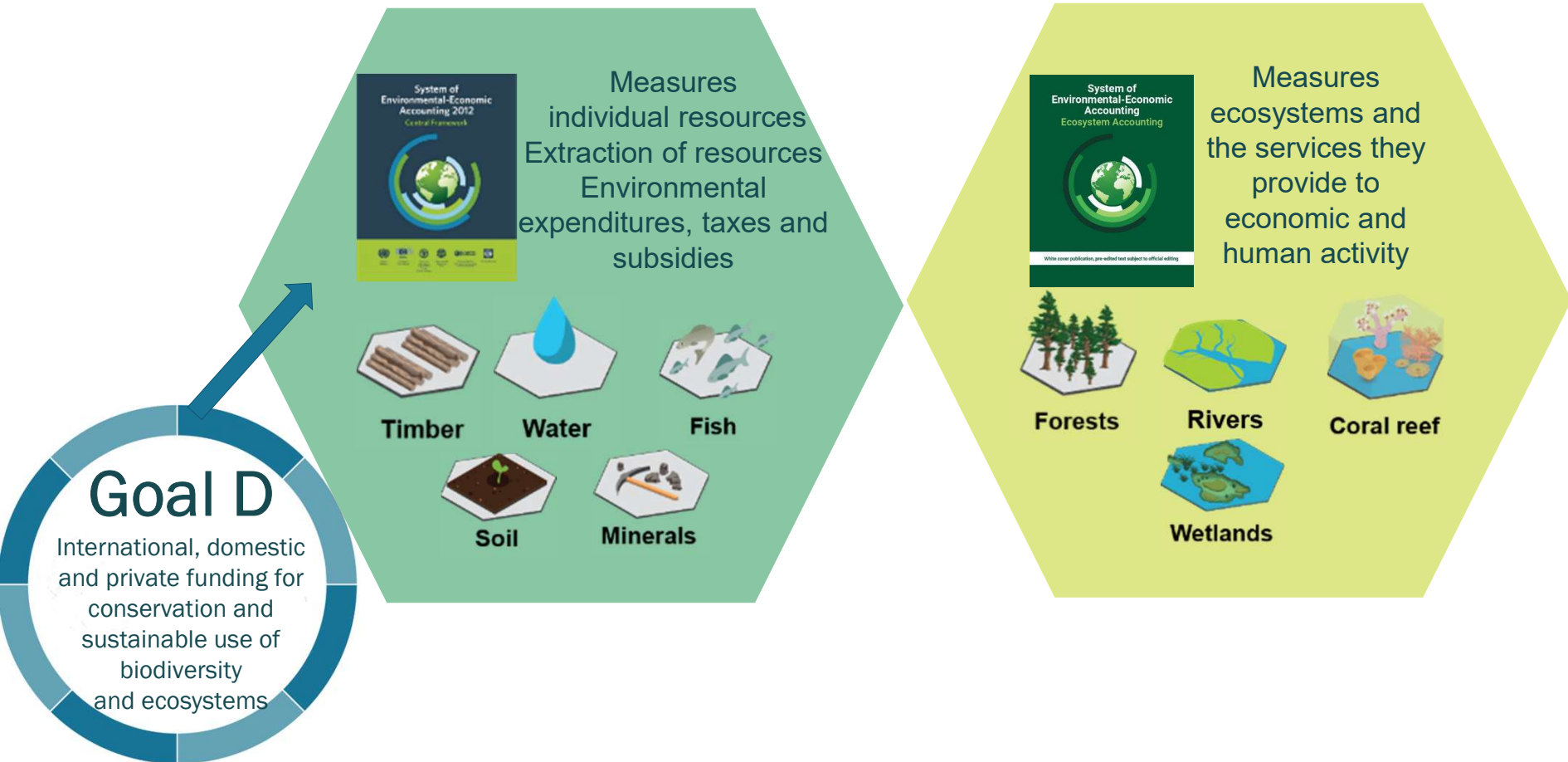


Adopted by the UN Statistical Commission as international statistical standards

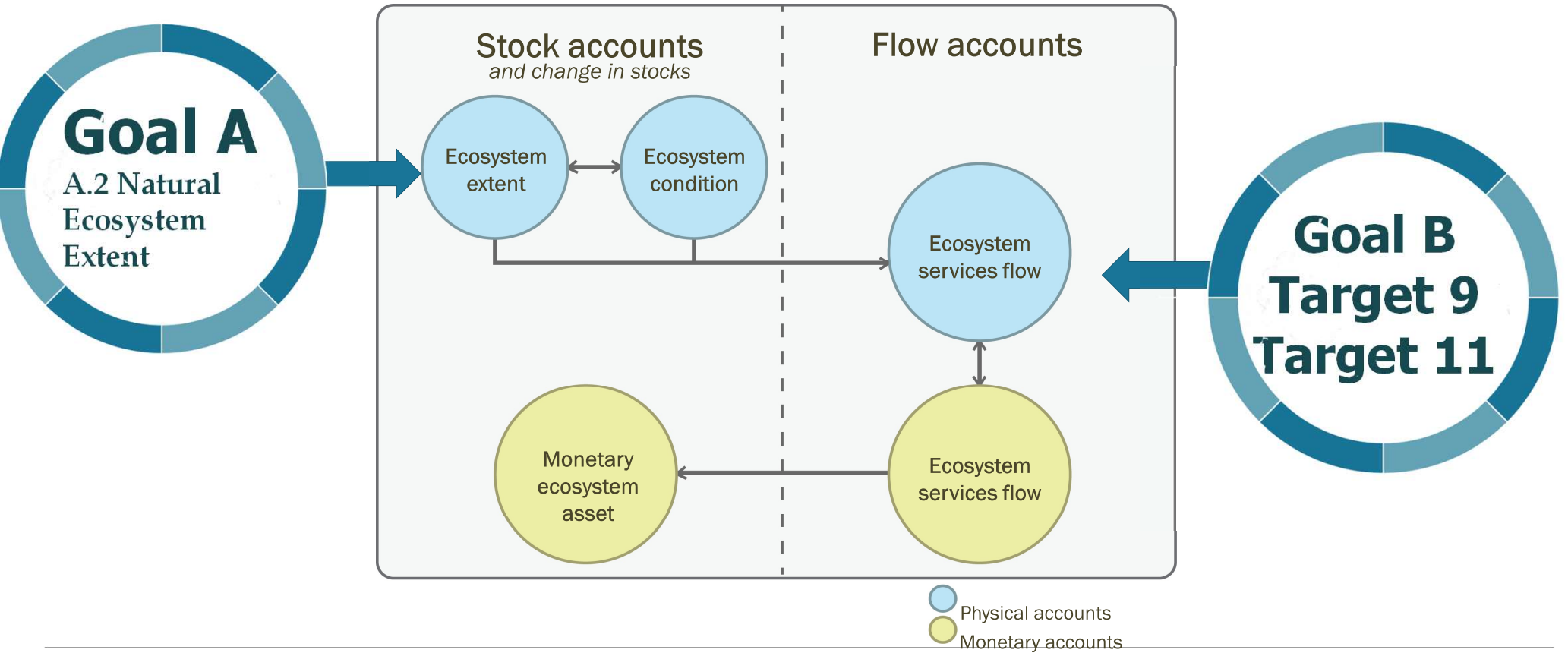
From data silos to integrated information



Two sides of the SEEA



SEEA Ecosystem Accounting - Core Accounts



The GBF Monitoring framework and statistics

Monitoring framework for the GBF (COP 15 decision 15/5) :

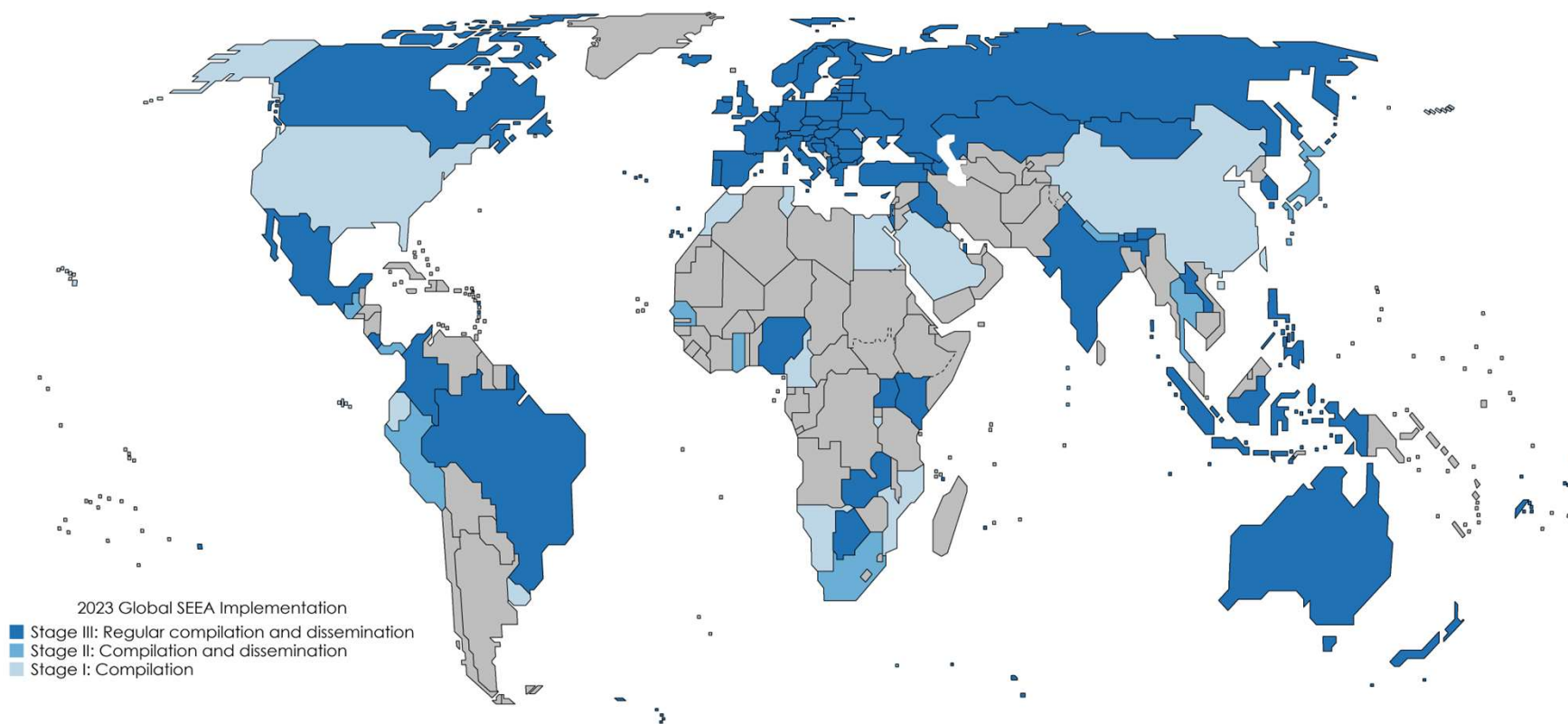
- “Notes the value of aligning national monitoring with the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting statistical standard in order to mainstream biodiversity in national statistical systems and to strengthen national monitoring systems and reporting as appropriate and according to their national priorities and circumstances; “
- Invites the Statistical Commission,..... and other relevant organizations to support the operationalization of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework;
- When possible, indicators are aligned with existing intergovernmental processes under the Statistical Commission, such as the SDGs, the FDES or the SEEA

United Nations Statistical Commission

At its 54th session in March 2023:

“Welcomed the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework, welcomed the acknowledgement by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of the value of aligning national monitoring with the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in order to mainstream biodiversity, **called upon national statistical offices to engage with their biodiversity focal points**, and called upon the **Committee to actively engage in the Convention on Biological Diversity process and facilitate further collaboration between the statistical and the biodiversity communities** to strengthen national monitoring systems and for monitoring and reporting on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;”

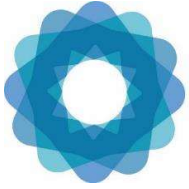
Implementation of SEEA around the world



The boundaries and names shown, and the designation used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Number of countries compiling SEEA accounts over time





System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Development of the metadata and the links between GBF and NCA



United Nations

Indicators for Goal A

GOAL A

The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050;

Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels;

The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

Headline indicators

A.1 Red List of Ecosystems

A.2 Extent of natural ecosystems

A.3 Red List Index for Species

A.4 The proportion of populations within species with an effective population size > 500

Indicator for Goal B

GOAL B

Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

Headline indicator

B.1 Services provided by ecosystems

Concluding remarks

Natural capital accounts provide a powerful tool to:

- integrate environmental and economic data

- analyze trade offs of different policies

- mainstream biodiversity and environmental considerations into decision making

Natural capital accounts are often implemented in a modular manner

- linked to policy priorities

- data availability (data are often available in different institutions in the country)

- enhance interinstitutional cooperation

....

THANK YOU

seea@un.org // <https://seea.un.org/>

