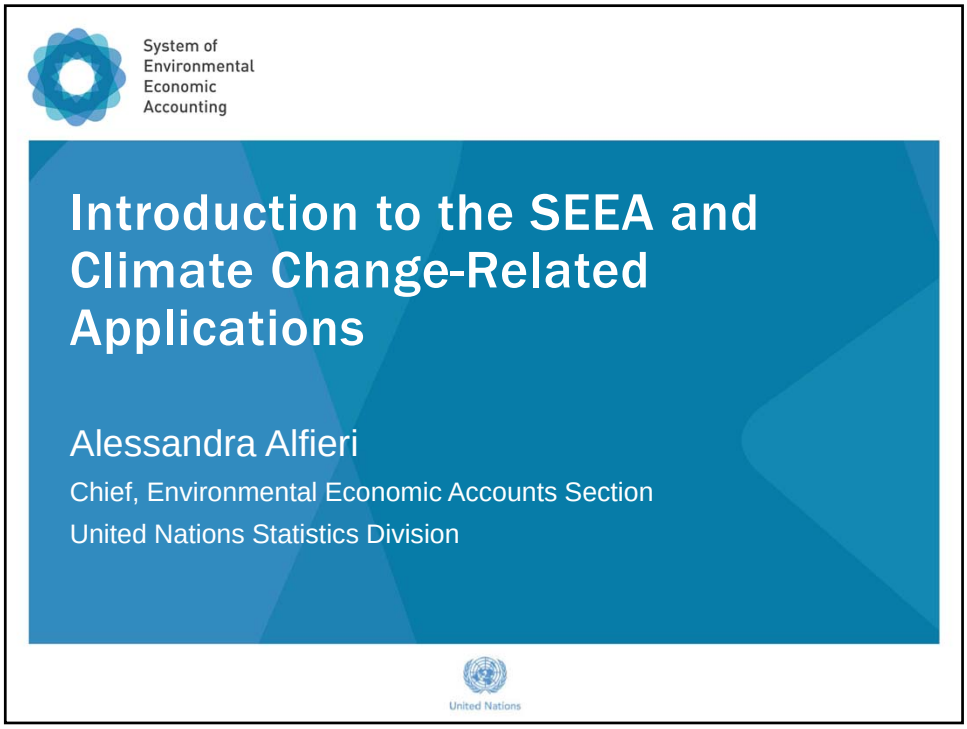

System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting


System of
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Introduction to the SEEA and Climate Change-Related Applications
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United Nations

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The missing piece of the puzzle

- Every country follows the System of National Accounts and every business relies on a balance sheet
- However, they largely omit the benefits from nature
- We need to integrate the contribution of nature into decision-making.

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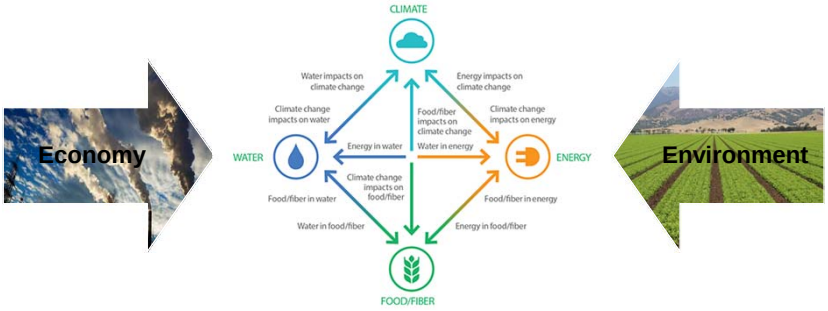
Integration for Sustainable Development



- 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

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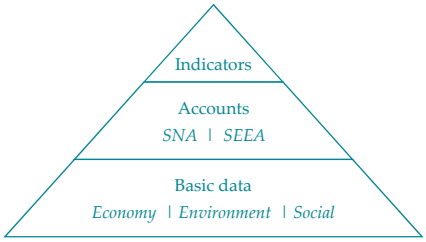
SEEA: From Silo approach to Integration

Agency A	Agency B	Agency C
Policy A	Policy B	Policy C
Info A	Info B	Info C
Data A	Data B	Data C



Towards integration

- Institutional arrangements/ governance
- Integrated decision making

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The System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)

- The **SEEA Central Framework** was adopted as an international statistical standard by the UN Statistical Commission in 2012 to measure the environment and its relation with the economy
- The **SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting** complements the Central Framework and represents international efforts toward coherent ecosystem accounting

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Systems of INTEGRATED information

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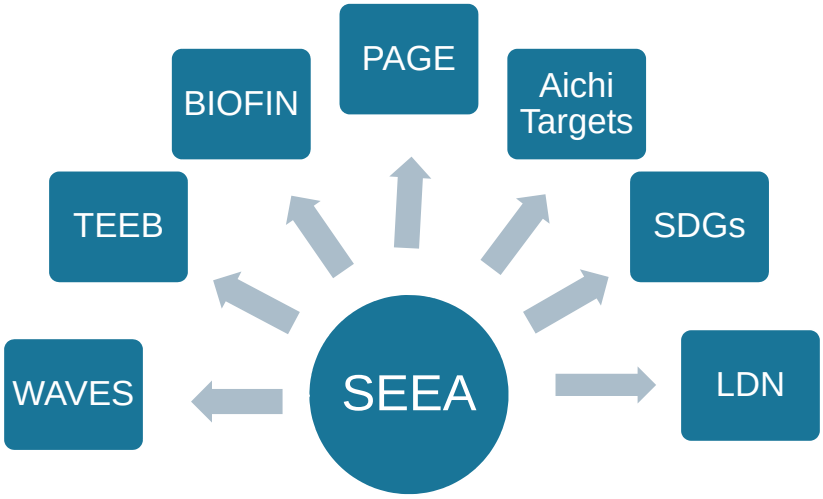
SEEA and other initiatives



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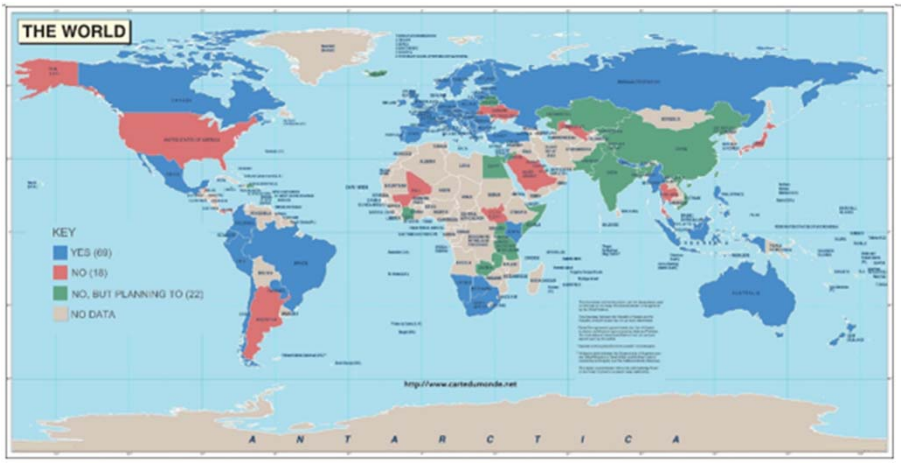
Status of SEEA Implementation



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SEEA AND CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED SDG INDICATORS

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SEEA and the SDG indicators

The **SNA and SEEA** are statistical standards that can be used to monitor a number of environmental-economic SDG Indicators **in an integrated way**.

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SEEA and the SDG indicators

- Climate-change relevant SDG indicators the SEEA can inform:
  - **6.4.1: Change in water use efficiency**
  - **6.4.2: Level of water stress**
  - **7.2.1: Renewable energy share**
  - 7.3.1: Energy intensity
  - 7.a.1: International flows to developing countries in support of clean energy
  - 7.b.1: Investments in energy efficiency as a proportion of GDP
  - 9.4.1: CO_2 emission per unit value added
  - 12.c.1: Fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP
  - 15.1.1: Proportion of forest area
  - **15.3.1: Proportion of degraded land**
  - 15.4.2: Mountain Green Cover Index

Bold = Overlap with Task Force core indicators

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SEEA and the SDG indicators

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= Alignment or progress to align with SEEA

Bold = Overlap with Task Force indicators

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SEEA and the SDG indicators

- Alignment of (or current work to align) multiple climate change-related indicators, including Goal 6 and Goal 15 indicators
- Difference of territory vs residence principle for SDG 7 indicators
  - Use of residence principle and SEEA facilitates analysis by economic sector, promotes consistent measurement over time
- Proposal to form subgroup on the SEEA within the Interlinkages Working Group of the IAEG-SDGs to promote further alignment
  - Explore potential for SEEA-based indicators for indicators of all tiers
  - Complimentary residence based SEEA indicators for Goal 7

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GLOBAL DATABASES

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UNCEEA Work Programme

- The UNCEEA is the umbrella body for coordinating efforts in environmental-economic accounting
- A **Work Programme 2017-2020** was developed by the Bureau of the UNCEEA and takes a **5-pronged approach** to global implementation
- For each area of work, different **area leads** are responsible for; a) acting as a champion and providing leadership, b) developing more detailed work plans and strategies, and c) coordinating with other members of the UNCEEA

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Development of Global Databases

- UNCEEA tasked by UN Statistical Commission to explore global databases, which will facilitate use of SEEA for SDGs
- Priority databases: **energy**, **air emissions**, material flow, **land** and water
- Energy database (UNSD):
  - Physical supply and use tables
  - Energy balances to accounts tool
  - Next steps: Country testing of tool
- Air emissions database (OECD)
  - GHGs, air pollutants
  - Estimated accounts for select countries
  - Next steps: Estimation of 'bridging items' for territory vs residence principle; inclusion of LULUCF emissions; extended estimation to non-Annex I countries

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Development of Global Databases

- Land database (FAO)
  - Estimated land cover accounts with global coverage and SEEA classification published
  - Next steps: Collection of official land cover accounts, engagement with UNCCD on indicator 15.3.1.
- SEEA website as potential platform to link the various datasets compiled by different agencies

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PROMOTING USAGE OF SEEA-BASED TASK FORCE INDICATORS

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Promoting Usage of Task Force Indicators

- Residence and territory-based climate change indicators to facilitate different types of analyses and uses
  - Importance of providing guidance on dissemination and uses of the two methodologies
- Future collaboration and engagement between Task Force and UNCEEA on metadata to facilitate compilation of residence-based indicators
- Key role of global databases for both the SDGs and Task Force indicators

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THANK YOU

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