

System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

International context on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting Implementation

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United Nations

Growing interest in Natural Capital Accounting



“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, Vice-President of the European Commission



“Committed to further mainstreaming biodiversity in decision-making, we will ensure implementation of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA), ..., a regular and institutionalised compilation of accounts, will use related indicators for policy and decision-making, and provide international support for further development and implementation of SEEA-EA” - The G7 climate, energy and environment ministers – Communique 27 May 2022

The international journal of science / 20 February 2020

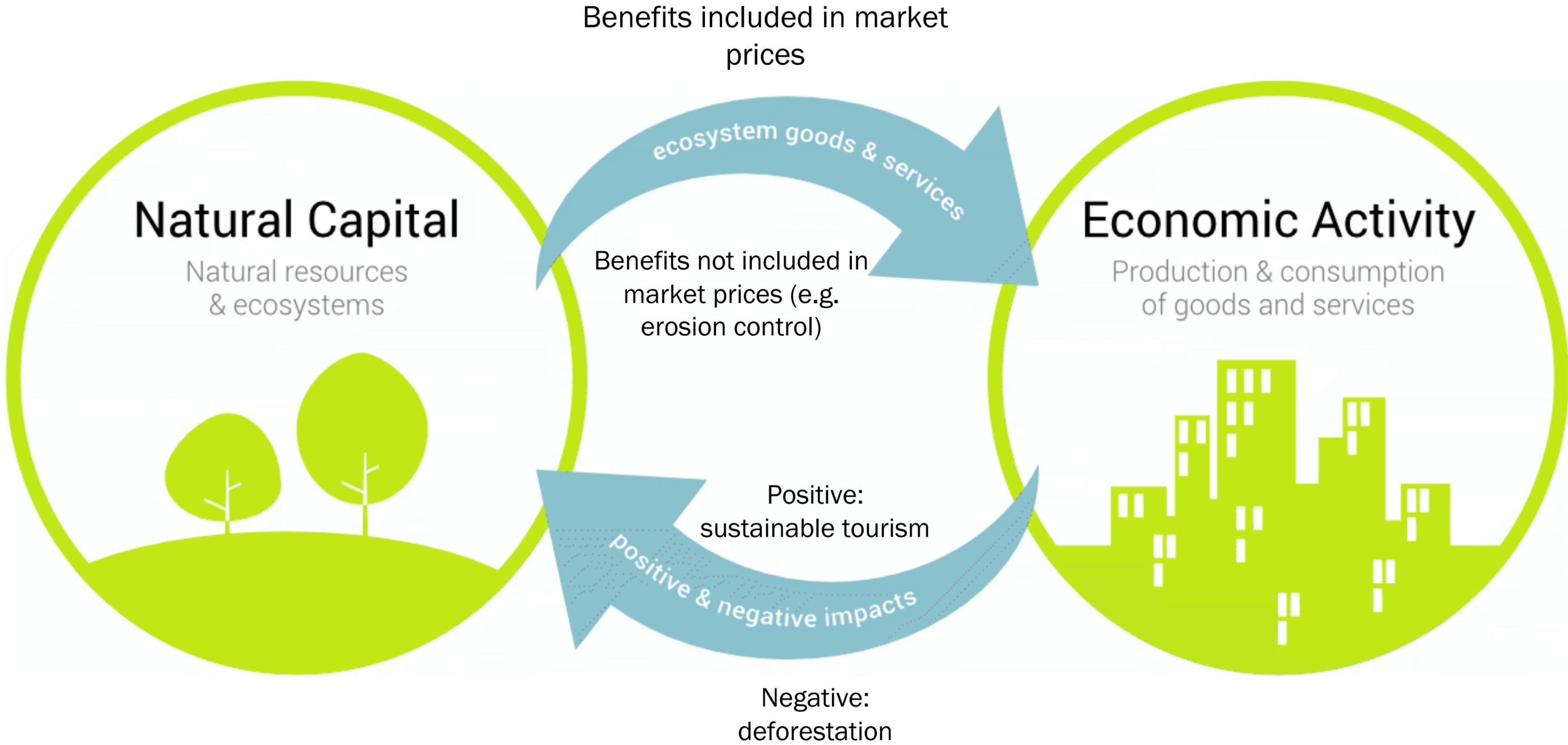
nature

New biodiversity targets cannot afford to fail

headline ambition to slow and even reverse the loss of biological diversity around the world. The Aichi targets failed, in part because progress is hard to measure. A group of researchers led by Elizabeth S. Gaines, a conservation scientist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, reviewed the scientific literature for mentions of the Aichi targets and found that many countries had not reported on them. The researchers then invited an expert group

Last July, the UN published a global indicator review researchers confirmed that countries could use SEEA to report 34 of the 147 Aichi target indicators and 21 of the 230 SDG target indicators. This is an important start, but also indicates how much needs to be done before more goals and targets can be reported using the SEEA framework — an opportunity which researchers must not pass up.

Economic activities depend on interaction with natural capital



Standardisation of measurement of the environment

- SEEA Central Framework adopted as statistical standard through an intergovernmental process in 2013
- SEEA Ecosystem Accounting adopted in March 2021
- SEEA developed in close collaboration with numerous stakeholders, including:
 - > CBD, UNCCD
 - > IPBES, IUCN
 - > Capitals Coalition and private sector (most recently TNFD)
 - > Wealth accounting efforts (World Bank; UNEP)
- SEEA status of implementation 2020:
 - > 89 countries implementing the SEEA Central Framework
 - > 34 countries compiling SEEA Ecosystem Accounts
 - > 27 countries planning to start implementation of the SEEA
- UN SG in his Common Agenda calls for **SEEA EA implementation in all countries**



The SEEA supports multiple ongoing initiatives



SEEA EA Global Implementation Strategy



UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Overall objective: scale up the uptake of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting

Suggested target: at least 60 countries implement at least one account of the SEEA EA by 2025

Specific objectives:

- Regular production of selected ecosystem accounts, starting from ecosystem extent accounts to ecosystem condition and ecosystem services in physical and monetary terms;
- Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystems into (sub)national policies;
- Use of the SEEA EA for monitoring and reporting in particular
 - > In National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs),
 - > Voluntary National Reports that present country progress towards achieving the SDGs,
 - > National Determined Contributions (NDCs) that present country progress towards climate targets and highlight the government actions and policies to combat climate change;
- Dissemination of ecosystem accounts through global data sets



Convention on
Biological Diversity

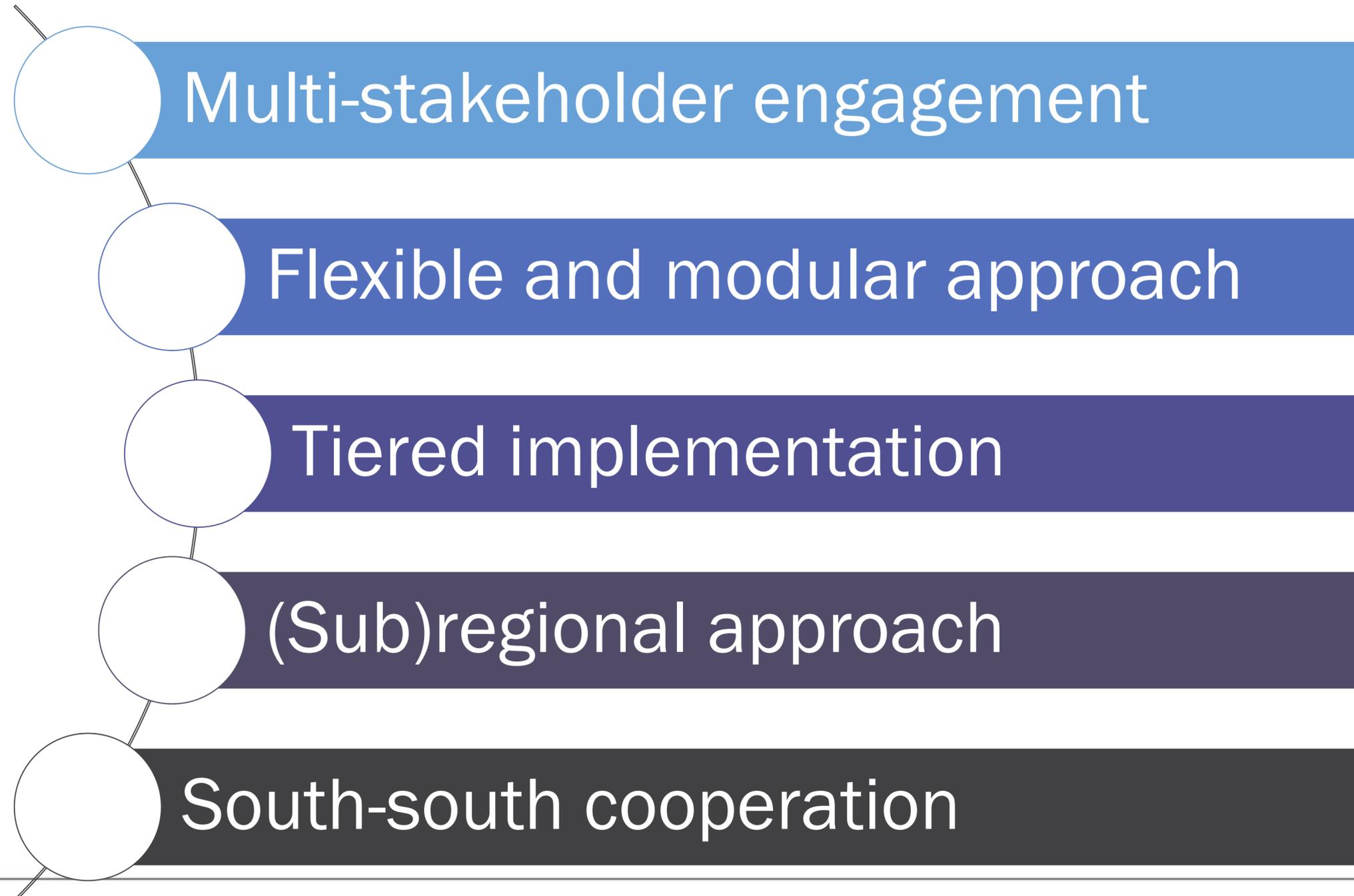


UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

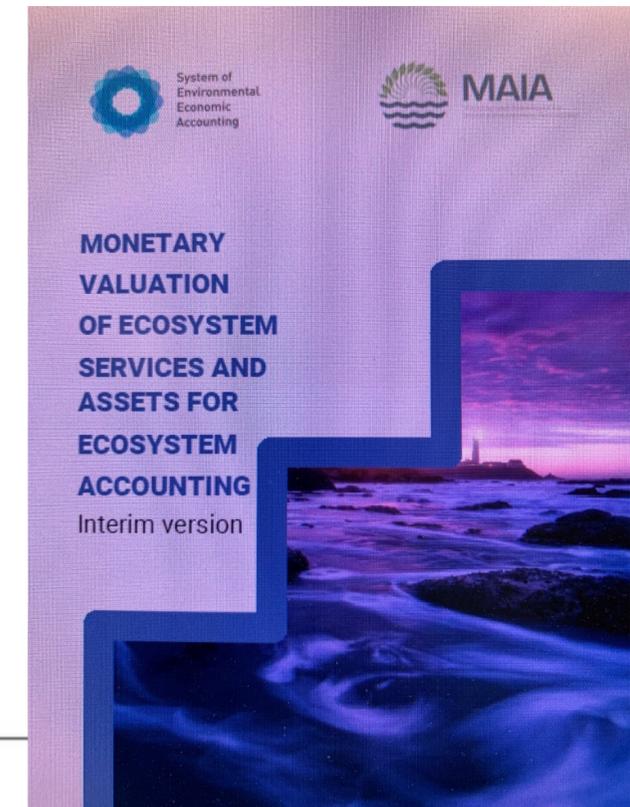
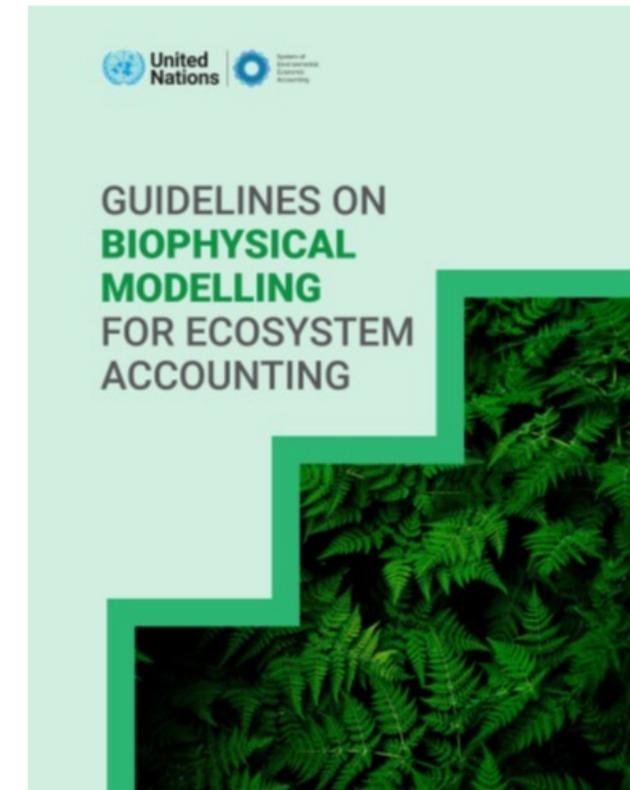
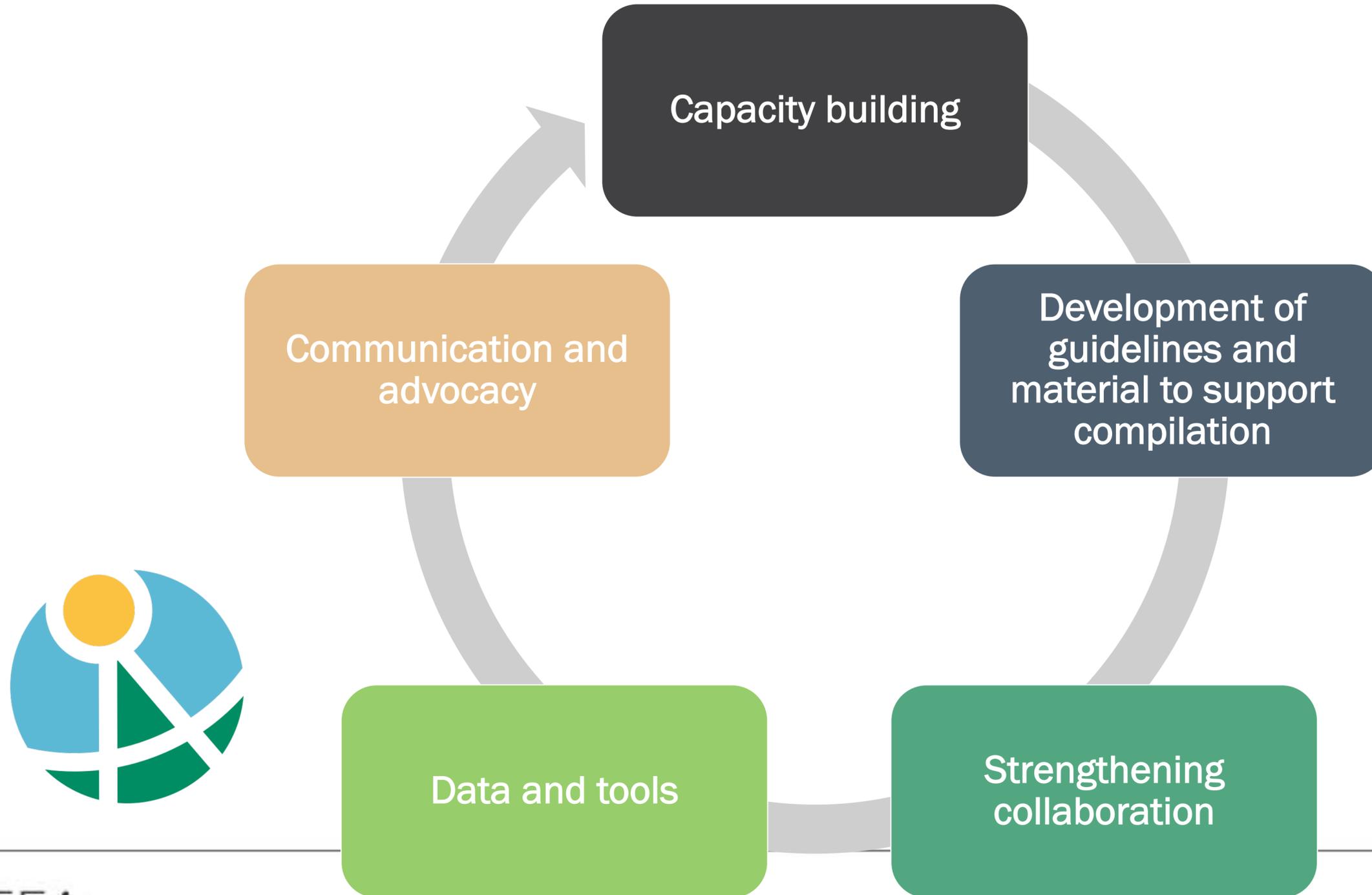


**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

Approach and main principles



Activities in support of the implementation



ARIES for SEEA

- How?
 - > Developed as part of NCAVES project (EU funded; UNSD and UNEP) by BC3 building on existing ARIES platform
 - > Linked to UN Global Platform on Big Data for Official Statistics
- Beta version launched in April 2021 – continuously expanded
- Why?
 - > Need for a computational platform
 - > Lowering barriers to compiling ecosystem accounts for countries
 - > Make it easier to collaborate (share data and develop models)
 - > Facilitate deriving indicators (using solid basis in accounts)

Other relevant statistical developments

- SNA update (2025)
 - > Greater alignment with SEEA (e.g. depletion;)
- Beyond GDP (as part of UN Common Agenda)
- Revision of classifications (ISIC/CPC/COFOG)
 - > Better visibility of nature / environment
- Data Gaps Initiative (IMF+FSB)
 - > Recommendations on climate Change for G20
- Private sector development on NCA
 - > Task-force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures
 - > International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB)

THANK YOU

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