



**15TH NATIONAL
CONVENTION
ON STATISTICS**

03-05 OCTOBER 2022

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Spearheaded by the Philippine Statistics Authority*



The SEEA Ecosystem Accounting: Making Nature Count through Official Statistics

Alessandra Alfieri

Chief, Environmental Economic Accounts
United Nations Statistics Division

Session on Environment and Ecosystem Accounts
Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila
05 October 2022, 8:30 am



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The Need for Natural Capital Accounting

- Nature and the services it provides support almost every aspect of human well-being
- But headline indicators like GDP, the unemployment rate and inflation do not capture the full economic contributions of nature
- Traditional accounts don't help us understand how the depletion of natural resources and degradation of the environment affect the economy and wellbeing
- The System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA) fills that gap.
- SEEA integrates information on the economy and the environment showing their interrelationship complementing the System of National Accounts





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SEEA as the integration framework

- SEEA accounts rely upon numerous data sources, covering such areas as
 - water
 - environment
 - agriculture
 - economy
 - ecosystems
- These data sources are combined to produce an integrated set of accounts and develop policy relevant indicators

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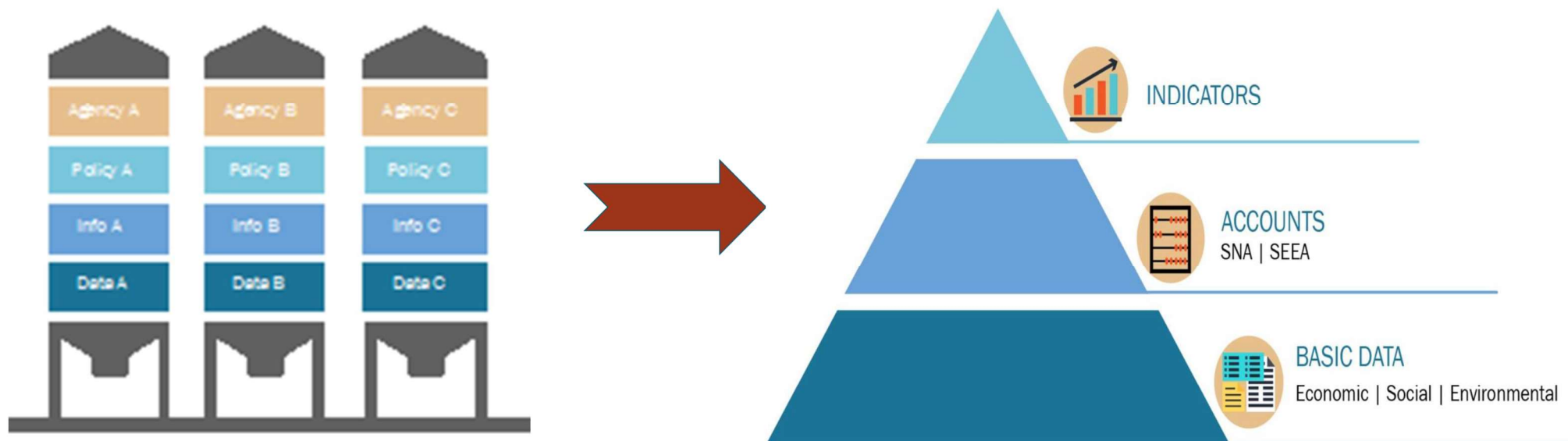
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From data silos to integrated information





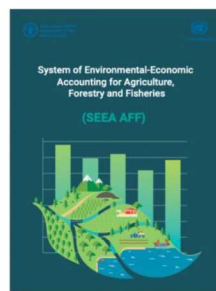
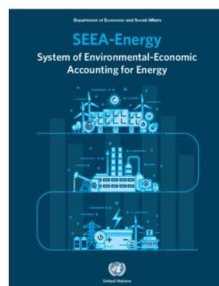
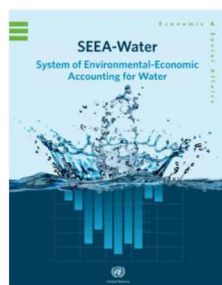
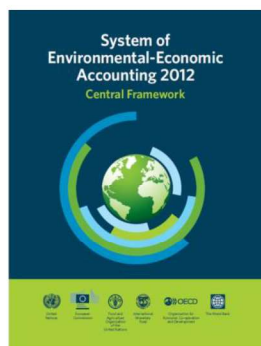
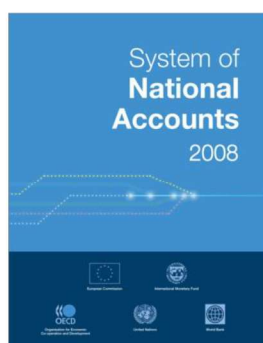
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SNA and SEEA – Statistical standards for the economy and environment



Measuring
Sustainability
of Tourism

Ocean
Accounts

Biodiversity
Accounts

The SEEA Ecosystem Accounting: Making Nature Count through Official Statistics



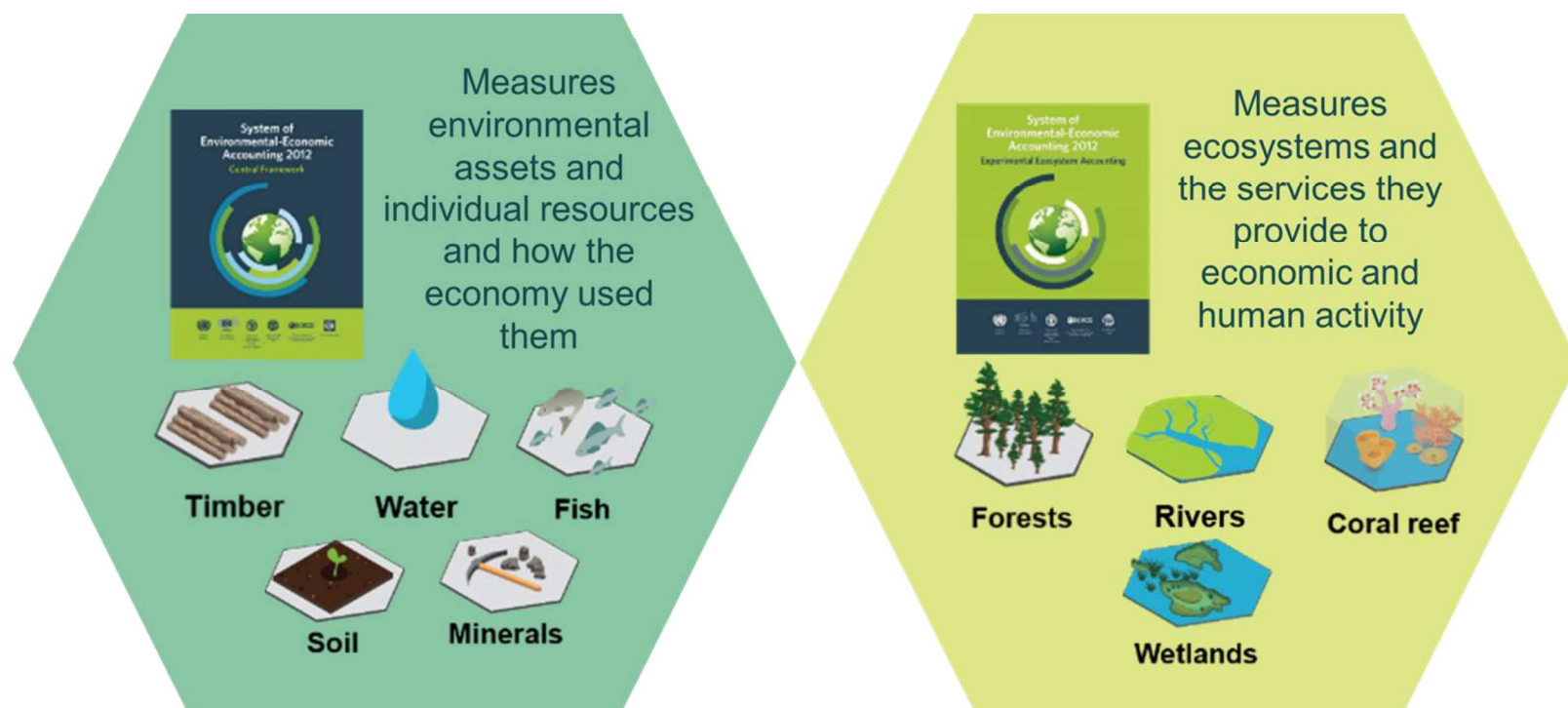
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SEEA CF and SEEA EA – Two sides of the same coin





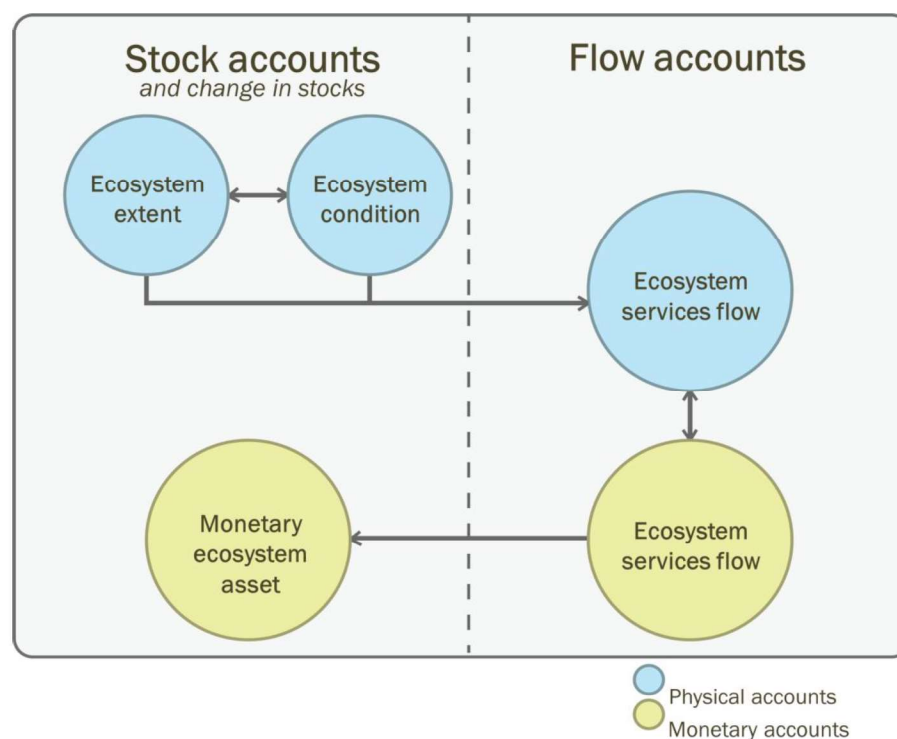
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SEEA Ecosystem Accounts – Core accounts





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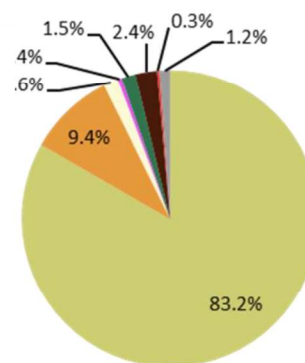
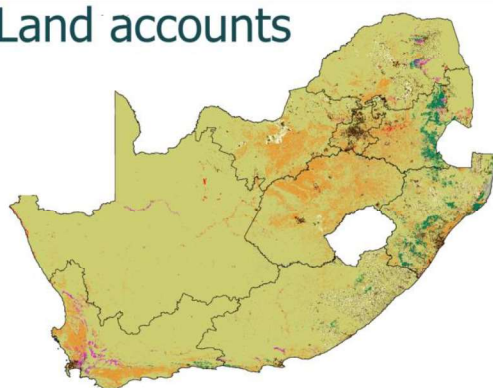
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South Africa – Land and Ecosystem Accounts 1990 and 2014



Land accounts

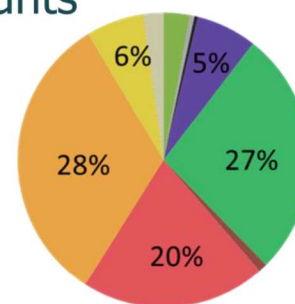
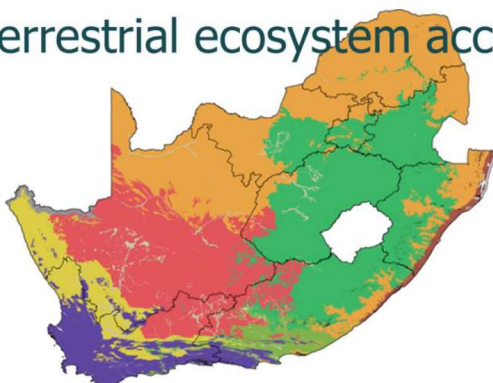


National land cover (tier 2)

2014

- Natural or semi-natural
- Commercial crops
- Subsistence crops
- Orchards and vines
- Timber plantations
- Urban
- Mines
- Waterbodies

Terrestrial ecosystem accounts



Biomes

- Albany Thicket
- Desert
- Forests
- Fynbos
- Grassland
- Indian Ocean Coastal Belt
- Nama-Karoo
- Savanna
- Succulent Karoo
- Azonal Vegetation



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South Africa – Land and Ecosystem Accounts 1990 and 2014

Broad land cover classes (tier 1)	Natural or semi- natural	Cultivated	Built-up	Waterbodies*	TOTAL
Opening stock 1990	100 710 016	16 156 026	3 003 883	2 096 528	121 966 453
Additions to stock	3 366 559	1 991 959	597 238	288 754	6 244 510
Reductions in stock	2 540 175	2 339 226	400 503	964 606	6 244 510
Net change in stock	826 384	(347 267)	196 735	(675 852)	
<i>Net change as % of opening</i>	0.8%	-2.1%	6.5%	-32.2%	
Unchanged (opening - reductions)	98 169 841	13 816 800	2 603 380	1 131 922	
<i>Unchanged as % of opening</i>	97.5%	85.5%	86.7%	54.0%	
Turnover (additions + reductions)	5 906 734	4 331 185	997 741	1 253 360	
<i>Turnover as % of opening</i>	5.9%	26.8%	33.2%	59.8%	
Closing stock 2014	101 536 400	15 808 759	3 200 618	1 420 676	121 966 453



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Global implementation strategy



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SEEA EA Global implementation strategy

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;





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SEEA supporting many initiatives





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Approach and main principles

- Multi-stakeholder engagement
- Flexible and modular approach
- Tiered implementation
- (Sub)regional approach
- South-south cooperation



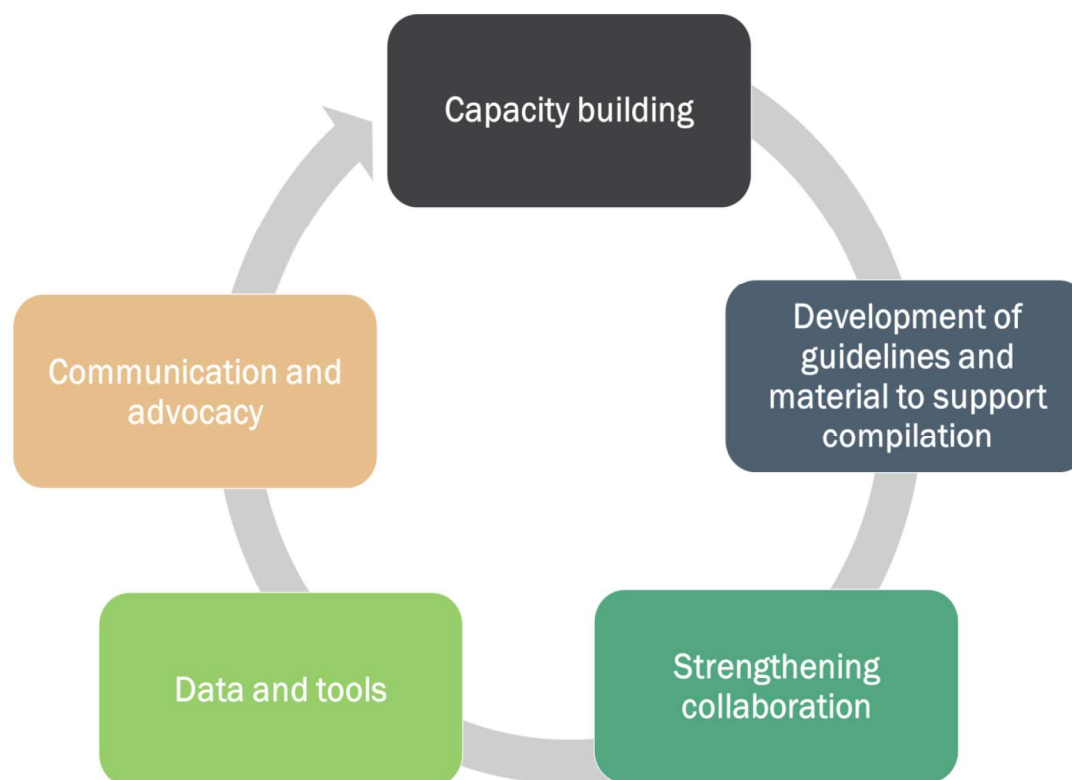
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Activities in support of implementation








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E-learning on SEEA EA available at: seea.un.org

 UN Big Data Learning UNGP LMS English (en)  Julian Chow 

SEEA EA (EN)

Participants

Competencies

Grades

Module 1 - Key concepts in Ecosystem Accounting

Module 2 - Accounting for Ecosystem Extent

Module 3 - Accounting for Ecosystem Condition

Module 4 - Accounting for Ecosystem Services

Module 5 - Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Ecosystem Assets

Module 6 - Guidelines on Biophysical Modelling

Module 7 - Compiling SDG indicators using SEEA EA

Module 8 - Scenario Analysis and the SEEA

SEEA - Ecosystem Accounting (English) - NEW

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Overview

This e-Learning course introduces the **System of Environmental Economic Accounting--Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA Ecosystem Accounting)**, the international statistical standard for organizing data about ecosystems, measuring ecosystem services, tracking changes in ecosystem assets, and linking this information to economic and other human activity. This is a new course as of May 2022, following the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting standard that was adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2021.



Learning objectives: This course provides an overview of ecosystem accounting including details on, among others, spatial units, ecosystem condition, ecosystem services, valuation of ecosystem services, scenario analysis and compilation of indicators. By the end of the course, participants will be expected to:

1. Have a general understanding of the accounts presented in the SEEA EA and their relevance in policy;
2. Understand how spatial units of ecosystem types can be delineated and are used in accounting for compiling ecosystem extent accounts;
3. Understand the concepts and the general approach for the measurement of ecosystem condition and ecosystem services;
4. Describe how biophysical modelling can be applied for ecosystem accounting; and
5. Describe the purpose and approaches to the valuation of ecosystem services and ecosystem assets.



Target public: Target participants are staff of national statistical offices, line ministries, other agencies working on issues related to the environment and those interested in learning more about the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting.

Course length: The course is expected to take about 20 hours over the 8 modules. It is recommended that the learner follows one module per week, over an 8 week period.

Module 1 - Key concepts in Ecosystem Accounting

 [Module 1](#) 

Module 2 - Accounting for Ecosystem Extent

 [Module 2](#) 



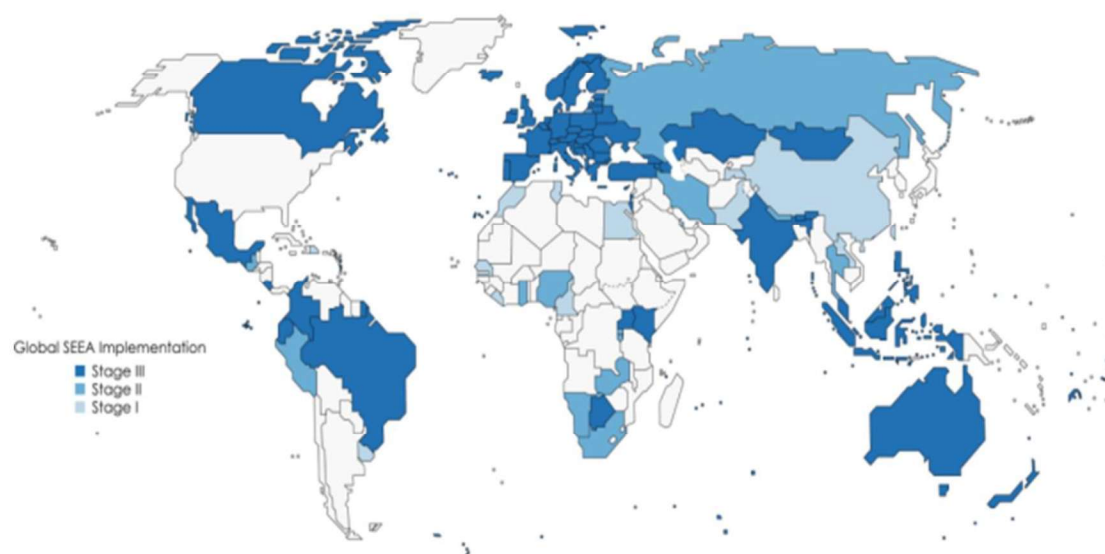
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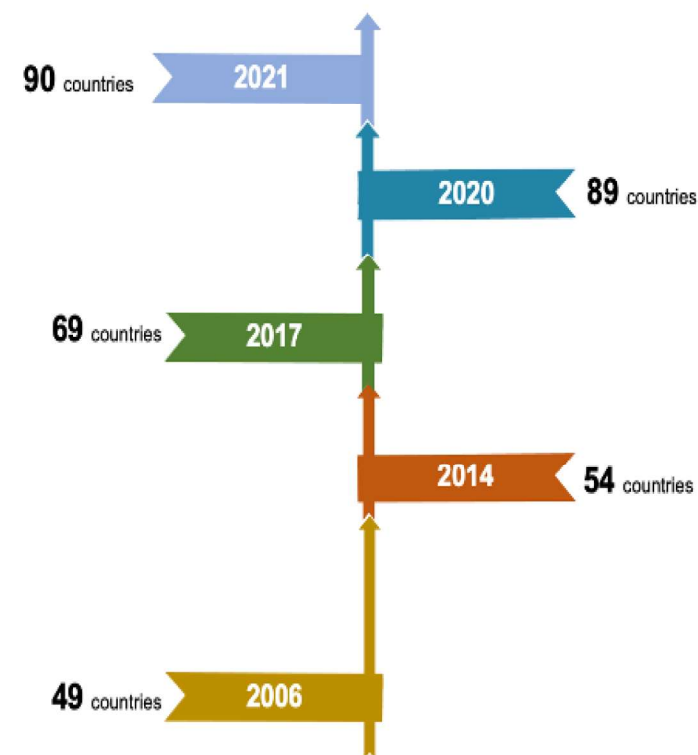


SEEA implementation around the world



SEEA status of implementation 2021:

- 90 countries implementing the SEEA Central Framework
- 37 countries compiling SEEA Ecosystem Accounts





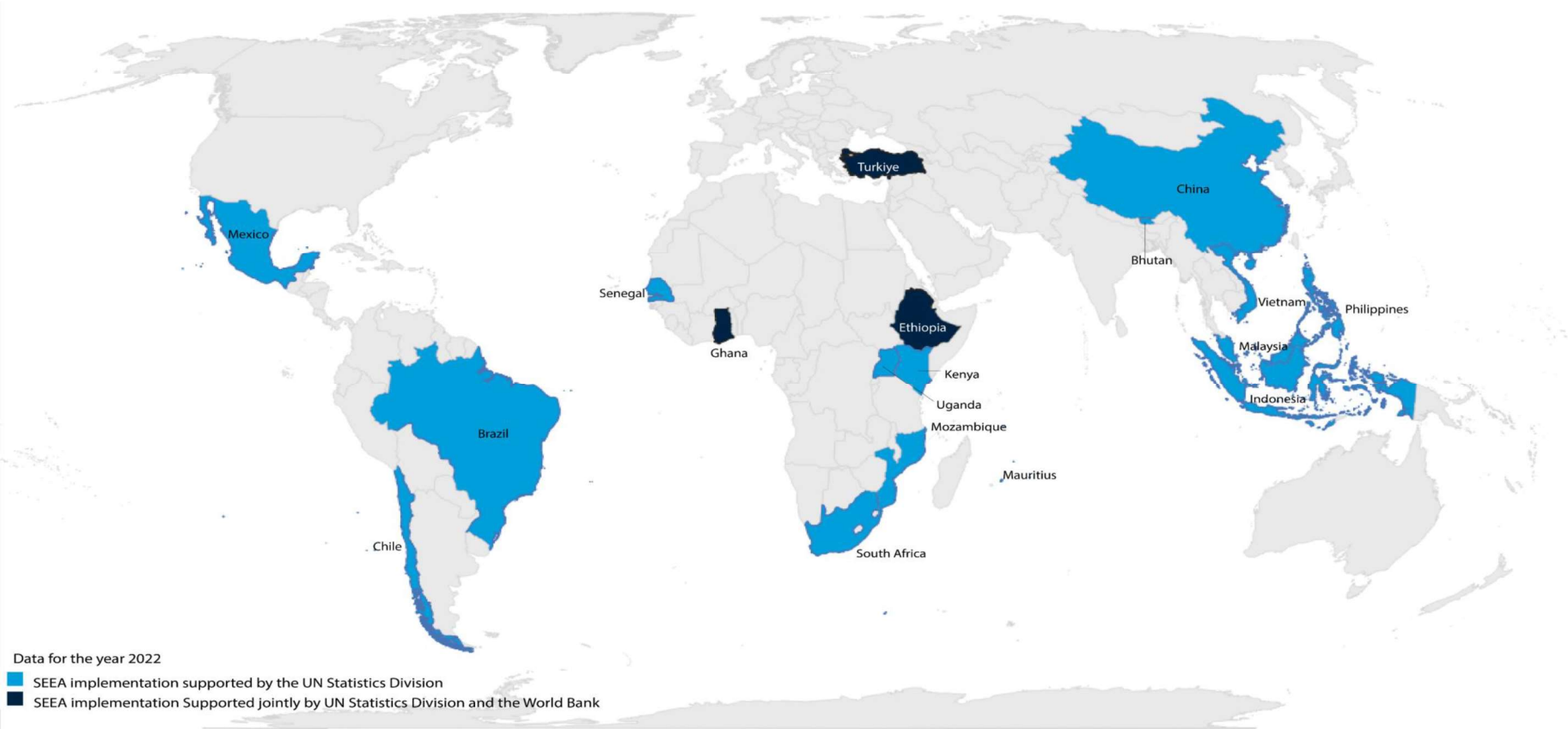
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SEEA implementation in countries supported by UNSD





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Why SEEA?

- **Makes nature count** within economic planning and decision-making
- **Standardization is important** in order to obtain high-quality, and comparable statistics
- **SEEA catalyzes collaboration** due its multi-disciplinary nature between different stakeholders--statistical office and universities, line ministries, businesses, etc
- **Provides framework for deriving indicators** to support various monitoring and reporting frameworks such as post-2020 GBF, SDGs, climate change, green economy



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Thank you!



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