



Contributions from Community of Official Statisticians to SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda

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Policy settings

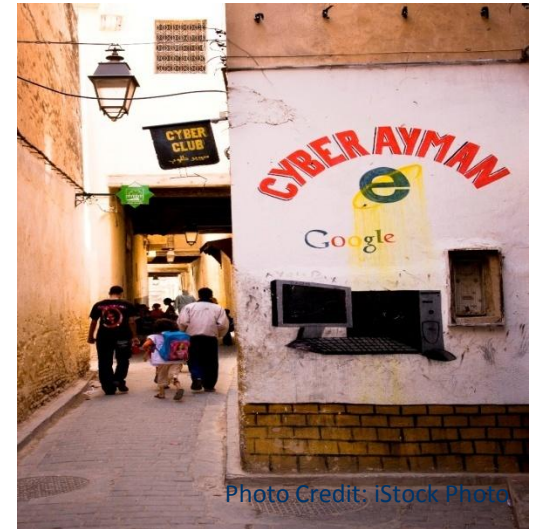
- Post-2015 UN development agenda
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Access to public information about economic, demographic, social and environmental situation on impartial basis by official statistical agencies (Fundamental Principle 1)





Today's global challenges

- Persistent inequalities
- Food and nutrition insecurity
- Knowledge challenge
- Growing environmental footprints
- Environmental sustainability
- Conflict, violence and insecurity
- Governance deficits
- Shifting demographics
(migration, urbanization, ageing)



→ **Urgent need to find new pathways in pursuit of inclusive, equitable and sustainable global development**



Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

- Recognize the need for transformative change for inclusive, people-centered, sustainable development
- Build on the core values outlined in the UN Charter, Rio Principles
- ...centred on **three fundamental principles**:
 - human rights
 - peace and security
 - sustainable development
- These principles are also recognised in the 10 Fundamental Principles of Official statistics – to be submitted to GA for adoption



Vision: The Future We Want for All

- ...and organizing global goals along **four interdependent dimensions**:
 - Inclusive social development
 - Inclusive economic development
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Peace and security





Challenges ahead

- On engagement from national, regional and international statistical system
- On broader measures of progress (paragraph 38 of Rio+20 outcome document)





Engagement from statistical community





Lessons learned from MDG Monitoring

- Statisticians were not involved in the process of defining development goals
- Perceived as a “top-down” initiative, not clear on how the numerical targets were set
- Some inconsistencies between goals, targets and indicators
- Not all goals have clear numerical targets
 - e.g. Goal 8 on global partnership
- Some numerical targets are poorly specified and its linked with goals are not easily understood
 - e.g. reduce number of slum dwellers for Goal 7 on environmental sustainability



Lessons learned from MDG Monitoring

- The link between environmental sustainability and the economy is weak
- Lack of unified theory or supporting integrated-statistical framework or international standard
- Developing countries do not have the statistical capacity to produce timely and relevant MDG indicators.
 - Often estimation by international organization is required to impute missing data.

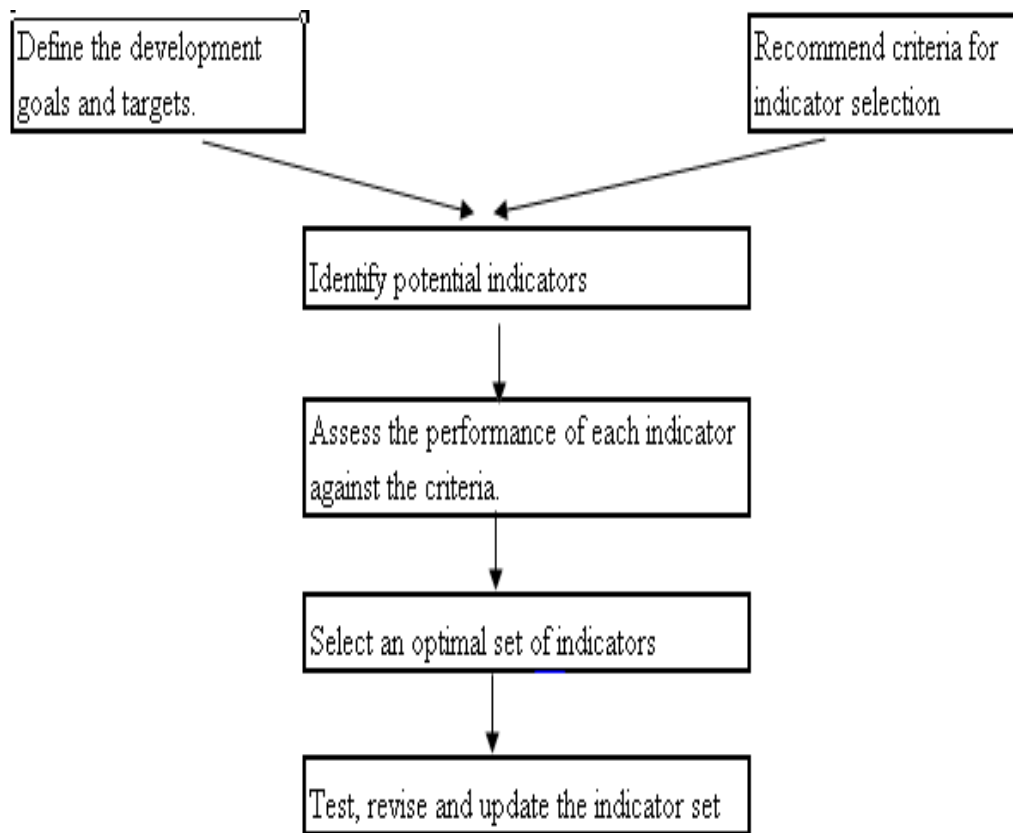


Implications

- 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 need to **strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems** to compile and report development indicators



Steps in selecting indicators



Statisticians need to get involved from the beginning!





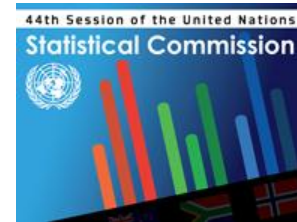
Contributions from statisticians

- Ensure development goals be translated into relevant numerical targets and indicators
- Ensure development indicators are
 - Policy relevant and easy to understand
 - Theoretically and methodologically sound
 - Adhere to international standard and are internationally comparable
- Establish baselines, meta data and narratives





Decisions during UNSC2013



- Insisted that the statistical community needs to be adequately involved in the discussion on new development frameworks, in order to advise early on any formation of targets and indicators
- Supported the formation of a **Friends of the Chair group (FOC)** to build a work programme to develop broader measure of progress
- Asks FOC to facilitate a continuous interface between the political and the statistical sphere



**Statisticians, politicians and
policymakers must go hand in hand!**





Broader measures of progress





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.”



International Initiatives

- Stiglitz Commission 2009
- Beyond GDP 2009
- Friends of Chair Group on Broader Measures of Progress - UNSC 2013



Broader measures of progress

- Assessment of **current well-beings** and **sustainability**
- Changing emphasis does not mean dismissing GDP and other economic measures





From production to well-being

- Shifting emphasis from measuring economic production to measuring people's well-being
- Emphasis on the **household perspective**
- **Consider income and consumption jointly with wealth** for a complete assessment of living standards
- More prominence to **distribution** of income, consumption and wealth
- Broaden income measures to **non-market activities**



On measuring current well-being

- Recognize
 - Well-being is **multi-dimensional** and the need to improve measures in all dimensions, such as
 - Health
 - Educational attainment
 - Personal activities including work
 - Social cohesion
 - Environment
 - Safety
 - Civic engagement
 - Measures of both **objective and subjective well-being** will provide key information about quality-of-life
 - Quality-of-life indicators in all the dimensions covered should assess **inequalities** in a comprehensive way





On measuring sustainability

- Sustainability poses the challenge of determining the current well-being can be **maintained for future generation**.
 - Involves continuous economic, social and environmental assessment
 - Requires a well-identified dashboard of indicators





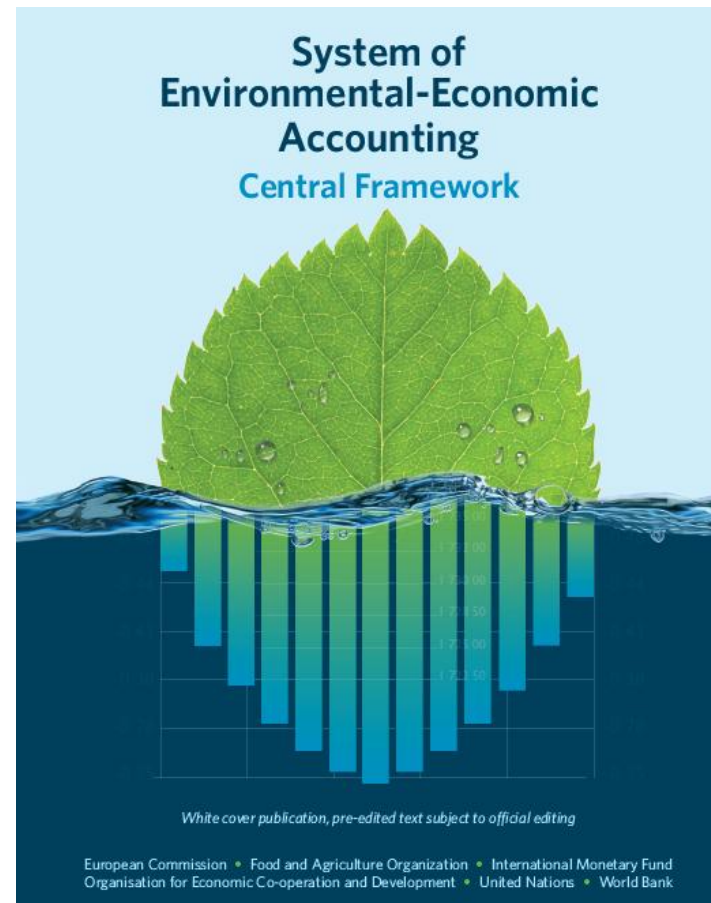
Tasks for the statistical community

- Advance existing accounting frameworks with a system approach of stocks and flows (System of National Accounts (SNA) and System of Environmental-Economic Accounting) to:
 - Capture the complex interactions of the economy, society and environment



Recent advances - SEEA

- An international agreed statistical framework to measure the environment and its interactions with the economy.
- Adopted as an international statistical standard by UN Statistical Commission in 2012
- Partnership of United Nations, European Commission, Food and Agricultural Organization, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and World Bank





Audiences for information...Indicators and Accounts

Data users

Decision makers & wider public

Is there an issue?

Yes

Managers and analysts

Researchers

Advice

Research

Headline indicators

Indicators on specific subjects or industries

Indicators

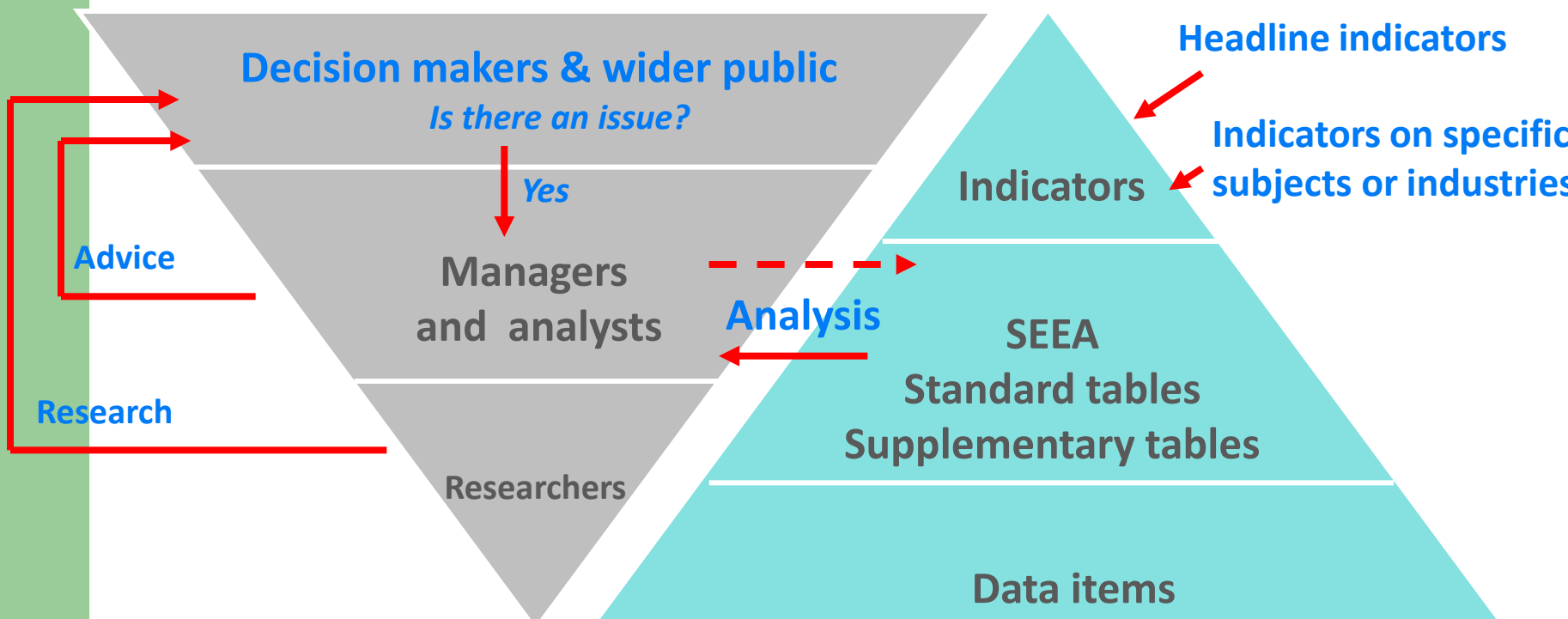
Analysis

SEEA

Standard tables
Supplementary tables

Data items

Information





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

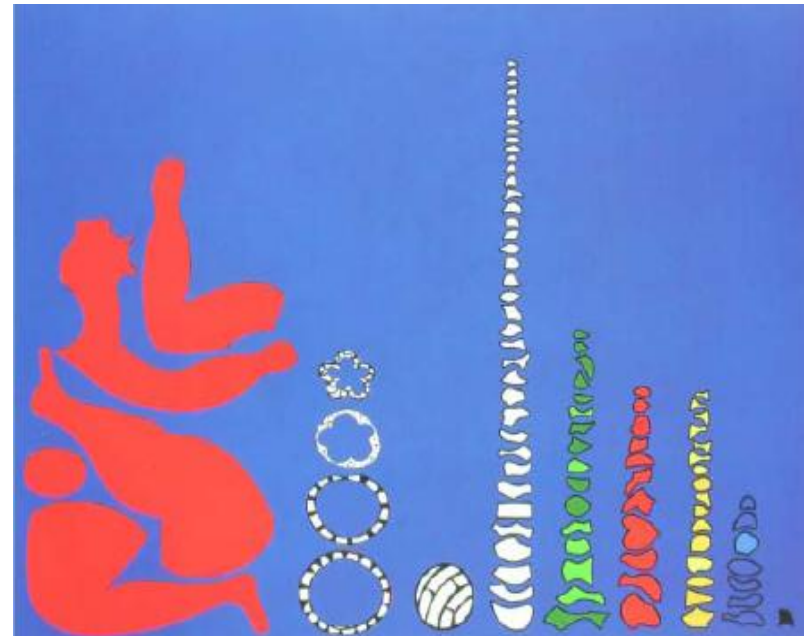
- The economy impacts on the environment and the environment impacts on the economy
- To understand these linkages we need to integrate environmental and economic information
- This is the explicit purpose of the SEEA





Problem: Information silos

- Data developed to answer one particular question or problem
- Difficult to figure out if all information is included
- Not always easy to see the whole picture, or how it relates to other things





Solution: Integrated information

- Holistic picture
- Consistency of information and identification of data gaps
- Interconnections between economy, environment and society





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



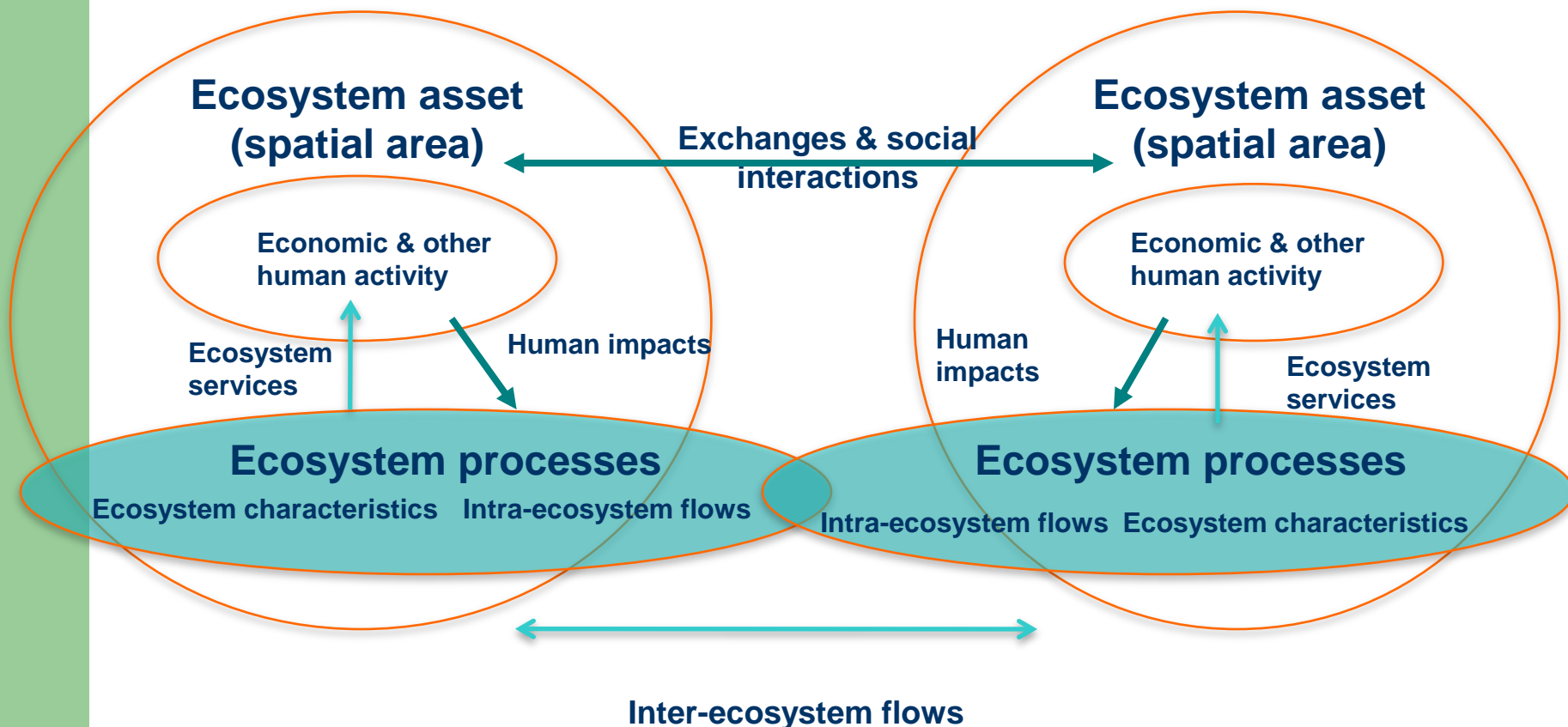
SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

- Initial conceptual framework for accounting for ecosystem assets and associated services from which testing and research can be undertaken
- Complements SEEA Central Framework



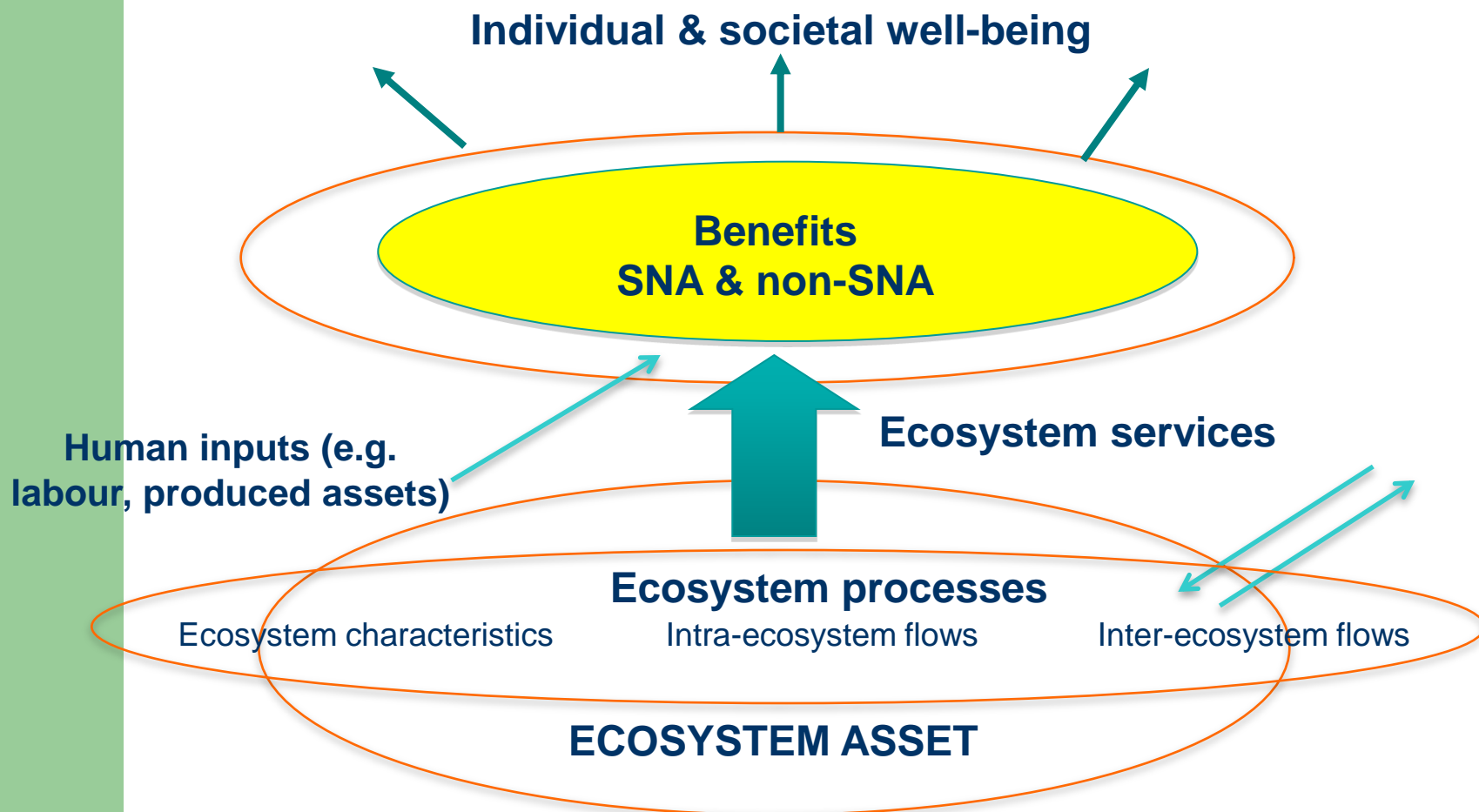


Basic accounting model





Linking ecosystem assets and well-being through ecosystem services





Ecosystem services

Ecosystem services are services that benefit humanity, and can be of direct or indirect use. Broad examples include:

- Provisioning services (nutrition, medicine, fur, uncultivated food)
- Regulating services (climate regulation, flood control, water filtration, air filtration, de-pollution)
- Cultural services (science, spiritual, ceremonial, recreation, aesthetic)





Take home messages

- **Early and adequate engagement of the statistical community** to SDGs and post-2015 process is critical for defining **a monitoring and reporting mechanism** for development goals, targets and indicators that are policy relevant, theoretically sound and statistically robust
- **Statistical community is responsible for the statistical agenda** on the broader measures of progress, undertakes system wide coordination and promotes the measurement on well-being and sustainability.
- **Statistical capacity building is integral part of post 2015 development agenda - universal**



Thank you!

Contact for more information
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