System of Environmental Economic Accounting

SEEA EA Implementation Strategy and ARIES for SEEA

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SEEA EA adoption

- The SEEA EA was adopted at its 52nd session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2021

"a historic step towards transforming the way how we view and value nature" – Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General

- UN Common Agenda underscores:
  - > "now is the time to correct a glaring blind spot in how we measure economic prosperity and progress" and "new measures to complement GDP"
  - > Urges Member States and others to begin implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Ecosystem Accounting
- SEEA EA Implementation strategy adopted in 2022

SEEA EA Implementation Strategy

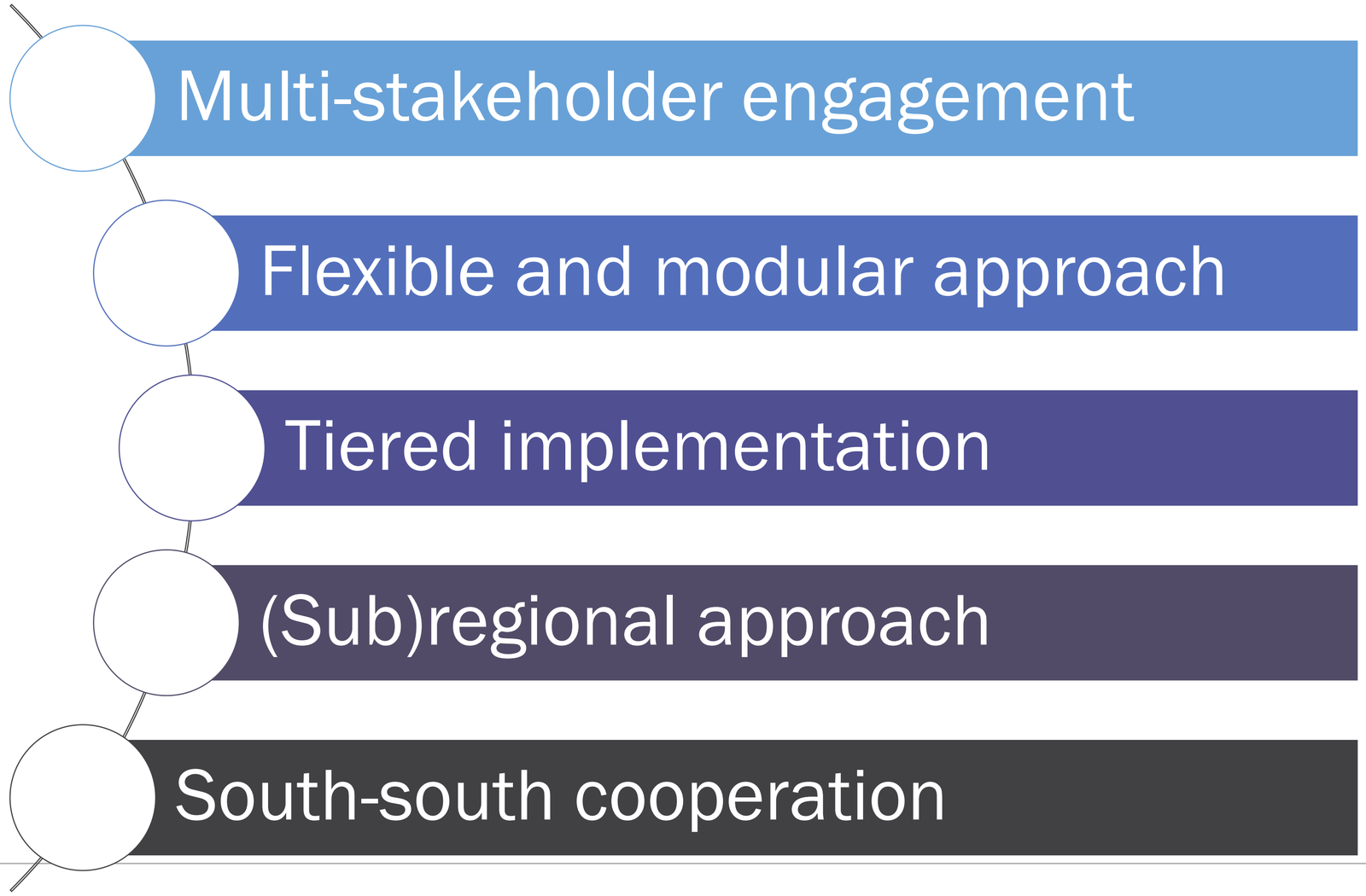
Overall objective: scale up the uptake of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting

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

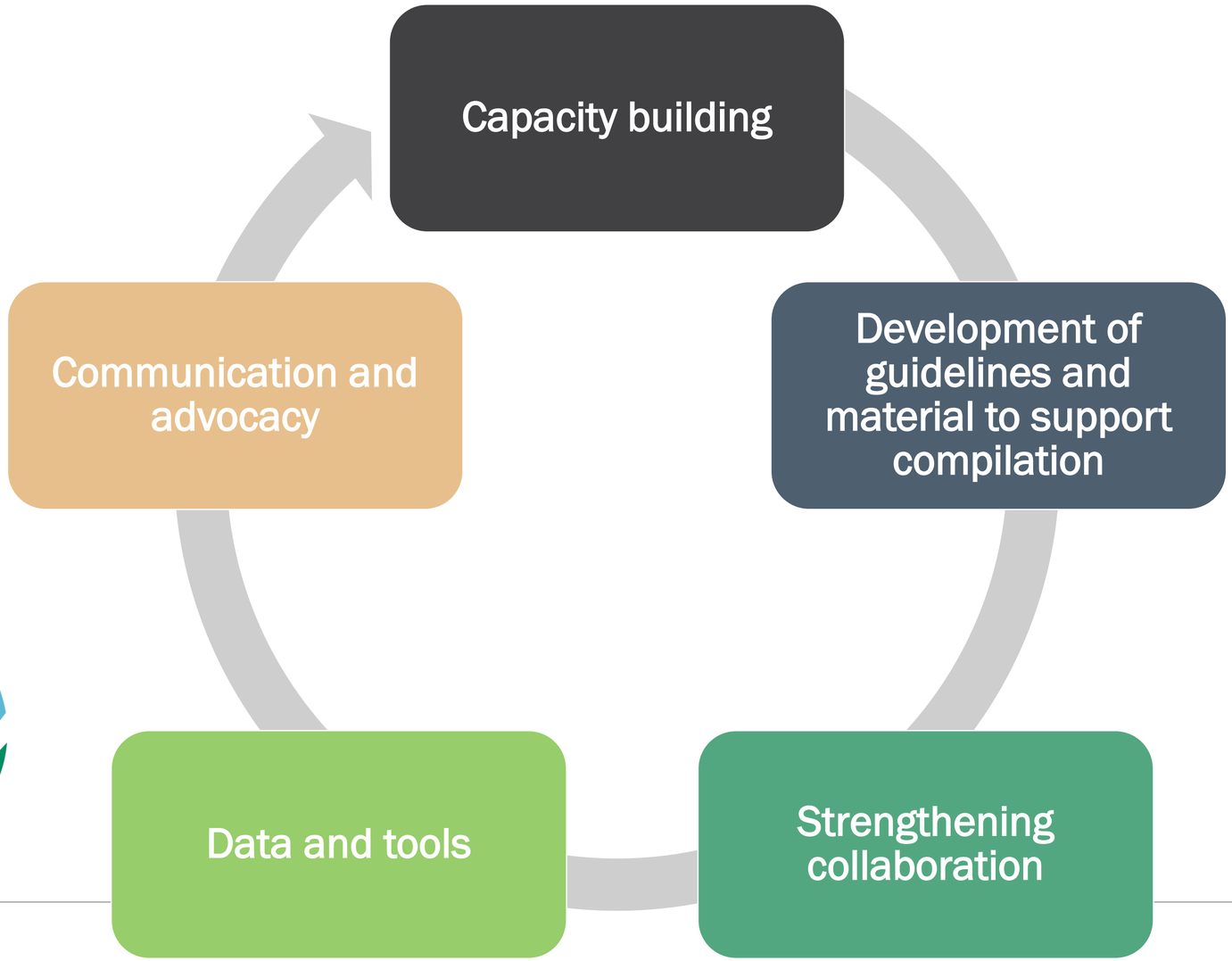
Specific objectives:

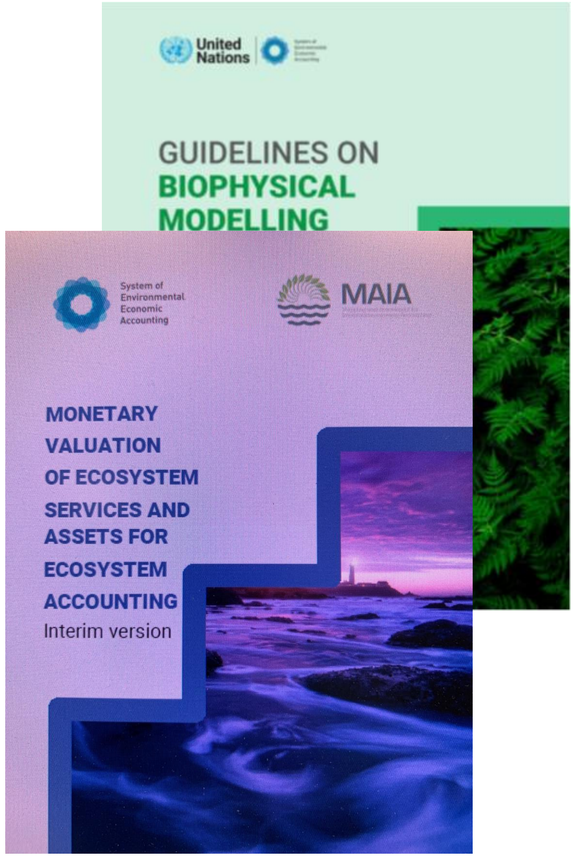
- Regular production of selected ecosystem accounts, starting from ecosystem extent accounts to ecosystem condition and ecosystem services in physical and monetary terms;
- Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystems into (sub)national policies;
- Use of the SEEA EA for monitoring and reporting in particular
  - > 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

Approach and main principles



Activities in support of the implementation





SEEA

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)