

# System of Environmental Economic Accounting

Bringing the Future into Focus



System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting

# SNA and SEEA and Transforming Global and National Statistical Systems for Monitoring SDG Indicators

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*Inter-Regional Workshop  
Experience and Lessons Learned from ECOSOC  
National Voluntary Presentations  
Kingston, Jamaica*



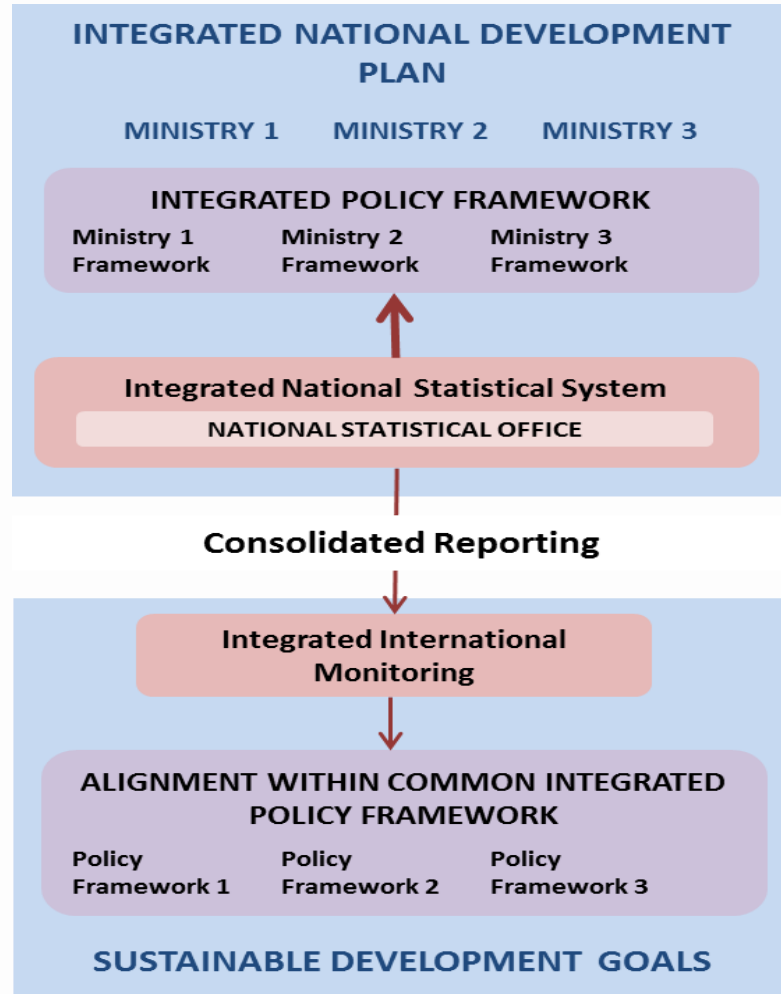
United Nations

# Outline

1. Integration of Statistical Systems
  - From silos to a standards-based integrated approach
2. National Perspectives on Integration of Environmental-Economic Statistics
  - SNA and SEEA: The conceptual framework for integration
  - SNA and SEEA: Conceptual framework
  - SNA and SEEA: The statistical framework for producing high quality SDG indicators
3. International Perspectives on Integration of Statistics
  - Methodological consistency for an integrated monitoring architecture
  - National ownership of SDG indicators and consolidation of reporting
4. Roadmap: Towards an standards-based integrated approach

# 1. Integration of Statistical Systems

# From policy and statistical silos to integrated policy and statistical agenda



**Policy:** The SDGs represent important moves towards an integrated policy agenda


**Institutions:** Need to develop common integrated policy frameworks at both the national and international level to support policy

**Statistics** requires integration of:

- **National Statistical Systems** for an integrated information system to inform sustainable development based on a consistent conceptual framework
- **Global Reporting Mechanisms** to reduce overlap and streamline international reporting initiatives based on a consistent conceptual framework

# Standards-based Integration

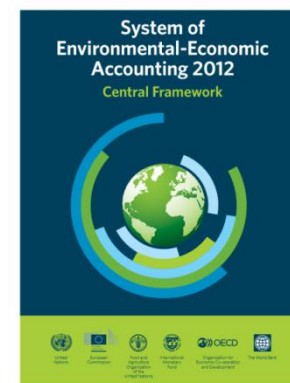
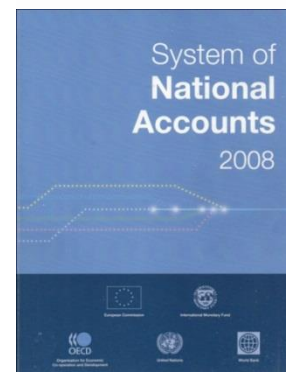
## Indicators based on Standards

- 
- Higher quality
  - International comparability
  - Comprehensive basis for (dis)aggregation

# Statistical Standards

- Aligned Definitions and Classifications
- Improved capacity to compare and/or combine statistics from different sectors
- Basis for coherent and comprehensive data sets

## Frameworks to coherently integrate information:



## 2. National Perspectives on Integrated Statistics

# Multi-dimensional policy needs and integrated statistics

## Policy Needs:

- Multi-dimensional decision making requires a better understanding of interlinkages and trade-offs.

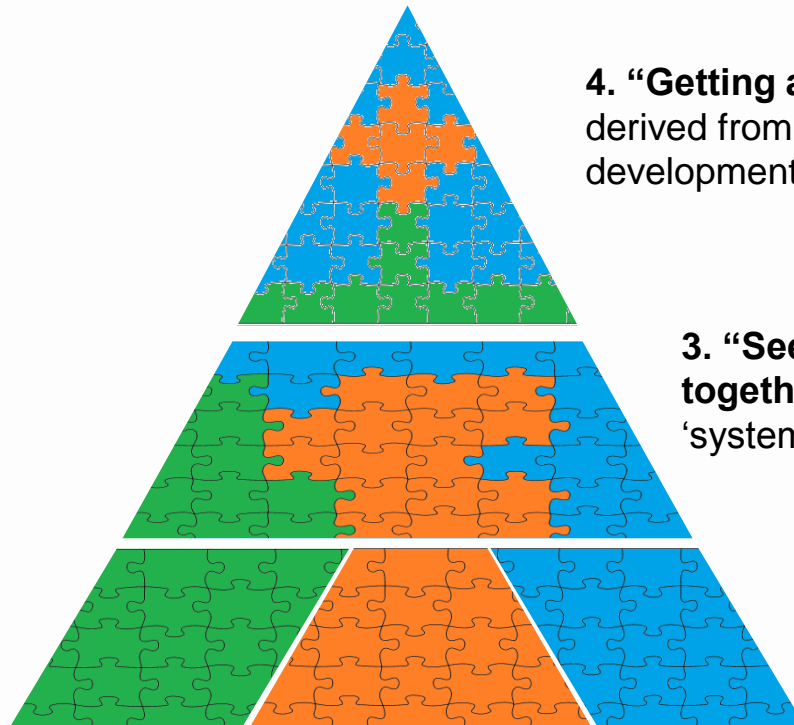
## Statistical Response:

- Develop an integrated information system. At the national level this requires:
  1. A **conceptual framework** for integration (i.e. the SNA and SEEA)
  2. **Institutional** mechanisms for integration
  3. Integration of statistical **production process**



# SNA and SEEA: Conceptual Framework

An international standard to measure the environment and its relationship with the economy:

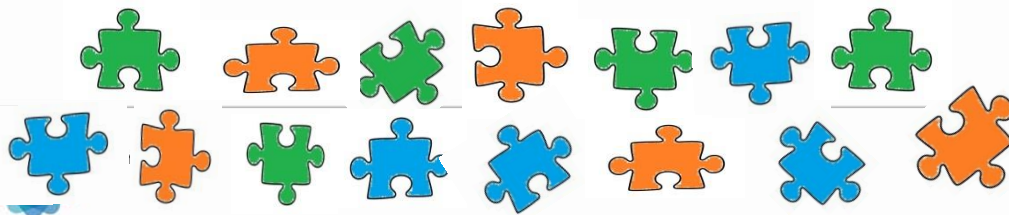


**4. “Getting an Overview of the Picture”:** Headline indicators derived from SEEA-aligned Information for an indication of developments in environmental issues

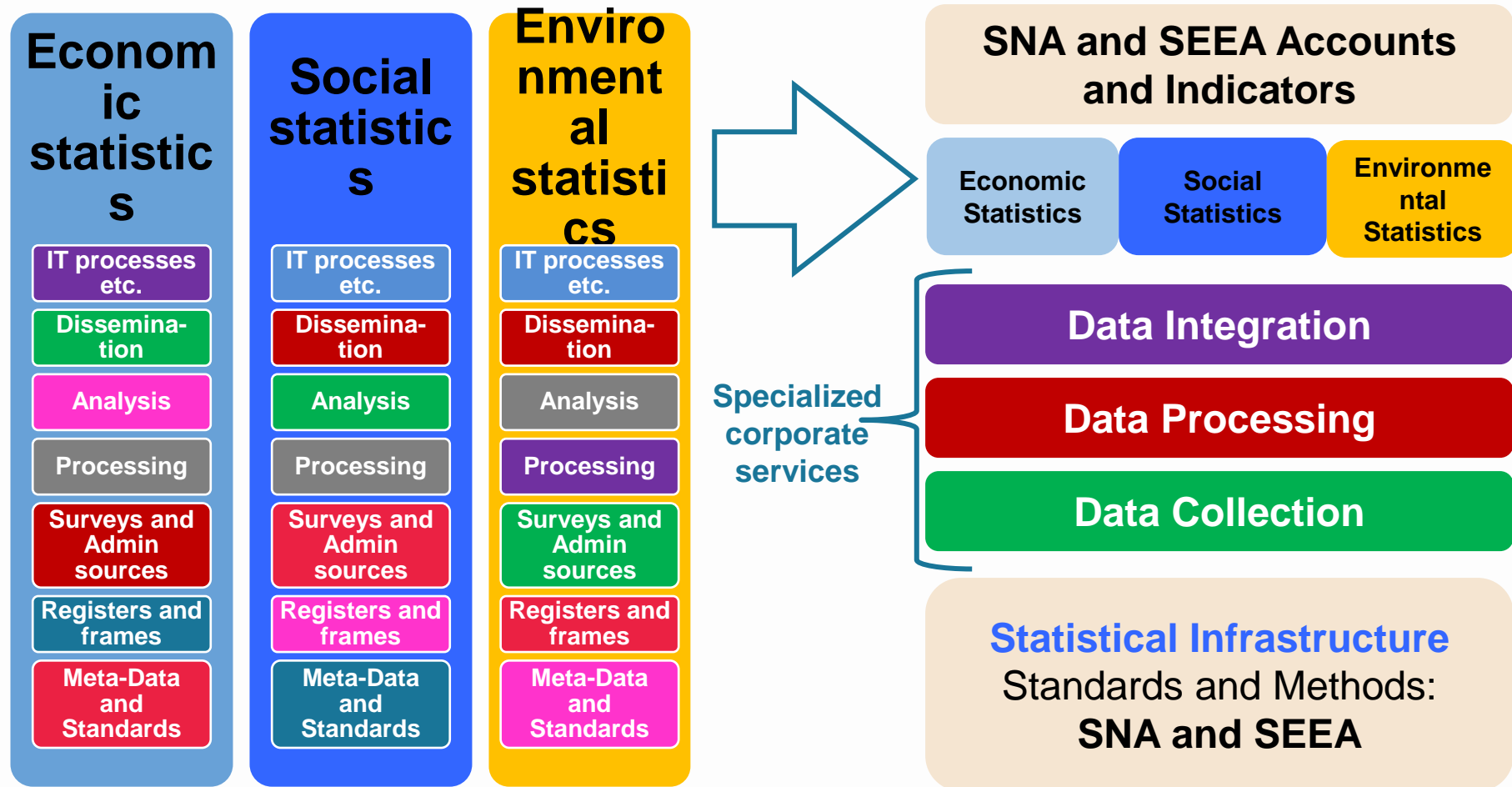
**3. “Seeing the overall picture and how things fit together in detail”:** Organizing data into accounts for ‘systems level’ understanding of the environment

**2. “Harmonizing Basic Data”:** Application of statistical standards to reconcile divergent methodologies

**1. Fragmented Social, Environment and Economic Data:** Data collection dispersed across agencies using different methodologies

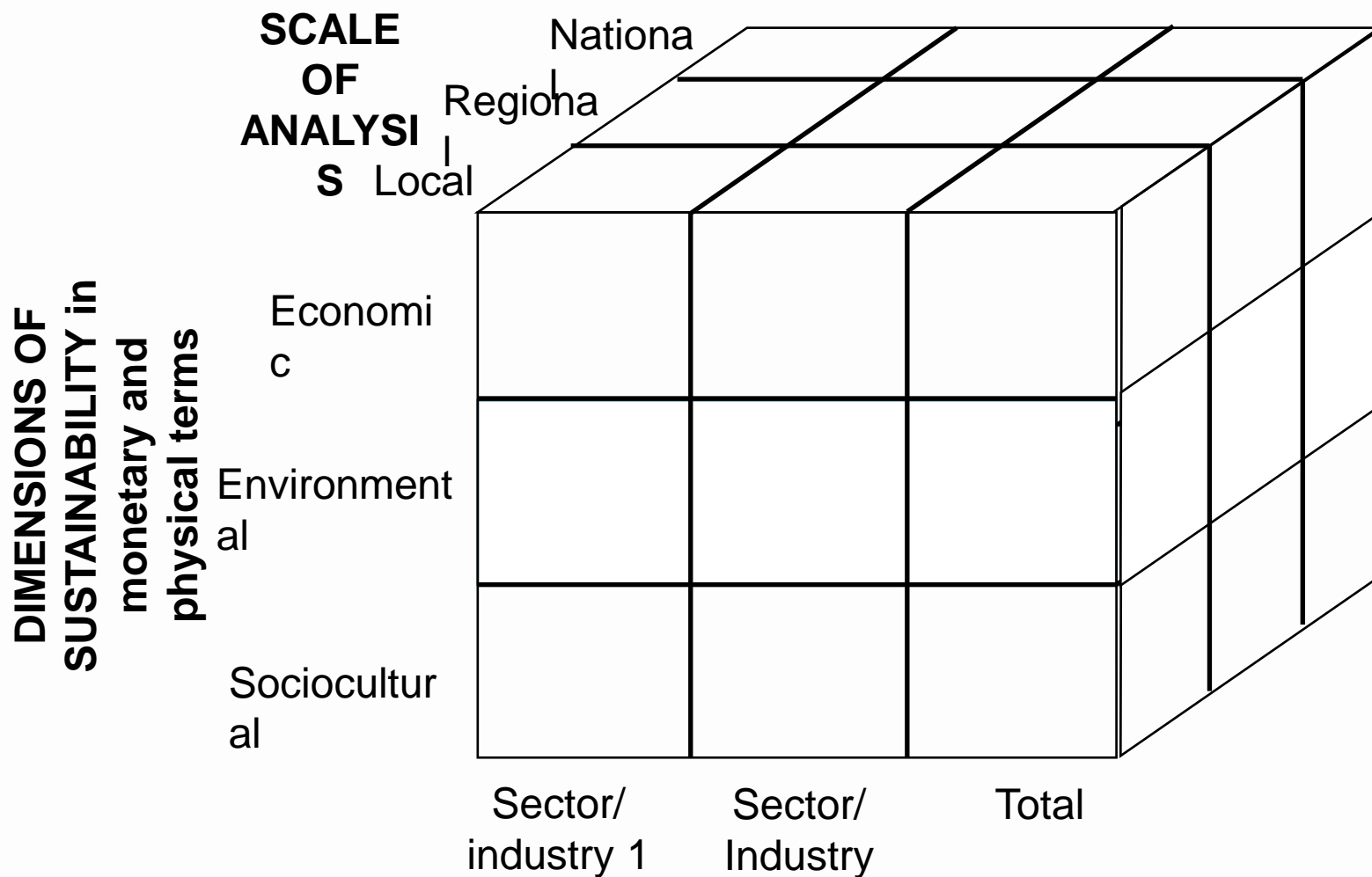


# SNA and SEEA: Common Statistical Architecture



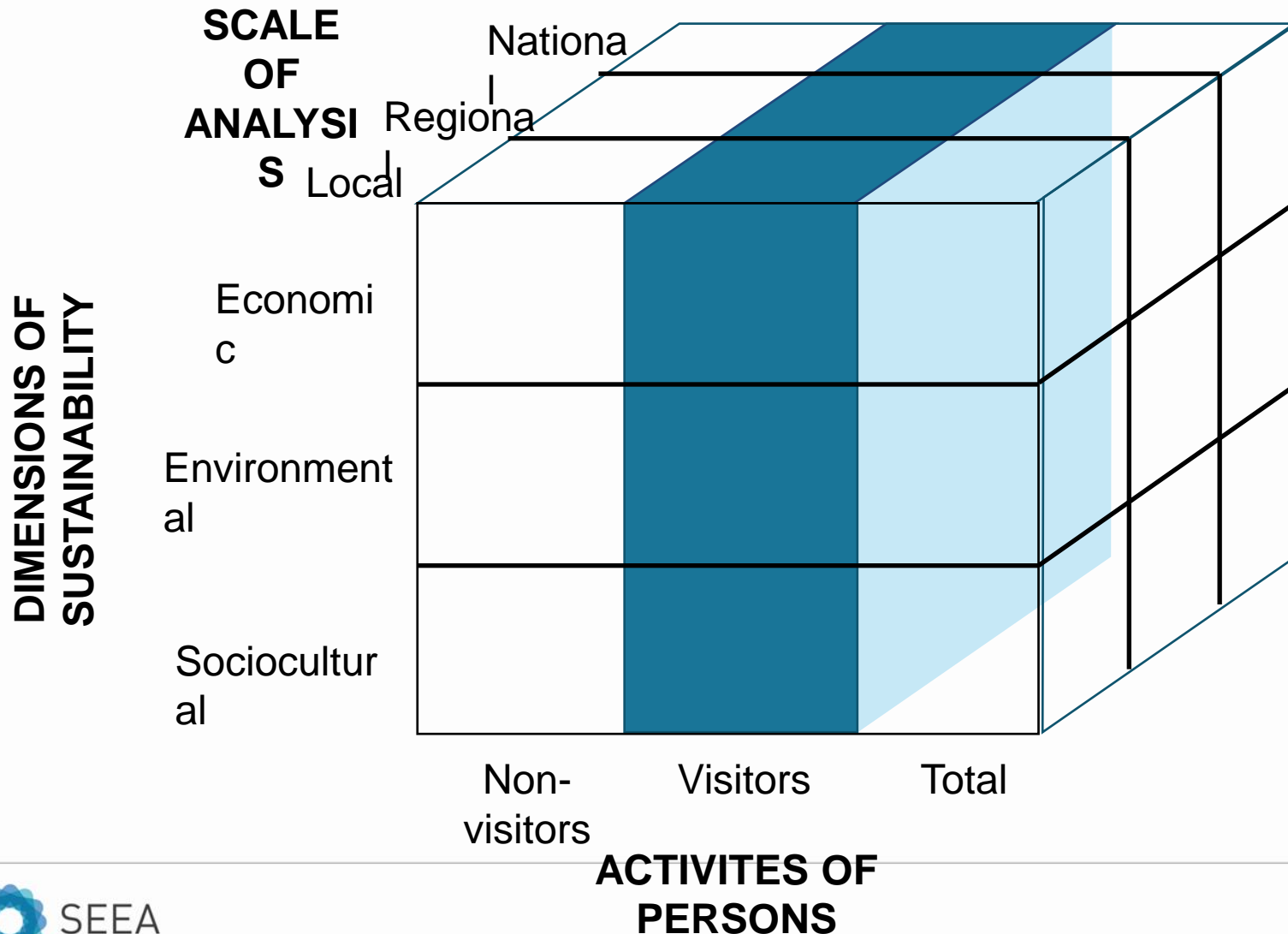
The SEEA and SNA contribute to a systems architecture made up of common<sup>10</sup> institutional and statistical structures to support statistical production processes

# National Statistical Information System: a Cube

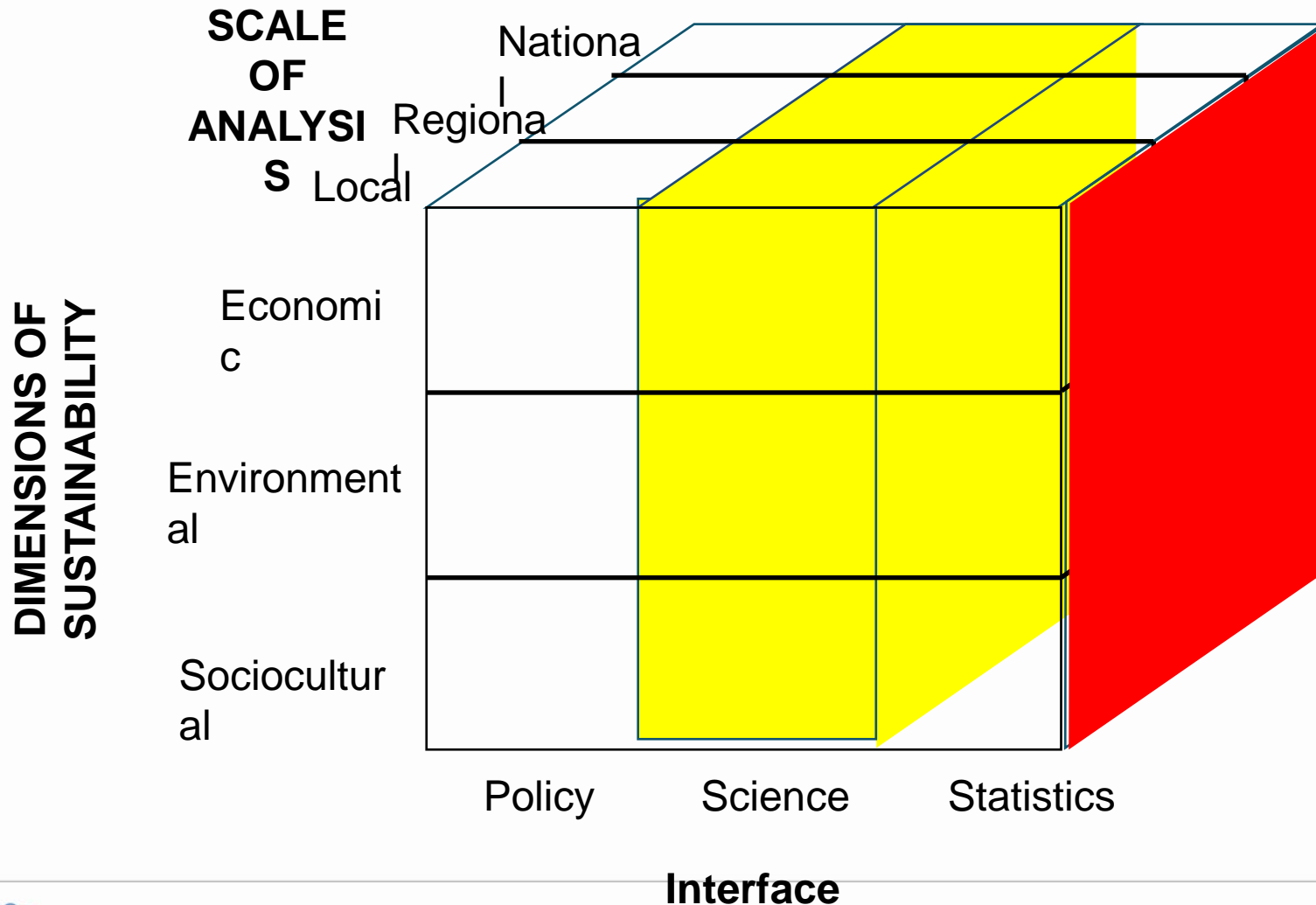


**Sectors by land, water, energy, CC, SCP, etc. and Industry by agriculture, industry, services**

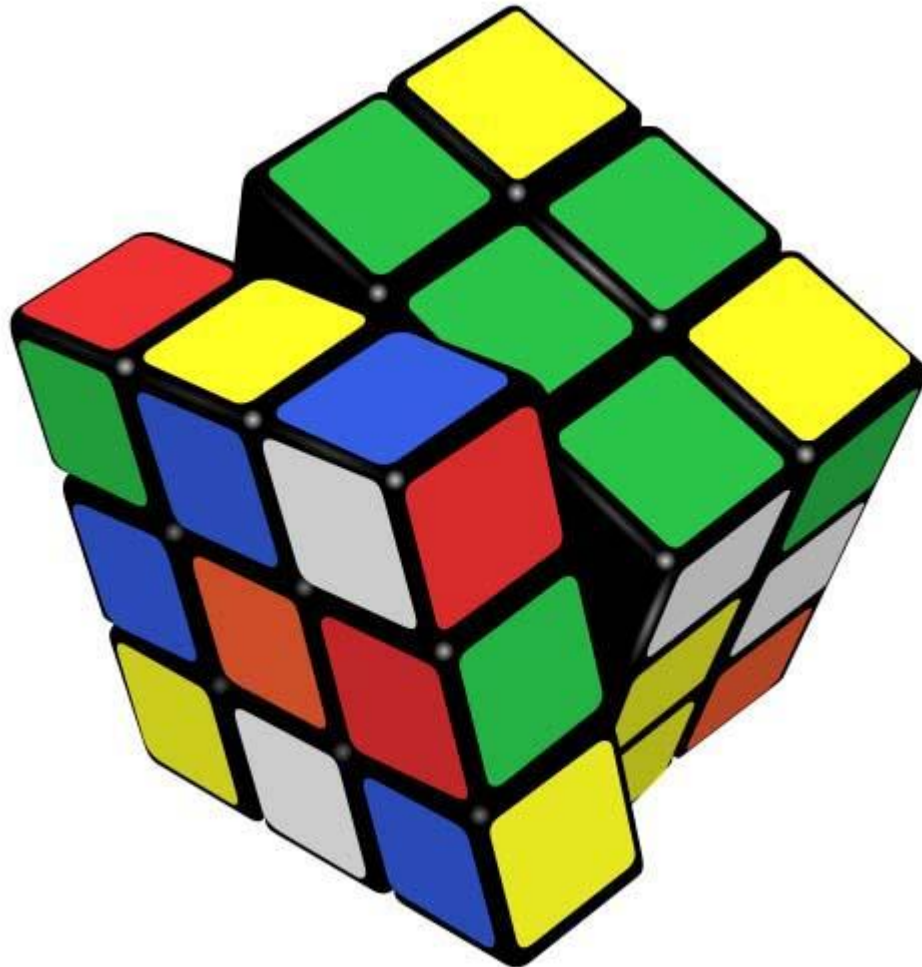
# An Example: National Tourism Information System - a Slice of the Cube



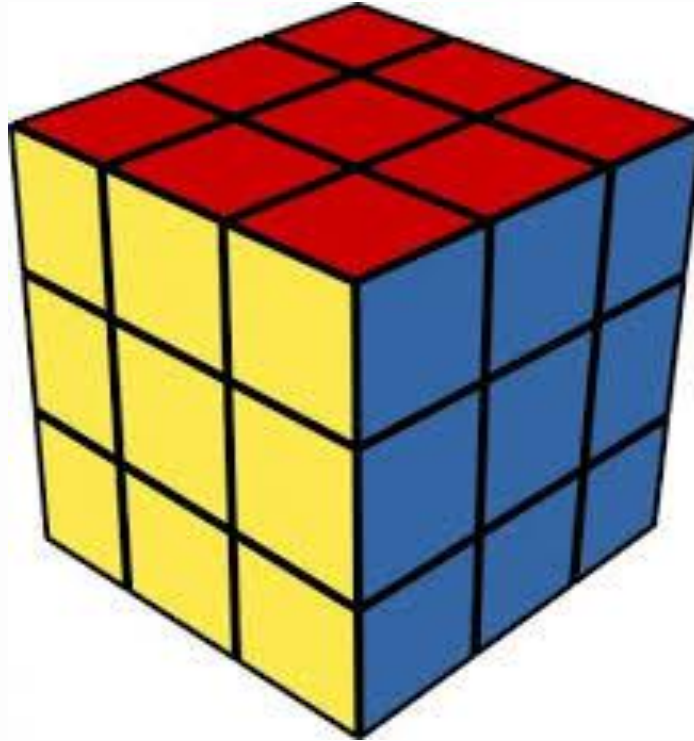
# Policy, Science and Statistics Interface



# National Adaption of Statistical Information System



# Completing the National Information System



# Statistical Frameworks and Indicators Frameworks are distinct but complementary

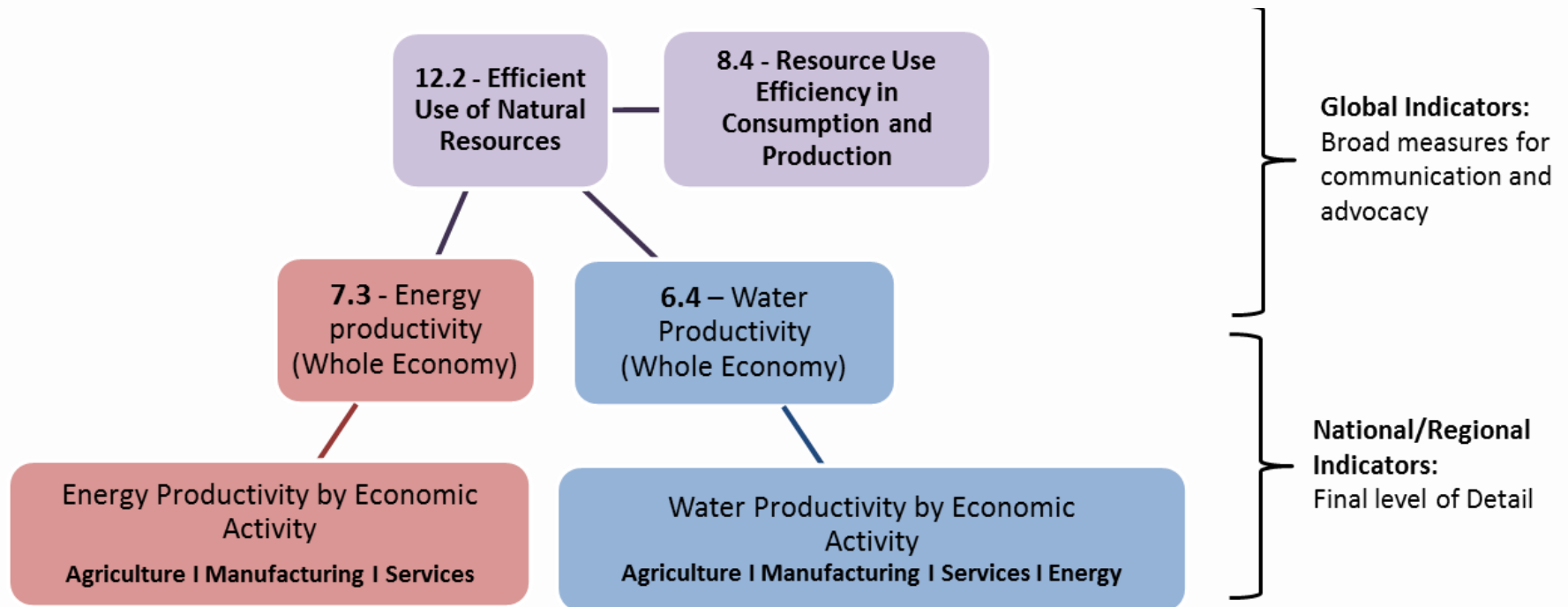
- **Statistical Frameworks (i.e. SNA and SEEA):**
  - Guide the whole statistical production process through a systems approach to collecting, process and disseminate
  - Standard definitions, classifications and related methods for compiling statistics
  - Lends rigor to the calculation of indicators without suggesting any in particular
  - Value proposition is ensuring indicators are defined and compiled in a methodologically coherent way, through an efficient production process
- **Indicator Frameworks (e.g. SDG indicators):** Provide organizing principles to facilitate the choice of indicators for different thematic aspects of sustainable development



# 3. International Perspectives on Integration of Statistics

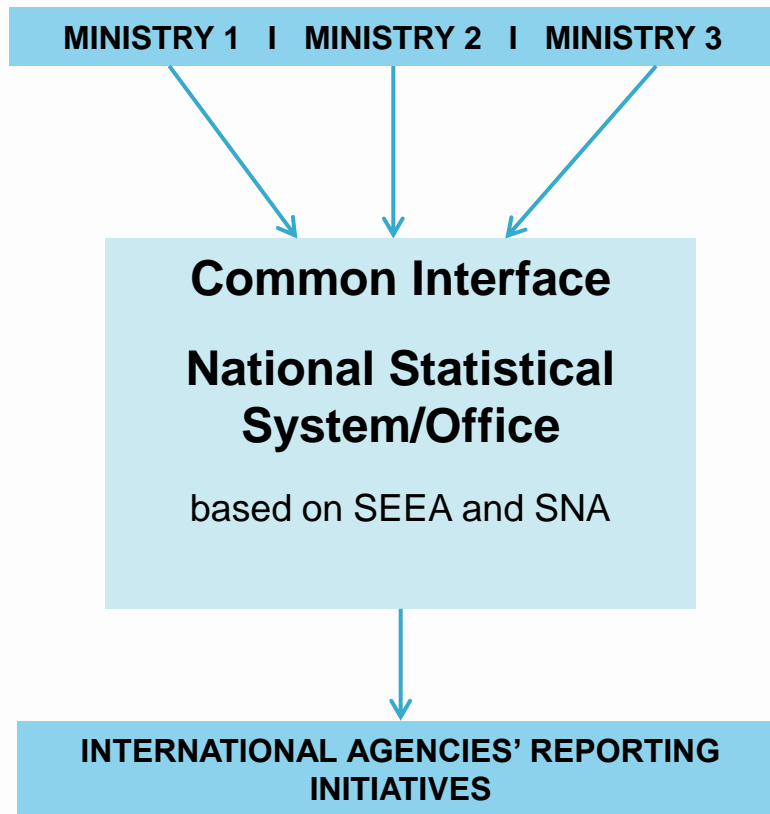
# Integrated Architecture of SDGs: Methodological Consistency

- Architecture of integrated global, (sub-)national, and thematic monitoring requires **methodological consistency** across **themes** and **levels of monitoring**.
- The SEEA can be the methodological basis for this:



# SNA and SEEA: Streamlined Reporting for SDGs

- **Methodological Consistency** resulting from implementation of the SEEA reduces reporting burden of national ministries/agencies:



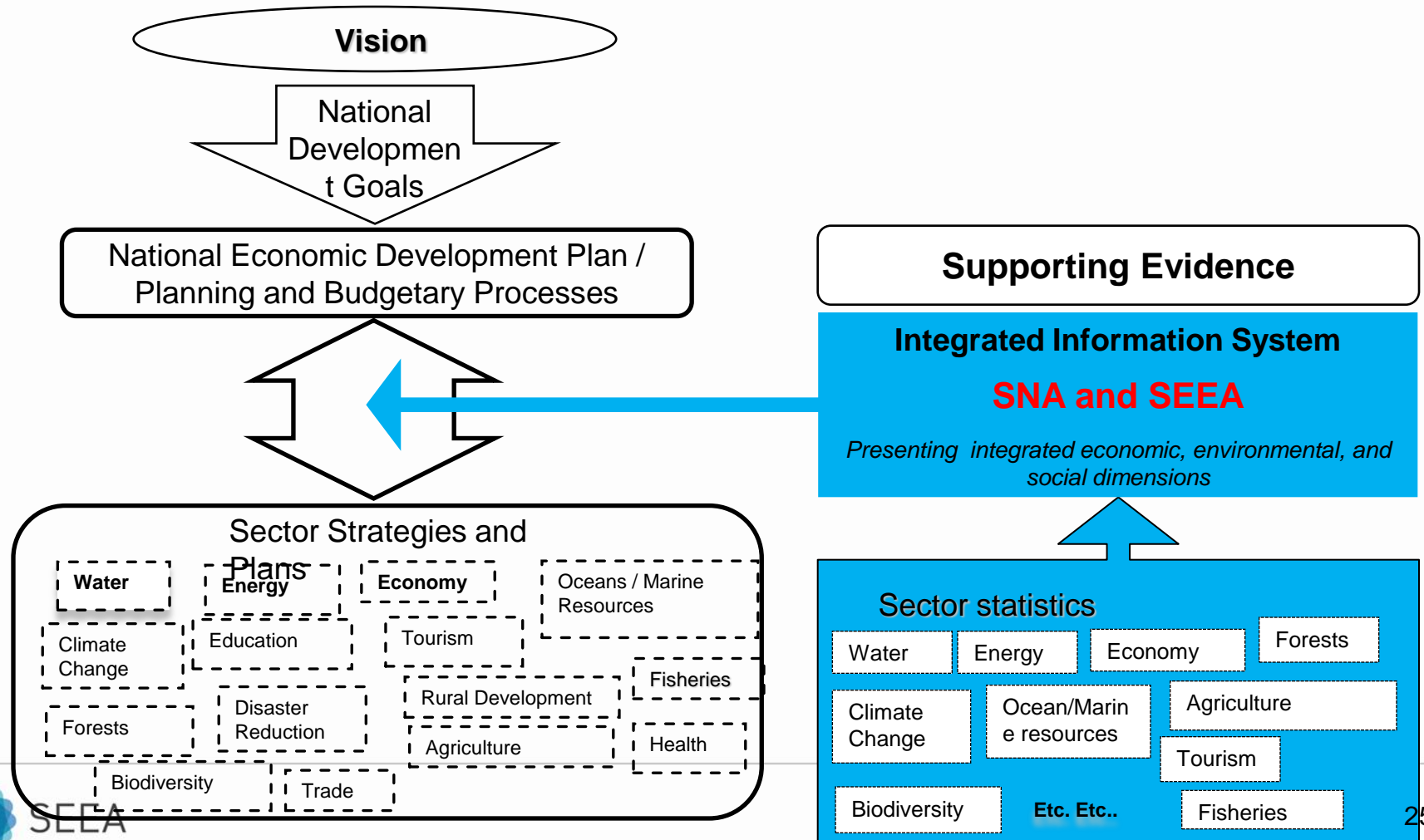
- Single Data System to Inform Indicators
- Data Compiled Once for Many Purposes
- Reduced need for countries to make arduous data adjustments for international reporting

Facilitates **streamlined reporting process for global SDG Indicators**

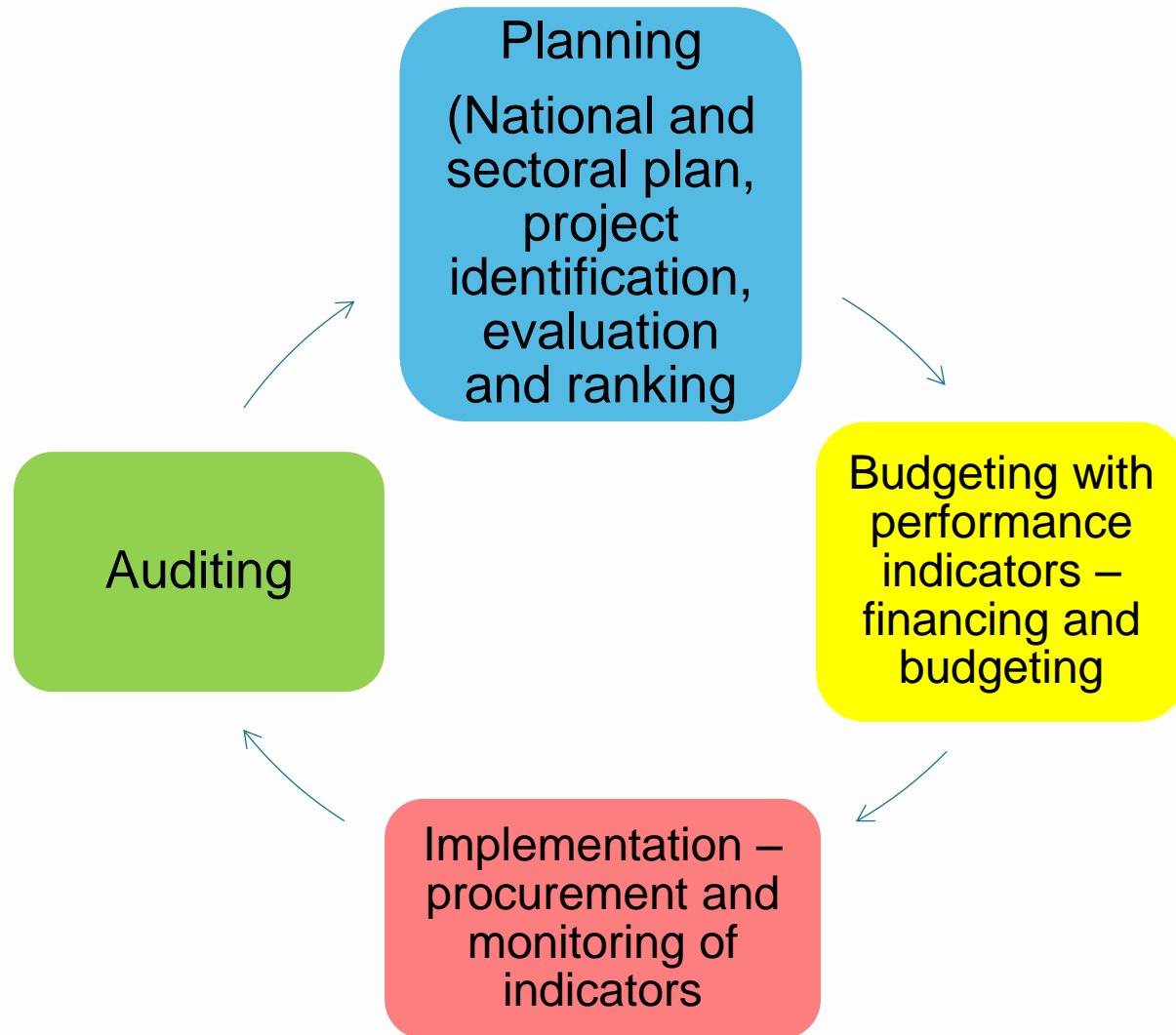
- Consistent definitions, classifications and spatial units at national and international level allows for **direct transmission of information**

# 4. Roadmap: Towards SNA and SEEA Implementation

# A National Information System to Support Integrated Planning and Budgetary Process



# Stages of public financial management



# Roadmap: Global Statistical Community

## 1. Reflecting the SNA and SEEA in the SDGs;

- Indicators are based on proposals by experts in given thematic areas
- Where relevant, **existing monitoring mechanisms** should work to align with the Statistical Standards
- Where **new mechanisms** are being set up, they should be established in alignment with the Statistical Standards

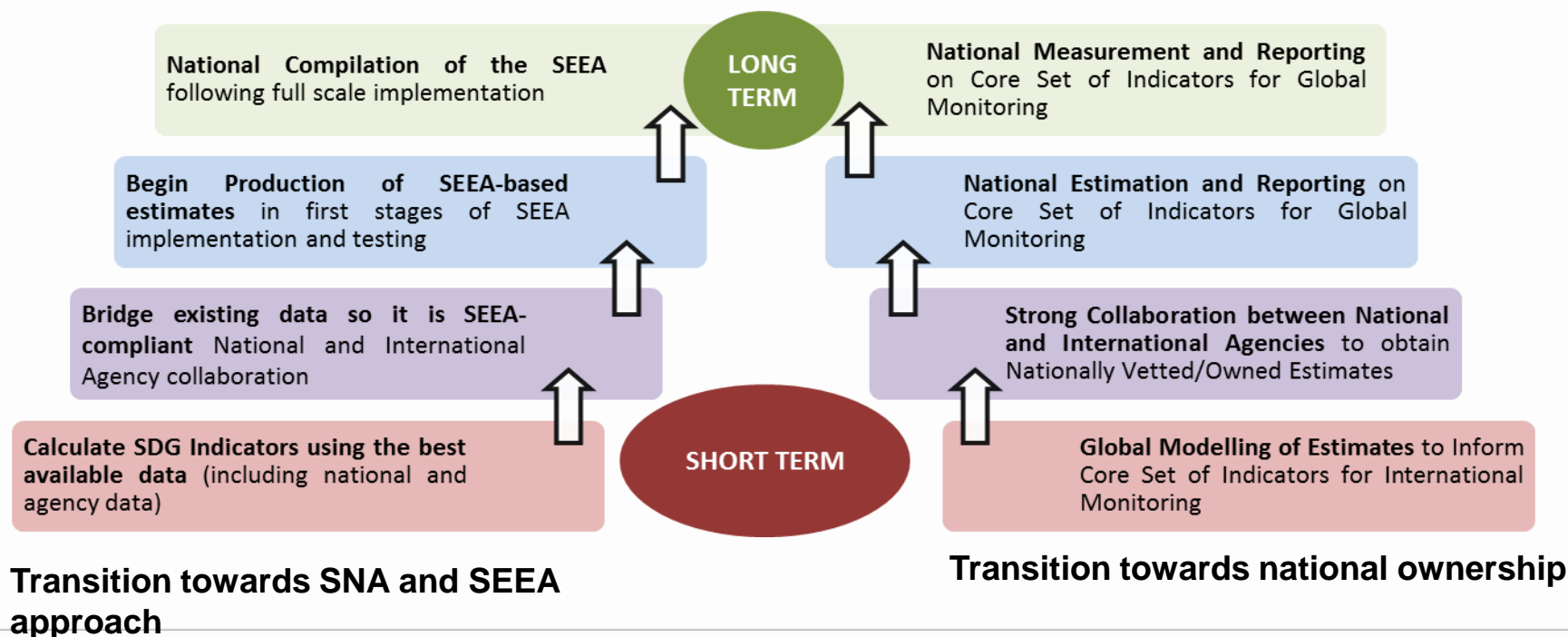
## 2. Reflecting the SNA and SEEA in the thematic indicator sets;

- Further adoption of SNA and SEEA as underlying statistical framework to support policy frameworks (e.g. SCP, Water, Biofin, Aichi targets, etc.)
- Common message and approach to in-country work
- Alignment of established reporting to Statistical Standards over time

# Roadmap: National Implementation

Two processes must take place in tandem to support:

1. National ownership of information for integrated decision making and international reporting:
2. Alignment with International Statistical Standards and implementation of the SNA and SEEA





# Generic Institutional Framework for National Information System

## High Level Steering Committee on Sustainable Development

**Members:** Planning, Finance, Environment, NSO

**Terms of Reference:** Direct work of Technical Committee

- Link to policy priorities
- Integrate and advocate work plan with national and international work
- Coordinate proposals for funding, Allocate resources

## Technical Committee

**Members:** Planning, Finance, Environment, NSO, Geospatial, Parks, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Research

**Terms of Reference:** Coordinate technical aspects of work

- Internalize activities into planning documents

## Subject-matter working groups

Land, Water, Energy, Agriculture, Biodiversity & Ecosystems

**Terms of reference:** Inventory, acquire and develop data

- Design specific accounts, tables and indicators
- Coordinate with functional working groups to design and manage information system

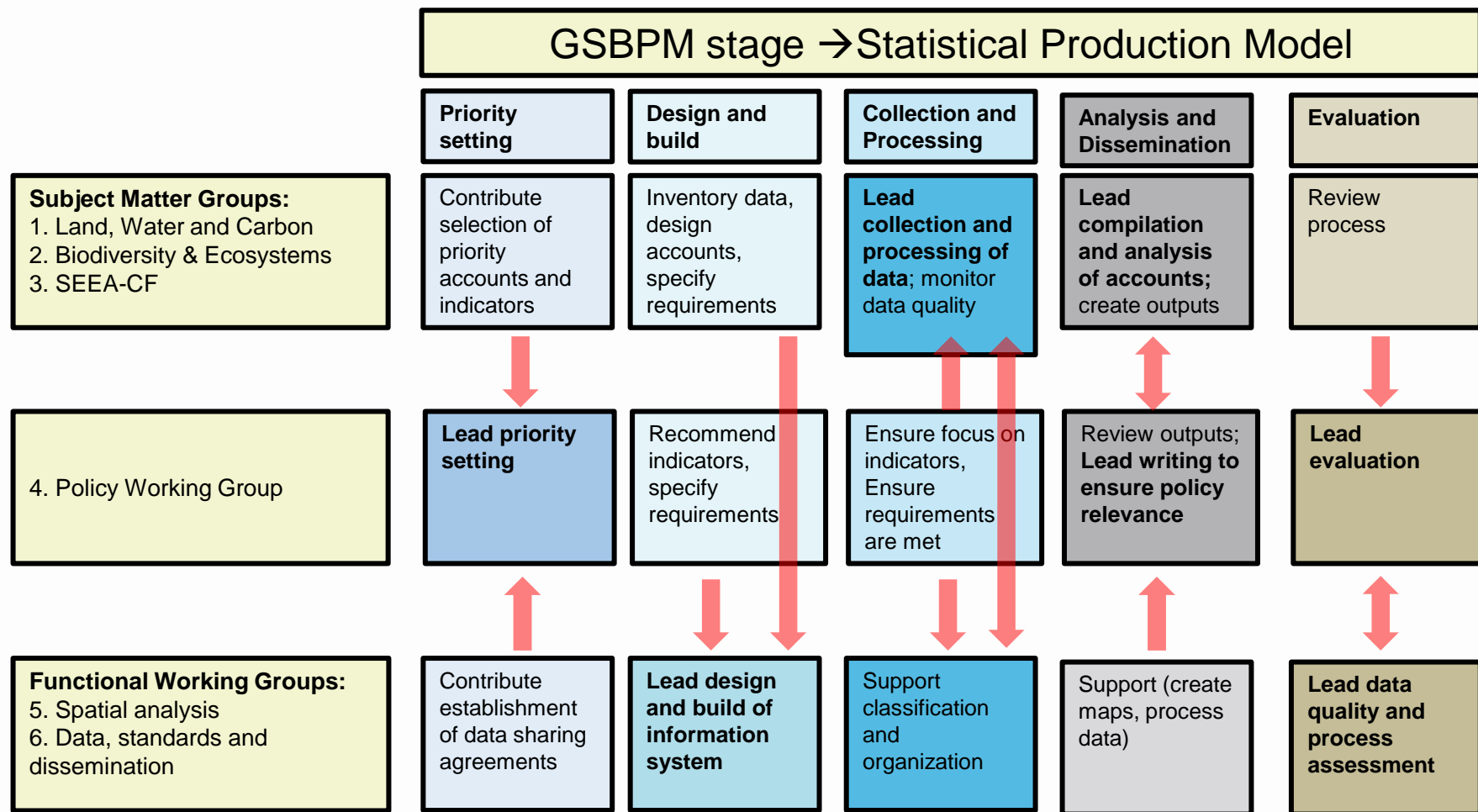
## Functional working groups

**Policy:** prioritize indicators and link to policy

**Spatial:** integrate spatial data, maintain standards

**Data standards and dissemination:** Lead design of information system, maintain standards and classifications, lead development of dissemination outputs

# Interactions among working groups along common statistical architecture





# THANK YOU

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